

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL**

**MONDAY 1ST MARCH 2021 HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM**

## Present: Councillors B Piper (Chair), M Adams, G Allen, C Allford, P Allford, S Collinson, A Galvin, R Hendriksen, J Hodgson, C Luker, D Matthews, E Price, V Trow, L Webberley and P Paine (joined at 7.15pm).

Apologies: Councillor S Skinner.

## In Attendance: S Halliday (Governance and Projects Manager), District Councillors Birch, Rose and Sweett, and members of the public.

### **WELCOME TO ALL ATTENDING AND OBSERVING**

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

**To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Council. The Mayor will request confirmation that all Members have completed or made any necessary amendments to their Declaration of Interests.**

Apologies were received from Councillor Skinner and the Town Clerk who is unwell, and were accepted by the Council.

***The Committee will adjourn for the following items:***

**Reports from County and District Councillors.**

1. **County Cllr Hodgson**
2. **District Cllr Birch**
3. **District Cllr Rose**
4. **District Cllr Sweett**

*It was* ***RESOLVED*** *to suspend standing orders.*

a. County Cllr (C Cllr) Hodgson had circulated a report by email late last week. Cllr Hodgson updated on the Devon County Council budget, the rejection of amendments which would have seen funding for active travel, business support and environmental measures.

Cllr Paine joined the meeting.

b. District Cllr (D Cllr) Birch provided a written report in advance. D Cllr Birch will reply to Councillors questions for the Joint Local Plan AGM when he has received a response. D Cllr Birch has requested a status report on the Air Quality Action Plan which he will bring to the Council for discussion. Questions on S106 funding were raised – C Cllr Hodgson will try and clarify with Devon County Council whether the funding allocated to KEVICC has come from the Baltic Wharf development S106 education contribution or from the wider budget and if the latter, local schools will be encouraged to request funding from the S106 funding available.

c. No report received. District Cllr (D Cllr) Rose updated on consultations with TRAYE (Totnes Rural Youth Engagement Project) focussing on local youth mental health, and how to support the supporters during the pandemic.

d. District Cllr Sweet provided a written report in advance. D Cllr Sweett spoke about the Skate Park planning application and in response to a comment in the public session explained about the tree works required. D Cllr Sweett said no CCTV is planned for the skate park site as there are not the resources to review the data that would be collected, but she hoped that CCTV at the Rugby Club and railway station may help deter future anti-social behaviour or address any specific incidents.

*The Council reconvened.*

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**To approve and sign the minutes of the following Meetings:**

***(Please note confidential minutes can be agreed but any discussion must be held in Part 2)***

1. **Full Council 28th January 2021.**
2. **Full Council 1st February 2021.**

The following minutes were considered:

1. Full Council 28th January 2021. It was **RESOLVED** by all Councillors to approve and sign the Minutes.
2. Full Council 1st February 2021. It was **RESOLVED** by all Councillors to approve and sign the Minutes.

**To note the following minutes:**

1. **Council Matters 8th February 2021.**
2. **Planning Committee 15th February 2021.**
3. **Town Matters Committee 22nd February 2021.**

The following minutes were noted:

1. Council Matters 8th February 2021. Noted.
2. Planning Committee 15th February 2021. Noted.
3. Town Matters Committee 22nd February 2021. Noted.

### **CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTERS ARISING**

**To consider any matters arising from the Minutes and to approve any recommendations from Committees:**

***(Please note confidential minutes can be agreed but any discussion must be held in Part 2)***

1. **Full Council 28th January 2021.**
2. **Full Council 1st February 2021.**
3. **Council Matters 8th February 2021.**
4. **Planning Committee 15th February 2021.**
5. **Town Matters Committee 22nd February 2021.**
6. Full Council 28th January 2021. None.
7. Full Council 1st February 2021. None.
8. Council Matters 8th February 2021.

Item 3 – Funding Requests. Cllr Hodgson declared a personal interest. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation.

