

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 1st JUNE 2015 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES

Present: Councillors Hodgson (Chair), Boswell, Westacott, Simms, Horsburgh, Hendriksen, Harper, Vint, Piper, Paine, Cohen, Rosie Adams, Whitty and Young

Apologies: Councillor Marion Adams

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Town Clerk), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), 2 members of the press and 13 members of the public

No	Subject	Comments
1	To receive apologies.	It was RESOLVED to receive the apologies.
2	To confirm that all Members have completed their Declarations of Interests.	Councillors were reminded that Registers of Interests need to be completed and handed in to the Clerk as soon as possible.
3	<p><i>The Council will adjourn for the following items:</i></p> <p><u>Public Question Time:</u> A period of 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Council or other items that affect Totnes.</p> <p><u>Reports from County and District Councillors</u></p> <p><u>Report from Inspector Tomlinson, Devon and Cornwall Police</u></p> <p><i>The Council will convene.</i></p>	<p>Members of the public made comment about the following items:</p> <p>A perceived lack of democracy at South Hams District Council represented by the fact that there is no Council meeting again until October which means that neither members of the public nor other councils can attend to raise questions. The Mayor replied that she is aware of this as a District Councillor herself and that the opposition councillors will be raising the matter at the District.</p> <p>Access to premises along Fore Street for the emergency services may be easier under the present layout of the road with the RTO.</p> <p>County Councillor Vint is now the DCC representative on the KEVICC Foundation Governors.</p> <p>Councillor Westacott asked whether or not the people who deal with Code of Conduct complaints at SHDC would come from the new Scrutiny Group and whether there will be Scrutiny meetings in between the Council meetings. It was confirmed that Scrutiny will be meeting more regularly than Council and that representatives on the Standards Board have been independently selected.</p> <p>District Councillor Horsburgh drew comparison with the Committee structure at Plymouth City Council, which he felt was fairer than at SHDC.</p> <p>Inspector Tomlinson, Devon and Cornwall Police, attended the meeting to speak to councillors.</p> <p>He explained the legal position with regard to road closures, which is that they are not allowed to carry out any closures that have not been put in place by the Highways Authority. The local police have been implementing local closures with good intention, in order to help the community, but they should not have been doing this. This is not about resources or a change of policy and the police are still able to assist with the process, which they are doing with reference to the Carnival.</p> <p>A question was asked about how cuts are affecting the police service generally. The answer was that there will be an impact on policing in future. It is starting to get difficult now and, though there have been no withdrawals of service yet, this is not likely to be maintained in the next few years.</p>

4	<p>To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings :</p> <p>a. Town Council AGM 18th May 2015</p> <p>b. Annual Town Meeting 13th May 2015</p>	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the minutes of the meetings detailed.</p>
5	<p>To consider any matters arising from the Minutes.</p>	<p>AGM 18th May 2015</p> <p>Item 6 – Chairman of People Committee should read Councillor Whitty not Withy.</p> <p>Councillor Hendriksen has withdrawn from the Operations Committee.</p> <p>Item 9</p> <p>DCH has challenged the TPO on the Leylandii tree on St Katherine’s Way as they claim it has no amenity value. This has been forwarded to the SHDC Development Management Committee. It was RESOLVED that the Town Council would write to Development Management in support of placing the tree under a TPO and challenging the assertion that it has no amenity value. Councillors Hodgson and Vint declared an interest as members of the Dev Man Committee.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to look into the possibility of writing again to the new Sec of State about calling in the Great Court Farm application.</p> <p>Item 10</p> <p>The Personnel Policies still need to be included for discussion.</p> <p>Annual Town Meeting</p> <p>Item 3 – The NP public consultation event will be in July.</p> <p>The NP Co-ordinator was asked to attend the next Council meeting to give an update about NP.</p>
6	<p>To co-opt a new member to the Town Council.</p>	<p>Those candidates for co-option who attended the meeting were allowed to speak to councillors if they chose and councillors had an opportunity to ask questions as required.</p> <p>Councillors then voted using the transfer system until one candidate received more than 50% of the vote. The candidate elected in the first round was Michael Connelly. He signed the Declaration of Interests and took his place as a councillor for the remainder of the meeting.</p>
7	<p>To confirm the extant Working Groups and to elect members. Civic Hall WG Investments WG WWI WG</p>	<p>Discussion was held about the Working Groups and how the decision should be made as to whether or not they be allowed to continue. In view of the need to provide continuity, it was agreed that the WGs would remain as they were before the election, as far as possible considering that some members had now left the Council, and that they would all be reviewed by their parent committees as soon as possible. It was also agreed that new members could be elected now, subject to that review.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following decisions:</p> <p>Civic Hall WG – Councillors Hodgson and Cohen will continue and Councillors Hendriksen and Piper will join them.</p> <p>Investments WG – Councillors Horsburgh and Harper will continue and Councillor Cohen will join.</p> <p>WWI WG – Councillors Hodgson, Harper and Boswell will continue and Councillor Connelly will join.</p>

