



MINUTES FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL MONDAY 11TH MAY 2026 IN THE GUILDHALL

Present: Councillors T Bennett (Mayor and Chair), L Auletta, C Beavis, J Chinnock, S Collinson, J Hannam, J Hodgson (from 19.05hrs), D Peters, A Presswell, N Roberts, T Robshaw, L Smallridge and M Trant.

Apologies: Cllrs Cummings and Price.

Not Present: Cllr Cooper

In Attendance: District Councillors Allen and Birch, C Marlton (Town Clerk) and P Bethel (Town Sergeant).

1. WELCOME TO ALL ATTENDING AND OBSERVING

2. ELECTION OF MAYOR

a. To elect the Mayor and the Chair of the Council for the Council Year 2026-2027.

Cllr Bennett was unanimously voted in as Mayor and the oath of office was signed.

b. To note the Mayor's appointment of the Deputy Mayor/Chair.

Cllr Bennett appointed Cllr Trant as his deputy for the coming year.

3. 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 submitted a report. Councillors asked about: public transport reliability; bus safety (use of seatbelts); and highways works.

b. District Cllr Allen (DCllr) had not submitted a report and updated on: the National Landscape; planning changes at district council level; and an Arts Plan at South Hams District Council.

c. District Cllr Birch had submitted a report and there was discussion with Councillors about water quality in local rivers including community-led monitoring initiatives and partnerships with universities. The impact of heavy rainfall on water quality was highlighted. DCllr Birch will circulate details of the project.

d. District Cllr Presswell had submitted a report. Councillors noted with thanks the repairs to the riverside walkway/pontoon.

The Council reconvened.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

To elect: members to committees; committee chairs; Strategy Delivery Working Groups; outside representatives; and link councillor roles.

The following appointments were **RESOLVED** unanimously for 2026/27:

Committee	Proposed Membership 2026/27
Full Council	ALL CLLRS ATTEND
Council Matters Committee (between 6-8 members)	Cllrs Auletta, Beavis, Bennett, Chinnock, Hannam, Peters, Price, Trant CHAIR – Cllr Peters
Planning Committee (between 6-10 members)	Cllrs Auletta, Bennett, Collinson, Cooper, Cummings, Hodgson, Smallridge, Trant CHAIR – Cllr Auletta
Town Matters Committee (between 6-10 members)	Cllrs Auletta, Beavis, Chinnock, Collinson, Cummings, Peters, Presswell, Price, Roberts, Robshaw CHAIR - TBC
Working Group	
Community Working Group	Cllrs Bennett, Chinnock, Collinson, Hannam, Presswell, Robshaw, Trant
Economy Working Group	Cllrs Auletta, Beavis, Chinnock, Peters, Roberts
Environment and Public Realm Working Group	Cllrs Auletta, Collinson, Cooper, Cummings, Hodgson, Peters, Robshaw
Link Councillors	
Cultural Links	None
Arts	Cllr Hannam
Elderly and Vulnerable People	Cllrs Hannam & Hodgson
Young People/Youth	Cllr Hannam & Hodgson

Heritage	Cllrs Auletta, Bennett & Price
Open Space, Sports Provision and Leisure	Cllrs Auletta, Price & Roberts
Traffic and Transport	Cllrs Auletta, Hodgson, Presswell & Roberts
Environment, Sustainability & Air Quality	Cllrs Cummings, Hodgson & Robshaw
Disability	Cllrs Hodgson, Price & Robshaw
Business and Employment	Cllr Roberts
Representatives on Outside Bodies	
TADPOOL	Cllrs Hannam & Peters
Totnes Allotments Association	Cllr Hodgson
Vire Twinning Association	Cllrs Cooper, Hodgson & Price
Totnes Municipal Charities and Totnes Bounds Charity	Cllrs Bennett & Hannam
KEVICC Foundation Governors	Cllrs Beavis, Bennett, Hannam & Price
Parish Paths Partnership	Cllr Bennett
Totnes Hospital League of Friends	Cllrs Bennett & Hannam
DALC Larger Councils Committee	Cllr Bennett
Dart Harbour Community Group	Cllr Peters
Totnes Chamber of Commerce	Cllr Roberts
Fairtrade	Cllr Hannam
Museum Trust	Cllr Presswell
Caring Town	Cllr Price
Network of Wellbeing	Cllrs Cummings & Robshaw
Bridgetown Alive	Cllrs Bennett, Hodgson, Presswell & Robshaw
Friends of Totnes Museum	Cllr Presswell
Daisy and Rainbow Childcare	Cllr Bennett
Inclusive Totnes [Disability]	Cllrs Cummings, Hodgson & Price
Police & Crime Commissioner Councillor Advocate	Cllr Peters?

The King Edward VI College Site Foundation (The Mansion)	Cllrs Beavis & Price
Devon Countryside Forum	Cllrs Auletta & Hodgson
Rural Service Network	Cllr Hodgson
Friends of Salfit	Cllrs Price & Robshaw
TQ9 Partnership	Cllrs Bennett, Chinnock, Hodgson & Price
Schools Engagement	Cllr Bennett
Stepping Stones	Cllrs Hannam & Robshaw
Totnes Lantern Festival and Carnival	Cllr Bennett
Totnes Fringe Festival	Cllr Bennett

5. 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 13th April 2026.

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

To note the following minutes:

b. Council Matters Committee 20th April 2026.

Noted.

c. Planning Committee 27th April 2026.

Noted.

6. 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 13th April 2026.

No matters arising.

b. Council Matters Committee 20th April 2026.

Item 3a. Community Working Group: Community Audit – It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to ring fence £13,500 of the £50,000 Strategic Community Funding for Caring Town, subject to further work on the Job Description of the new role and the involvement of the Town Council in the future planning of the organisation and recruitment processes.

Item 5. Standing Orders Review – See item 8 on the Full Council agenda.

Item 6. Risk Register – See item 9 on the Full Council agenda.

Item 13. Guildhall Inventory – It was **RESOLVED** that the framed prints (excluding the Goss certificate) be added to the inventory and stored in the Muniments Room, and that the other items as listed be disposed of.

c. Planning Committee 27th April 2026.

No recommendations.

7. STRATEGY DELIVERY WORKING GROUP UPDATES

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

Verbal updates were received from the Working group chairs Cllr Bennett (Community), Cllr Roberts (Economy), Cllr Hodgson (Environment and Public Realm).

8. STANDING ORDERS

To consider the revised Standing Orders (see document for a summary of changes).

It was **RESOLVED** that the revised Standing Orders are adopted.

9. RISK REGISTER

To review the Town Council's Risk Register.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Risk Register is approved, noting internal auditor feedback.

10. 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.

11. NEXT MEETING

To note the next meeting dates of Monday 1st June 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. TOTNES MUSEUM LEASE

To consider a request to extend the lease on 70 Fore Street/Totnes Museum (financial and legal).

It was **RESOLVED** that this discussion should be deferred to Council Matters to make a recommendation to Full Council in June 2026 for a final decision.

14. BANKRUPTCY DECLARATION REQUIREMENTS

To confirm declarations from officers and Councillors of bankruptcy in line with insurance requirements (personal).

The Clerk reminded all members that they needed to confirm declarations (including nil) by email to the Finance Manager for insurance requirements.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.30pm.

Cllr Tim Bennett
Chair