Item 4 – Community Grant Scheme. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation.

Item 6 – Reserves Policy. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation.

Item 7 – GDPR Privacy Notice and Policy. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation.

Item 8 – Payments to Councillors Policy. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation.

Item 9 – Civic and Mayoral Budget Policy. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation.

1. Planning Committee 15th February 2021.

Item 4 – Standards of New Buildings. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation and the letter as drafted.

1. Town Matters Committee 22nd February 2021.

Item 5 – South Hams District Council Playing Pitch Strategy. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation with the following amendments to the Council’s response:

*3          Are there any concerns around the quality and/or maintenance of your playing pitches and their associated changing facilities in your town?*

The Town Council has concerns about the quality of the playing pitches at KEVICC which have poor drainage leaving them unusable for large parts of the school year, and the changing facilities on site are also poor.

*4          Are you aware of any groups in your community which are not catered for by the current provision of playing pitches?*

There is no formal playing pitch provision in Bridgetown. The Town Council has concern about the long-term security of the playing field sites that are available locally (for example playing fields at KEVICC, football and cricket pitches in Dartington which could be disposed of).

All large recreational fields and playing pitches currently available in Totnes, especially the Elmhirst site at KEVICCs, should be retained as irreplaceable and needed for current and future recreational neds for the town.

*6          Please list any current aspirations and/or proposals for new or improved grass and/or artificial grass playing pitches in your town and if possible, state the stage reached in planning/funding etc.*

The remaining recreational areas and playing pitches at the Elmhirst site (i.e. not including the more recently upgraded all weather pitch) are also in urgent need of all-weather improvements and drainage to enable full access and beneficial use of these facilities for the town.

*7          What other/particular issues within your town would you like the strategy to address and highlight? (e.g. any deficiencies in provision, improvements, cost of maintenance, access to school facilities etc.)*

The Town Council would like to see the introduction of a trim trail with static equipment around the perimeter of Borough Park. The provision of more interesting and diverse features are needed for Borough Park as the Town Park.  Residents and visitors would benefit from improvements to landscaping, flower beds, additional seating and possibly a bandstand for community events and a large pond for children to sail boats and benefit wildlife. We request that SHDC take a holistic approach to all such facilities when planning their future use.

### **ROAD CLOSURE**

**To consider road closures of Upper Fore Street, High Street and the Narrows on a Saturday morning from 9am until 1pm from the end of lockdown until social distancing guidelines are no longer in place.**

Councillors discussed the Government roadmap for opening up services and determined that it is too early to make a decision on the requirement for possible road closures until the first review of the pandemic situation on 29th March as this should indicate whether non-essential retail and services are on track to re-open on 12th April as currently planned.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

* ask the Traffic and Transport Forum Steering Group (TTFSG) on 31st March 2021 to review shared space and traffic calming measures for Fore Street and High Street; and
* hold an extraordinary Full Council on 1st April 2021 to consider the suggestions from the TTFSG which would allow sufficient time for Devon County Council to put in place any recommendations.

### **LIST OF MEETING DATES**

**To note a list of upcoming meeting dates.**

Noted. These updates will come out monthly.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**To note the next meeting date of Monday 12thApril 2021, 6.30pm public session, 7.00pm formal meeting.**

Noted. There will be an additional Extraordinary Full Council on Thursday 1st April 2021 at 7pm (public session from 6.30pm) to discuss the Traffic and Transport Forum’s recommendations for the road closure.

*The Council* ***RESOLVED*** *to exclude the press and public “by reason of the confidential nature of the business” to be discussed and in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.*

### **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE (Standing Item)**

**To consider any recommendations or matters arising that are considered confidential in nature.**

No matters arising.

### **LEGAL MATTER**

**To consider the Totnes Museum lease.**

It was **RESOLVED** that Council should receive legal advice before signing the lease but has no objection in principle to the change requested.

Ben Piper

Mayor