

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

**THURSDAY 28th JANUARY 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.

Apologies: Councillors Paine and Skinner.

## In Attendance: C Marlton (Town Clerk), C Bewley (Finance Manager) 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 Cllrs Paine and Skinner which were accepted by the Council.

### **RESIGNATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

### **To note the resignation of the Deputy Mayor and to appoint a replacement.**

The resignation of Cllr Price and the appointment of Cllr Hodgson as Deputy Mayor was noted.

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**To approve and sign the minutes of the Council Matters Committee held on 18th January 2021.**

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

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the Minutes of the Council Matters Committee held on 18th January 2021.

### **BUDGET RATIFICATION AND PRECEPT SETTING**

**To consider the recommendations from the above Council Matters committee:**

**a) It is RECOMMENDED to Full Council that the draft budget is agreed subject to the minor amendments suggested by the Clerk during the meeting.**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation.

**b) Subject to the above recommendation it is RECOMMENDED to Full Council that the annual precept figure for 2021/22 be increased by 2% from £535280 to £545986. Because of the lower tax base this year this represents an actual increase of 4.14% for the taxpayer, making an average band D property a change from £3.49 per week (£181.61 per year) to £3.64 per week (£189.13 per year), which is an increase of 15 pence per week or £7.52 per year.**

A number of Councillors expressed concerns about increasing the precept at a time when some residents are struggling financially. Councillors raised the importance of messaging and getting the tone of the public statement right around the announcement of this increase so that the Council does not appear to be out of touch with the hardships that many are facing. The use of funds from the Paige Adams Trust was discussed and the Clerk explained how funding from the Trust is incorporated into the draft budget for some capital projects and for costs associated with the running of the Civic Hall.

Following a recorded vote, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation with 9 votes in favour (Cllrs Allen, Collinson, Hendriksen, Hodgson, Matthews, Piper, Price, Trow and Webberley) and 5 votes against (Cllrs M Adams, C Allford, P Alford, A Galvin and C Luker).

Cllr Adams gave her apologies and left the meeting as she was unwell.

**c) It is RECOMMENDED to Full Council that the Traffic and Transport Forum and the Totnes Future Forum terms of reference are aligned (with the exception of the regularity of meetings) and that live streaming/recording of meetings be added. Documents enclosed.**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation**.**

**d) It is RECOMMENDED that the Standing Orders structure diagram be amended to include the changes outlined in the above Terms of Reference. Please note that the first order of business when each group meets is to ratify the use of these Terms of Reference. Document enclosed.**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation**.**

### **ROAD CLOSURE**

**Further to this item being deferred on 11th January, d. 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. Devon Communities Together survey report enclosed.**

The Devon Communities Together Road Survey report was noted.

It was **AGREED** by a majority to defer the decision about any road closures of upper Fore Street, High Street and the Narrows until the March Full Council at the earliest.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**To note the next meeting date of Monday 1st February 2021, 6.30pm public session, 7.00pm formal meeting.**

Noted.

Ben Piper

Mayor