

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

**WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2021 HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM**

## Present: Councillors B Piper (Chair), G Allen, A Galvin, R Hendriksen, J Hodgson, C Luker, D Matthews, E Price, S Skinner, V Trow and L Webberley.

Apologies: Cllrs C Allford, P Allford, S Collinson and P Paine.

## In Attendance: C Marlton (Town Clerk) and P Bethel (Town Sergeant).

### **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR OF TOTNES**

### The Mayor welcomed those present and explained that this is an open meeting of the Town Council and not to be confused with the Town Council Annual General Meeting. The open forum is the opportunity for members of the public to raise matters of interest with the Council.

### **MAYOR’S REPORT ON COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Cllr Piper as the current Mayor said that it had been a strange year and virtual meetings had become the norm. He is proud of how the community has pulled together over the past year during the pandemic and the community sector support for those who have needed help. Totnes has reason to be positive about its high street, with ten new businesses opening since November and he hoped that trade would pick up. The Council is building relations with the new MP Anthony Mangnall and the new police inspector. The Mayor asked Cllr Hodgson as the previous Mayor for her reflections and she highlighted the resilience in the town, with the regular community partnership meetings helping reach those who are vulnerable, and the diversity of Councillors making a strong Town Council.

### **CLERK REPORT**

The Clerk concurred with the thoughts of the Mayor and Cllr Hodgson in that the Council is fortunately with the Councillors and officers that it has. The Clerk explained that the formal annual meeting of the Town Council has to be held in May and therefore holding it on the last day that statutory meetings can be held virtually has enabled maximum participation. However, it is hoped to conduct an informal meeting in person later in the year. The Clerk set out a number of capital improvement projects that the Council has ongoing, a number of which have been delayed due to the pandemic.

### **OPEN FORUM**

There were no members of the public observing who wished to speak.

Cllr Ben Piper

Mayor