

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

**MONDAY 3RD APRIL 2023 IN THE GUILDHALL**

## Present: Councillors E Price (Chair), M Adams, G Allen, T Bennett, S Collinson, J Cummings, J Hodgson, P Paine, D Peters, B Piper and L Smallridge.

Apologies: Cllrs Hannam, Hendriksen and Webberley, District Cllrs Rose and Sweett.

Not Present: Cllr Skinner.

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

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

Cllr Price noted that this was the final Full Council of this Council’s term, and as some councillors are not seeking re-election she wished to thank Cllr Adams for her long service of over 30 years as a Town Councillor and former Mayor, and also Cllr Paine for his time on the Council.

### **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 agreed unanimously.

***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 updated on a recent meeting that she had attended including: the COVID team being stood down; Devon Libraries and a public consultation on the future provision of mobile libraries; highways - the condition and repair of roads is managed decline despite the uplift in funding; speeding complaints and some repeat speed surveys on Bridgetown Hill and Dukes Road; and survey for residents parking in Brooklands in Bridgetown. Cllrs asked about: speeding on Plymouth Road, Collapark and Smithfields; the value of claims from road defects on vehicle or personal injury; how the repair of potholes is prioritised, for example the condition of the Totnes – Newton Abbot road.

b. District Cllr (D Cllr) Birch has circulated a report, and explained the categories on the housing waiting list. Cllrs asked about: the housing problem.

c. District Cllr Rose was not present and had not circulated a report.

d. District Cllr Sweett was not present and had not circulated a report.

*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)***

**a. Full Council 6th March 2023.**

Subject to a correction that Cllr Collinson was present at the meeting, it was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes.

**To note the following minutes:**

**b.** **Council Matters Committee 13th March 2023.**

Noted.

**c. Planning Committee 20th March 2023.**

Noted.

**d. Town Matters Committee 27th March 2023.**

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)***

**a. Full Council 6th March 2023.**

No matters arising.

**b. Council Matters Committee 13th March 2023.**

No recommendations.

**c. Planning Committee 20th March 2023.**

No recommendations.

**d. Town Matters Committee 27th March 2023.**

Item 3. South West Water Consultation. It was **RESOLVED** by majority that the following response is made to the South West Water Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2024 consultation:

• The Council believes that South West Water should be a statutory consultee as part of the planning process and would support changes in planning legislation to enable this.

• The Council believes that there should be a further consultation on the South West Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan consulted on in 2022, and that there should be a clear link with the Draft Water Resources Management Plan.

Environmental

• Extreme Weather Events - no details given to the effects of extreme weather events and the effects on water treatment plants, how South West Water will respond, how to handle run off and slowing water flows down (for example through tree planting, attenuation ponds).

• Water Quality - no detail is given about water quality monitoring, frequency of monitoring and what is being tested for (for example, nitrates, pollutants, plastics, antibiotics) particularly in relation to bathing water areas.

• Biodiversity – no details are given on the wildlife species currently supported which therefore gives no baseline to monitor improvement or deterioration against.

• Future Modelling Tools - would like to see the use of future modelling of the impacts of river water levels – in drought and flood conditions – and the environmental and biodiversity effects.

• Catchment Management – no detail of how this strategic approach is taken into account in plans and programmes to assess and address the effects of run-off from agriculture and developed areas.

• All sewage treatment should be designed to include anaerobic digestion waste systems to support energy production, address climate change and prevent sewage discharges into rivers and the sea. (this could be combined with agricultural slurry treatment in rural areas).

Developments

• Flood Risk Modelling - The plan should include flood risk modelling for any new development and the potential effect on neighbouring areas and river catchment from surface water run-off.

• Water Treatment – South West Water needs to take into consideration the cumulative impact of various housing developments in a water catchment area in terms of: provision of potable water, capacity of water treatment plants to process the sewage and grey water generated, flood risk from non-permeable surfaces, and run-off effects into rivers.

• Water Management Infrastructure - New developments should install separate sewage and rain water systems to lessen the volume of water passing through the waste water treatment process, and natural soakaway areas within the site of any new development should be insisted upon.

• Grey Water Management – could the water companies insist on all new housing developments to be fitted with grey water harvesting for use in the home (for example toilet flushing, water butt collection) to reduce the volume of water consumption required per capita and support increased drought resilience?

• South West Water should be empowered to refuse additional developments loading onto the system where capacity for the provision of potable water and/or sewage treatment has been reached and can be demonstrated.

### **5. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

**To review the Financial Regulations.**

### It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept the revised Financial Regulations which would permit tenders for Council business to be received by email (rather than only hard copy documents).

**6. LIST OF MEETING DATES**

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

Noted.

### **7. NEXT MEETING**

**To note the next meeting date of Monday 15th May 2023, 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.*

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

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

**a. Town Matters Committee report.**

The recipients of the 2023 individual and organisation awards were **RESOLVED**. It was **AGREED** that:

* Certificates will be produced for all nominees.
* All nominees will be invited to the Town Meeting on 17th May 2023.

### **9. CHRISTMAS EVENT ORGANISER TENDER**

**To consider the applications received to tender for running the three Christmas Festival nights in December 2022 (commercially sensitive).**

It was **RESOLVED** to award the tender to Miss Ivy to run the Christmas Festival nights in 2023 and 2024.

### **10. CIVIC HALL PILLARS PROJECT**

### **To consider an update on the Civic Hall pillars art project (commercially sensitive).**

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Arts and Events Working Group would discuss the potential artists to take this work forward and that the Clerk is given delegated authority to appoint the preferred artist.

### **11. ELMHIRST PROJECT (Standing Item)**

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

There was no new information to update Council with at this time.

Cllr Emily Price

Mayor