



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2025 IN THE GUILDHALL

Present: Councillors T Bennett (Chair), L Auletta, C Beavis, J Chinnock, T Cooper, J Cummings, J Hannam, J Hodgson (from 19.30), D Peters, A Presswell, E Price and M Trant.

Apologies: Cllrs Collinson, Roberts and Robshaw, and District Cllrs Allen and Birch.

Not Present: Cllr Smallridge.

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

1. WELCOME TO ALL ATTENDING AND OBSERVING

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.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the apologies. There were no amendments to Declarations of Interest.

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 not submitted a report and was not present at this point [see below].
- b. District Cllr Allen had not submitted a report and was not present.
- c. District Cllr Birch had submitted a report but was not present.
- d. District Cllr Presswell was present and had submitted a report and updated on: quiet fireworks; allotments and composting site; support available for those on low incomes via Citizens Advice and the Food Bank; pursuing repairs to the boardwalk area near the river; and requesting bench placement at Longmarsh (which falls in the Berry Pomeroy Parish).

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 the Confidential session)

a. Full Council 3rd November 2025.

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

To note the following minutes:

b. Council Matters Committee 10th November 2025.

Noted.

c. Planning Committee 17th November 2025.

Noted.

d. Town Matters Committee 24th November 2025.

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 the Confidential session)

a. Full Council 3rd November 2025.

No matters arising.

b. Council Matters Committee 10th November 2025

Item 6. Councillor Co-option Policy. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the revised Councillor Co-option Policy is adopted.

c. Planning Committee 17th November 2025

Item 5. Reform of the Licensing System. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Town Council that it displays details of licensing applications on its notice boards and website to ensure ongoing notification and accessibility for the community.

d. Town Matters Committee 24th November 2025.

Item 3a. Notice Board. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the larger notice board is installed under the Civic Hall on the wall and that the smaller notice board currently on the Civic Hall fire door is relocated to the outer red door to the Council Offices.

Item 3c. Railway Bridge. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Town Council officer time is allocated to obtain quotes for painting the railway bridge in two colours (framework in one colour, panels another) which will need to include a pavement/footway closure application.

Item 4. William Wills Project. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council:

- Supports the proposed update to the Burke and Wills display space, led by the Heritage Trust;

- Cllr Bennett works closely with the Heritage Trust on how the display will look and its content, updating Council to ensure that it is in keeping with the building; and
- Cllr Bennett works with the Heritage Trust to liaise with the First Nation people in Australia.

Item 5. Vire Committee President. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Mayor becomes the ex officio President of the Vire Twinning Association.

5. STRATEGY DELIVERY WORKING GROUP UPDATES

To receive an update from the Chairs of the Strategy Delivery Working Group Chairs.

Informal updates were given by the Chairs which were noted. In summary:

Community Working Group – Cllr Bennett updated that engagement with community groups and networks is ongoing, and that he will Chair the group until the end of the meeting year [March 2026].

Economy Working Group – Cllr Auletta updated that the Community Economic Plan work continues with projects coming forward that will need to be built into the existing work strands of the Council via the working groups. A business forum is developing as part of this work.

Environment and Public Realm Working Group – Cllr Peters updated on Vire Island, railway bridge, bins and his work with the Canoe Club on obtaining grant funding for repairs to the pontoon.

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

To consider giving the Clerk delegated authority to respond to planning applications (informed by Councillor comment) in December/early January should illness affect the Planning Committee in December being quorate or if deadlines for comment fall in early January.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that delegated authority is given to the Clerk in December/early January to respond to planning applications based on comments from members of the Planning Committee, if required.

Cllr Hodgson arrived at the meeting (19.30hrs) and the Council adjourned for item 2a.

2a. County Councillor Report. CCllr Hodgson updated on local government reform proposals; special educational needs funding; the Littlehempston cycle path; weight restrictions on Blackpost Lane. Cllrs asked about: funding for libraries and the consultation; old bridge feasibility study; pedestrian crossings on Bridgetown Hill, the Lamb and Plymouth Road; and dissatisfaction at the Devon Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Council reconvened to consider the following items:

7. LIST OF MEETING DATES AND COMMUNICATIONS POINTS

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

Noted.

8. NEXT MEETING

To note the next meeting dates of Monday 5th January 2026 for Full Council, 6.30pm public session, 7.00pm formal meeting in the Guildhall.

Noted.

*The Council **RESOLVED** 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 by virtue of relating to legal and/or commercial matters, staffing and/or the financial or business affairs of a person or persons other than the Council)*

12. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE (Standing Item)

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

None.

13. CASTLE MEADOW ACCESS

To note an update on Castle Meadow access (legal).

Noted.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Cllr Tim Bennett

Chair