8	<p>To confirm the Outside Bodies on which the Town Council will have a representative and to elect members.</p> <p>Totnes and Dartmouth Ring and Ride Traffic and Transport Forum TADPOOL Trusteeship to Birdwood House Totnes Allotments Association South Hams Carers' Consortium Vire Twinning Association Totnes Municipal Charities KEVICC Foundation Governors Totnes Bounds Charity Parish Paths Partnership</p>	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following appointments of councillors to Outside Bodies:</p> <p>Hospital League of Friends – Councillor Harper DALC Larger Councils Committee – Councillor Rosie Adams Totnes on the Move – it was decided not to elect an individual but to remain linked via the Planning and Place Committee Totnes and Dartmouth Ring and Ride – Councillor Horsburgh Totnes Traffic and Transport Forum – Councillor Whitty TADPOOL – Councillors Horsburgh and Whitty Trusteeship to Birdwood House – Councillor Horsburgh Totnes Trust – Councillor Boswell Totnes Allotments Association – Councillor Hodgson South Hams Carers' Consortium – there were no candidates Vire Twinning Association – Councillor Marion Adams, Connelly and Hendriksen Totnes Municipal Charities – Councillor Paine KEVICC Foundation Governors – Councillors Connelly, Piper, Rosie Adams and Horsburgh</p> <p>It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the Town Sergeant to explain what the Bounds Charity is about. It seems that the charity may be wound up so it was decided to leave Councillor Marion Adams as the representative pending a decision on this.</p> <p>Parish Paths Partnership – Councillors Connelly and Whitty It was agreed that reports should be brought back to Full Council as required with updates from representatives.</p>
9	<p>To note the welcome letter from Councillor Ken Browse, Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils.</p>	<p>This was noted.</p>
10	<p>To note the training courses available to all councillors and to nominate members to attend.</p>	<p>These were noted and councillors will contact the Town Clerk if they would like to attend.</p>
11	<p>To nominate members to stand for the Devon Association of Parish Councils (DALC) County Committee.</p>	<p>Councillor Hodgson was nominated as a candidate for the County Committee.</p>
12	<p>To approve the Town Council Accounts for 2014/15.</p>	<p>It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts and they were signed by the Mayor.</p>
13	<p>To discuss a response to the Electoral Review of Devon County Council.</p>	<p>The Electoral Review of Devon County Council was discussed and it was agreed that a separate meeting would be set up to look into the proposals in more detail. The following councillors will take part: Councillors Westacott, Piper, Hodgson, Rosie Adams and Vint. The other parishes within the Ward will be invited to take part.</p>
14	<p>To note the letter from Department of Transport in response to the Town Council's support for the renationalisation of the railways.</p>	<p>This was noted. The subject will also be discussed further at the next People Committee meeting, following up from the issue raised at the Annual Town Meeting. It was RESOLVED to set up an Advisory Group to look into both issues. Councillor Vint also reminded councillors that this should be fed back into the County Council Scrutiny Committee. The Planning Committee will be asked to set up the Advisory Group.</p>

15	To note the new Local Government (Religious Observances) Act 2015.	This was noted.
16	To receive an update on the formal complaint to the European Commission regarding Whitecleaves Quarry, Buckfastleigh.	Councillor Hodgson gave an update about the response which has been sent to the EU Commission regarding the permission on Whitecleaves Quarry for storage of waste. We await further correspondence.
17	To note the date of the following meetings: Monday 6th July 2015 at 6pm – AGM of the Charity of Sidney Paige Adams Monday 6th July at 7pm – Full Council Meeting	These were noted.

END

MAYOR