

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

**MONDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL**

## Present: Councillors E Price (Chair), M Adams, G Allen, T Bennett, J Cummings, J Hannam, J Hodgson, A Oliver, P Paine, B Piper, S Skinner and V Trow.

Apologies: Cllrs Collinson, Hendriksen, Stopp and Webberley.

## In Attendance: District Cllrs Birch and Sweett, members of the press and public, S Halliday (Governance and Projects Manager), P Bethel (Town Sergeant).

### **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.

***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 and updated on: bus services in Bridgetown; an area visit with the Devon County Council (DCC) Highways Officer to point out ongoing problem areas which she has raised; freeports in relation to County and District Council financing; cost of living crisis – work by Food In Community and Devon Libraries providing warm spaces; and the DCC Climate Emergency Plan is now available. Cllrs asked about bus routes in the area and the necessity of using double decker buses - could the buses not be smaller to accommodate the residential and rural roads? C Cllr Hodgson will raise this point at DCC Full Council.

b. District Cllr (D Cllr) Birch had circulated a report and updated on the changes to the waste collection contract. Cllrs asked who would be held accountable for the financial implication of cancelling the waste contract, and the possibility of River Dart landing stage repairs being crowd funded. D Cllr Birch suggested that any community repair of the landing stage would require the permission of Dartington Trust as the land owner and the Environment Agency.

c. District Cllr Rose was not present and no report had been received.

d. District Cllr Sweett had circulated a report (not received by all) and updated on: the need to means test the new garden waste collection fee along with promotion of community composting schemes; a pause on Fusion’s plans to invest in improvements to the facilities at the Pavilions given the current economic climate and rise in interest rates for borrowing; the public meeting about the skatepark which will see some redesign of the site to improve sound proofing to address residents’ concerns; and the two parallel broadband fibre installations ongoing in the town. Cllrs asked about freeports.

*The Council reconvened.*

### **3. 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 5th September 2022.**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes.

**To note the following minutes:**

1. **Council Matters 23rd September 2022.**

Noted.

1. **Town Matters Committee 26th September 2022.**

Noted.

### **4. 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 5th September 2022.**

No matters arising.

1. **Council Matters 23rd September 2022.**

4 – Town Clocks. *It was* ***RESOLVED*** *to suspend standing orders.* D Cllr Birch questioned whether a Town Council could legally cease maintenance of the church clock citing previous issues in other towns that have taken this decision. *The Council reconvened.*

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the issue is referred back to the Council Matters Committee to investigate the cost of repairs to the clock and to check the legal responsibility of the Council for maintenance.

17 – Elmhirst Project. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to discuss the issue of finances under Part 2.

1. **Town Matters Committee 26th September 2022.**

3 – Air and Water Quality Concerns. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that a meeting is held for local stakeholders including representatives from river user groups, community groups and monitoring authorities. Invitees to include: Rowing Club, Canoe Club, SHDC planning, SHDC environmental health, South West Water, Westcountry Rivers, Dynamic Adventures, Dart Harbour Authority, Surfers Against Sewage, DCC Highways, DCC Public Health, Buckfastleigh TC, Staverton PC, Berry Pomeroy PC, Anthony Mangnall, and the local media.

4 – Cost of Living Meeting. The officer updated that there should be an amendment the wording of the resolution to ‘ask the Paige Adams trust’ if the Civic Hall can be used which was **AGREED**. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that in lieu of the currently vacant TTC community coordinator role, alternative co-ordination support provision is investigated to empower and facilitate a joined-up community response. This could be funding a part-time post within one of the community organisations. Also, that the Paige Adams Trust will be asked if the Civic Hall can be made available, if needed, to provide one venue that can be used by multiple community support projects one day a week to reduce individual costs.

### **5. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**To consider the following options open to the Council following the Neighbourhood Plan hearing into Policy C12 – Former Dairy Crest Site:**

**a. To make modifications to the policy as currently drafted, working with SHDC and the landowner to find wording that all can agree and to consider any additional budget allocation for professional fees;**

**b. Withdraw Policy C12 from the draft plan and proceed with the plan as draft and consulted on at Regulation 14 stage, with a view to making an amendment to the plan after referendum; or**

**c. Do nothing and wait for the Examiner’s report.**

Cllrs Allen and Price gave an overview of the recent hearing conducted into Policy C12 Former Dairy Crest Site, and Cllr Piper spoke about an informal meeting with a planning professional who has been suggested to undertake the modification of the policy which he believes would not be too lengthily or costly. The Officer updated that clarification had been received from the Examiner that any modification to the plan should focus on the viability test and meeting basic conditions, ideally engaging with South Hams District Council and the landowner – the modifications do not need to contain any suggested revisions requested but engagement is recommended. Council agreed unanimously that there should be engagement with SHDC but no engagement with the landowner in the process of modifying the policy and therefore that the resolution should omit language referring to the landowner.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council make modifications to Policy C12 as currently drafted, working with South Hams District Council to find wording that all can agree. It was **RESOLVED** to discuss funding of professional fees under Part 2.

**6. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

**To consider Cllr Hannam’s resignation from the Town Matters Committee (having taken up a seat on the Council Matters Committee:**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept Cllr Hannam’s resignation from the Town Matters Committee.

**7. LIST OF MEETING DATES**

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

Noted.

### **8. NEXT MEETING**

**To note the next meeting date of Monday 7th November 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.*

Cllrs Adams and Skinner left the meeting at 20.15hrs.

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

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

Council Matters Item 17 – it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the upper limit of delegated authority be raised to £65K. Cllr Price highlighted that this increase was for legal support to answer ongoing questions, not for any future actions.

Item 5 - Neighbourhood Plan. It was **RESOLVED** to allocate £2.5K to cover for professional advice as part of the policy modification process.

### **10. ELMHIRST PROJECT**

**To consider any update on the Elmhirst Site project (commercial).**

The Officer updated that there had been no communication from the TDA, KEVICC or the Department for Education.

Cllr Emily Price

Mayor