



## **MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL** **MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2025 IN THE GUILDHALL**

Present: Councillors E Price (Chair), L Auletta, C Beavis, T Bennett, S Collinson, T Cooper, J Cummings, J Hannam, J Hodgson, D Peters, A Presswell, L Smallridge and M Trant.

Apologies: Cllrs Chinnock, Roberts and Robshaw, District Cllr Birch.

In Attendance: Members of the public, District Cllr Allen, C Marlton (Town Clerk) and P Bethel (Town Sergeant).

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

Cllr Price welcomed all to the meeting before passing the role of chairing to her Deputy, Cllr Benntt who presided for the rest of the meeting.

### **2. 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. There were no amendments to Declarations of Interest. The Clerk reminded members to update their Declaration of Interests using the relevant form when taking on new voluntary and paid positions.

***The Committee will adjourn for the following items:***

#### **Reports from County and District Councillors.**

- a. County Cllr Hodgson
- b. District Cllr Allen
- c. District Cllr Birch
- d. District Cllr Presswell

*It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders.*

a. County Cllr (C Cllr) Hodgson had submitted a report before the meeting and updated on: local government reform and devolution for Devon and Torbay; the Totnes and Littlehempston cycle path which will be considered at Devon County Council Cabinet in March; and encouraging people to respond to the community composting questionnaire which is now live.

b. District Cllr Allen was present and answered questions on her written report, including: locality funds for District Councillors; concerns about planning legislation; the definition of second home ownership in terms of the enhanced Council Tax rate; and the idea of beavers being introduced to the River Dart.

- c. District Cllr Birch was not present and had not submitted a report.
- d. District Cllr Presswell was present and answered questions on her written report, including: work on the Heritage Festival 2025 which is looking to include historic figures; and work at Dartington around a food hub at the Cider Press centre and the need to ensure that this initiative doesn't have a negative impact on the Totnes centre high street.

*The Council reconvened.*

### **3. CLERK'S REPORT**

**To note the Clerk's Report for January and February 2025 (general updates and correspondence).**  
Noted.

### **4. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.**

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

**To note the following minutes:**

#### **b. Council Matters Committee 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Noted.

#### **c. Planning Committee 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

Noted.

### **5. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.**

No matters arising.

#### **b. Council Matters Committee 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Item 6 - Asset Transfer Policy for the Council. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the draft Asset Transfer Policy is adopted as amended.

Item 7 - Council Grants Policy. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the revised Council Grants Policy is adopted.

Item 8 - Closed-Circuit Television Policy. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the revised Closed-Circuit Television Policy is adopted.

#### **c. Planning Committee, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Item 6 – Parish Paths Partnership. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council writes to the Devon County Council Footpaths Officer to raise concerns about and request that action is taken on the following:

- Footpath 3 – concern about the landowner’s behaviour and continued neglect in not reinstating this path after crop planting, as this footpath provides an important pedestrian route away from a busy road; and
- Footpath 17 – the condition of the footbridge which has not been repaired and to request that Devon County Council ensures that funding is found for its repair.

## **6. 20s PLENTY**

**To consider the proposal for additional 20mph speed limits in residential areas of the town.**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to support:

- The outlined locations for 20mph zones: Plymouth Road, Cott Road, Jubilee Road, from the top of Bridgetown Hill to the bottom of Bridgetown from A385 to the old bridge.
- The additional zones of: the road from Bridgetown Hill Junction from A385 down over the Old Bridge to the mini roundabout; Weston Lane; Borough Park Road; and the Industrial Estate.
- The following additional measures in any future plans: extension of 30mph zones on all approach roads into Totnes - Kingsbridge Hill (A381), Newton Abbot road (A381) and Bridgetown Hill to True Street (A385).
- Consideration of 20mph on Ashburton Road outside KEVICCS and the residential areas.

## **REMOVAL OF 20MPH SIGNS**

## **7. TOTNES CASTLE**

**To consider making any representations to English Heritage about the proposal to close Totnes Castle during winter months.**

It was **RESOLVED** to write to English Heritage expressing concern about the proposed winter closure of Totnes Castle, subject to some minor amendments.

## **8. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**To consider a request from Cllr Chinnock to resign as a Council Representative to the Fairtrade group.**

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the resignation. Councillors will consider their preferred roles ahead of the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2025.

## **9. LIST OF MEETING DATES AND COMMUNICATIONS POINTS**

**To note a list of upcoming meeting dates, Council communications points and link Councillor/ Councillor representatives on outside bodies updates.**

Noted.

## **10. NEXT MEETING**

**To note the next meeting date of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 6.30pm public session, 7.00pm formal meeting in the Guildhall.**

Noted.

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*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.*

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

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

None.

**12. TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

**To consider giving delegated authority to the Clerk to authorise a transfer from the savings account to current account as required.**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to give the Town Clerk delegated authority to transfer up to £50,000 from either savings account into the Town Council current account and/or back to the savings account to manage cashflow as required.

**13. ELMHIRST PROJECT (Standing Item)**

**To consider an update on the Elmhirst project and the delegation of costs associated with the bid process (commercially sensitive).**

Noted. It was **AGREED** to retain this item on the agenda as there is still an aspiration to secure the site.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Cllr Emily Price  
Chair