

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

**MONDAY 7TH MARCH 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL**

## Present: Councillors B Piper (Chair), M Adams, S Collinson, J Cummings, R Hendriksen, J Hodgson, P Paine, E Price, S Skinner (from 19.20pm), N Stopp, V Trow and L Webberley.

Apologies: Cllrs Allen and Oliver, and District Cllr Sweett.

Not present: Cllr Hannam.

## In Attendance: District Councillor Birch, members of the press and public, and C Marlton (Town Clerk).

### **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.**

The apologies were received and accepted. Cllr Adams updated that she is a member of the Chernobyl Childrens Lifeline charity. The Mayor asked for a minute’s silence to reflect on the situation in Ukraine.

***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 her report by email and updated on: Devon County Council’s investment in Russian companies as part of its pension portfolio; the introduction of residents only parking at Swallowfields and investigations for residents parking on Lower Jubilee Road and The Carrions/St Katherine’s Way; and the 20mph pilot schemes after the disappointing response to the Newton Abbot pilot. Councillors asked if Brooklands could be added to the list of roads for investigation for residents parking.

b. District Cllr (D Cllr) Birch gave an update on: the Airband project and a request for a virtual meeting; garden waste collections will restart on 28th March; and on the Neighbourhood Plan would encourage the Town Council to get its own legal advice. Councillors asked about South Hams District Council increasing council tax, ATMOS and the compulsory purchase order request, the awarding of the FCC contract and any penalties from the lack of garden waste collection for a large part of the year.

c. District Cllr Rose reported how encouraging the work between members and officers has been to produce the Joint Local Plan Climate Emergency Planning and Guidance Consultation.

The meeting was suspended at 19.35pm due to a public disturbance and reconvened at 19.40pm.

d. District Cllr Sweett was not present.

*The Council reconvened.*

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

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

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

1. **Full Council 7th February 2022.**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve and sign the Minutes.

**To note the following minutes:**

**b. Council Matters 14th February 2022.**

Noted.

**c. Planning Committee 21st February 2022.**

Noted.

**d. Town Matters Committee 28th February 2022.**

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 7th February 2022.**

No matters arising.

**b. Council Matters 14th February 2022.**

Item 4 – it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the budget amendment is accepted.

Item 5 – it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the revised Civic Budget and Mayoral Allowance Policy.

Item 6 – it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Payments to Councillors Policy.

**c. Planning Committee 21st February 2022.**

No recommendations.

**d. Town Matters Committee 28th February 2022.**

Item 2 – it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to allocate £1400 to the Earthjump project. The Link Orchestra application had been withdrawn.

Item 4 – Community Award Scheme. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that:

a. The following process is adopted for 2022:

• Each Councillor has the opportunity to nominate the name of an individual for the award by 21st March 2022.

• Town Matters Committee 28th March 2022 - consider the nominations in Part 2, confirms if any individual has more than one nomination (i.e. they have been put forward by more than one councillor), and shortlists the nominees to go forward to Full Council.

• Full Council 4th April 2022 – Councillors decide on who should win the award.

• Mayoral Choosing 19th May 2022 – winner presented with the award.

b. The scheme is called the ‘Totnes Community Award’.

c. The award will be in the form of a medal (mould cost approximately £50, each medal approximately £25-50).

d. The Mayoral budget will pay for the cost of the medal each year.

Item 5 – Homelessness Strategy: It was **AGREED** that all Councillors will be emailed for comment and it was **RESOLVED** to give the Council Matters Committee delegated authority to respond (given the deadline of 23rd March).

Item 6 – It was **RESOLVED** that in conjunction with Totnes Against Trash that Councillors take part in two litter picks during the Great British Spring Clean (Cllr Trow will organise):

• Saturday 26th March, 10am-12pm in Totnes town.

• Sunday 10th April, 10am-12pm in the recreational areas of Bridgetown.

