DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2026 IN THE GUILDHALL

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

Apologies: Cllr Smallridge.

Not Present: Cllr Robshaw.

In Attendance: District Councillors Allen and Birch, 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.

The Council 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 gave an update on: local government reorganisation and the Mayoral Authority; Devon County Council street parking changes and the upcoming consultation on the 20mph area in Totnes; a meeting with Active Travel England; continued safer streets work on traffic management outside St John's Primary School; and a statement about the Green Party.

b. District Cllr Allen had not submitted a report and gave an update on: building enforcement; and the mixed reception to the bollards on the Civic Square, asking Cllrs to feed back any public comments to her.

c. District Cllr Birch (DCllr) had submitted a report and updated on: the Community Economic Plan launch; and the suggestion of joint/partnership funding for the leisure centre. Cllrs asked questions about: motorhomes and lack of toilet facilities at Longmarsh; an update on the Freeport; and a timeline for the installation of PV panels on the leisure centre.

d. District Cllr Presswell had submitted a report. Cllrs asked about the cost of train travel and bus replacement service for trains; and Cllr Presswell asked if a link to the GWR website highlighting the range of accessibility support could be put onto the Town Council website.

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 5th October 2026.

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

To note the following minutes:

b. Council Matters Committee 12th October 2026.

Noted.

c. Planning Committee 19th October 2026.

Noted.

4. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTERS ARISING REQUIRING A DECISION

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 5th October 2026.

No matters arising.

b. Council Matters Committee 12th October 2026.

Item 8. Privacy Policy – It was **RESOLVED** that the Council adopts the revised Privacy Policy.

c. Planning Committee 19th October 2026.

No recommendations.

5. COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP

To consider the following Community Working Group recommendations (document attached):

a. in principle support for a community fridge.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Community Fridge proposal is supported in principle.

b. 2027/28 Budget.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Community Working Group budget of £17K is approved as detailed.

6. LIST OF MEETING DATES AND COMMUNICATIONS POINTS

To note a list of upcoming meeting including 2027 calendar of meetings, Mayor Making and Annual

Town Meeting dates, Council communications points and link Councillor/ Councillor representatives on outside bodies updates.
Noted.

7. NEXT MEETING
To note the next meeting dates of Monday 7the December 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)*

8. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE (Standing Item)
To consider any recommendations or matters arising that are considered confidential in nature.
None.

9. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
To consider the quotes received for the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contract (commercial).
It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint Glendale Countryside Ltd as the contractor for the Cemetery and Castle Meadow Grounds Maintenance subject to references and contract management.

10. TRANSFER OF FUNDS
To consider a transfer of funds from the current account to the savings account (financial).
It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to give the Clerk delegated authority to transfer £150K from the current account to a savings account to benefit from interest rates, with funds being transferred back to the current account as needed for operational spend.

11. ASSET TRANSFER
To consider the outcome of the Asset Transfer application to South Hams District Council and next steps (legal).
It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council keeps the matter of future potential asset transfers from South Hams District Council under review and revisits the position after the 2027 local elections.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Cllr Tim Bennett
Chair

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