### **ELECTION OF MAYOR**

**To appoint the Mayor Elect (to take office in May) for 2022/23 (each candidate will need a proposer and a seconder). To note that Mayor Choosing will take place on Thursday 19th May 2022 in the Guildhall. Councillors are reminded that the Mayor has the authority to appoint and announce the Deputy Mayor at their discretion.**

Cllr Piper proposed Cllr Price which was seconded by a number of Cllrs. Cllr Webberley asked who she would have as her deputy, but Cllr Price said that she has not yet decided. Cllr Price was unanimously voted in as Mayor elect.

### **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND LINK COUNCILLORS 2022/23**

**To elect members to committees, committee chairs, working groups (with immediate effect), outside representatives and link councillor roles.**

It was **RESOLVED** to move this item to the April agenda. The exception is membership of the Council Assets and Public Realm Working Group which was **RESOLVED** as: Cllrs Adams, Hodgson, Piper, Price, Skinner, Stopp and Trow.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**To consider (document attached):**

**a. an extension to the pause in the examination of the Neighbourhood Plan;**

It was **RESOLVED** to request an extension for a further three months.

**b. obtaining legal advice on a letter received as part of the consultation process.**

Given the quote received for legal costs, it was **RESOLVED** to give the Clerk delegated authority to pursue legal advice if sight of South Hams District Council legal advice is not forthcoming by the end of March 2022.

### **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**To consider a recommendation from the Traffic and Transport Steering Group to extend the traffic calming measures public consultation until 31st March 2022.**

It was **RESOLVED** to: extend the public consultation until 31st March 2022; and to request a meeting with Devon Highways officers, Councillors and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce about the traffic problems in the town.

### **COUNCIL MEETING LOCATION**

**To consider:**

**a. the use of either the main Guildhall or Council chamber when holding council meetings with the recent changes in Covid restrictions;**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to hold all Council meetings in the Council chamber and that they will be moved to the lower Guildhall if an attendee has accessibility issues. A statement will also be put on the Town Council website stating that meetings will be transferred if someone cannot access the Chamber.

**b. the quotes for audio visual equipment in one of these chambers to enable the better recording and streaming of meetings.**

It was **RESOLVED** to grant the Clerk delegated authority to spend up to £7250 on audiovisual equipment for the Council Chamber.

### **COUNCILLOR TRAINING**

**To note that Councillor Training will be held on 2nd April 2022 at 10.30am-1.00pm in the Guildhall to be delivered by DALC based on their ‘Being a Good Councillor’ course – it is for all Councillors.**

Noted.

### **LIST OF MEETING DATES**

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

Noted.

### **SITUATION IN UKRAINE**

**To consider the following motion:** **Totnes Town Council stands in solidarity with the people, government and President of Ukraine in response to the illegal invasion by Russia into their sovereign state, and will support their needs at this time of crisis as best we can.**

The following motion was **RESOLVED**: Totnes Town Council stands in solidarity with the people, government and President of Ukraine in response to the illegal invasion by Russia into their sovereign state, will support their needs at this time of crisis as best we can, and will purchase and fly the Ukrainian flag from the Civic Hall.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Collinson and Webberley will form a working group to facilitate various ideas such as of twinning with a town in Ukraine, lighting the Civic Hall in blue and yellow, fundraising, utility suppliers, community sponsorship, which should report to the Town Matters Committee.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**To note the next meeting date of Monday 4th April 2022, 6.30pm public session, 7.00pm formal meeting in the Guildhall.**

Noted.

*The Council will be asked to RESOLVE 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.

### **OFFICER PENSION SCHEME**

**To consider membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme.**

It was unanimously confirmed that all existing and future employees would be offered the Local Government Pension Scheme and that there are no plans to consider introducing any other pension provider for new starters.

### **ELMHIRST PROJECT**

**To consider a budget update on the Elmhirst project (commercially sensitive).**

Noted.

Cllr Ben Piper

Mayor