

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 7th DECEMBER 2015 AT THE GUILDHALL TOTNES

Present: Councillors Hodgson (Chair), Cohen, R Adams, Paine, Piper, Whitty, Westacott MBE, Harper, Boswell, Vint, Horsburgh, Hendriksen and Simms

Apologies: Councillors Connelly and M Adams

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Town Clerk), Peter Bethel (Town Sergeant), District Councillor Green, 1 member of the press and 10 members of the public

No	Subject	Comments
1	To receive apologies.	It was RESOLVED to accept the apologies.
2	The Mayor will request confirmation that all Members have made any amendments necessary to their Declaration of Interests, if appropriate.	There were no amendments.
3	<p><i>The Council will adjourn for the following items:</i></p> <p><u>Public Question Time:</u> A period of 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Council or other items that affect Totnes.</p> <p><u>Reports from County and District Councillors</u></p> <p><i>The Council will convene.</i></p>	<p><i>The Council adjourned for the following items:</i></p> <p><u>Public Question Time</u></p> <p>Members of the public spoke about the following items:</p> <p>A Totnes Street Pastor Spoke about the problems relating to drugs in the town. He has written to the Totnes Times and submitted a copy to the Mayor, who read it out. The Mayor agreed to support this letter, which was then passed to the People Committee for a recommendation of endorsement. Concern was expressed about the number of abandoned shopping trolleys left lying around the town. Morrisons had been approached and had explained that they had removed the trolley locks as a result of customer demand. The Mayor thanked him for drawing this to the attention of the Council and referred this item to the People Committee.</p> <p>A representative of Totnes Citizens UK spoke about resettling refugees in the South Hams area and offered to help to the Council with its declared intentions to support refugees.</p> <p>A representative of a group of young people who want to protest against the bombing in Syria asked the Council's advice on organising an appropriate event.</p> <p>A representative of a group called the Circle of Women Elders has written to the Prime Minister to urge him to see the potential problems which they foresee in the Government's recent policies. The Mayor supported this letter and invited fellow Councillors to support individually.</p> <p>A resident of Weirfields spoke about the Atmos Project and the proposed retirement block, the appearance and construction of which he considers to be out of keeping with the town of Totnes.</p> <p>Concern was expressed about: the accessibility of High Street/Fore Street for disabled users, particularly when scaffolding obstructs the dropped kerbs; and the lack of response from Royal Mail regarding installation of a post box at the top of town which can fit large envelopes.</p> <p>Councillor Vint drew attention to a planning application for a Waste Transfer Station in Harberton Parish, which was referred to the Planning Committee. Councillor Green has asked for the Coco's Nursery Application to go to the Development Management Committee.</p> <p><i>The Council convened</i></p>
4	To approve and sign the Minutes of the following Meetings : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Full Council 2nd November 2015 b. Operations Committee 	It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Minutes.

	<p>16th November 2015</p> <p>c. Planning and Place Committee 5th November and 26th November 2015</p> <p>d. Personnel Committee 20th November 2015 CONFIDENTIAL</p> <p>e. People Committee 26th November 2015</p>	
5	<p>To consider any matters arising from the Minutes and to approve any recommendations from Committees.</p>	<p>Matters arising from Full Council</p> <p>Item 3 The Council RESOLVED to give delegated authority to the Planning Committee to respond to the item about birds, which will be discussed at its next meeting. Councillor Vint has not yet received a response to his request for information about the possibility of using Parkers Barn as refugee accommodation.</p> <p>Item 10 Councillors discussed the problems associated with not having polling cards and requested that a statement or advertisement be issued to the Totnes Times with full details about the election so that all electors are aware of it and know that they do not need a polling card.</p> <p>Recommendations from Committees: <u>Operations Committee 16th November 2015</u></p> <p>Item 4 The recording of Council meetings was discussed and the Committee RESOLVED that we continue to support SoundArt with a grant of £50 per meeting to record Full Council meetings. Birdwood House Section of the Civic Hall—it was RESOLVED to ask the Trustees of Paige Adams to set aside a sum from the Paige Adams Account to support investigation into possible funding for refurbishment.</p> <p>Item 7 The fire alarm in the Guildhall is monitored via the main phone line. The Council RESOLVED that it was an acceptable risk to maintain one phone line for all purposes. <u>People Committee 26th November 2015</u></p> <p>Item 4 The Council RESOLVED that investigations be carried out asap to see what improvements can be made to make the Chamber more comfortable and fit for purpose – overcoming heating, lighting, audio, seating and access issues.</p> <p>Item 5 The Council RESOLVED to install CCTV and security lighting outside the Guildhall as an urgent spend in the current financial year.</p> <p>Item 6 The Council RESOLVED that the legal advice be followed in relation to the water supply to the Civic Hall shop unit and regarding the maintenance and access of the adjoining building, and therefore that letters are sent to South Hams District Council on both matters. <u>Planning and Place Committee 26th November</u></p> <p>Item 9 It was RESOLVED that this forum remains an advisory body to TTC.</p>
6	<p>To note the Community Governance Review for Ivybridge and Ugborough.</p>	<p>This was noted. Discussion was held about this item and it was decided to refer it to the People Committee to discuss how this process could be applied to Totnes.</p>

7	To receive an update about the EU response to the Whitecleaves Quarry application.	Councillor Hodgson gave an update. No reply has been received from the EC in response to a formal complaint and she will take this up with our MEP.
8	To note that the Great Court Farm application has been approved.	This was noted. It was RESOLVED to send another invitation to the Duke to ask him to meet with the Town Council.
9	To note the Police Report dated 2/11/2015.	This was noted. It was RESOLVED to support the following proposal from Councillor Whitty: This Council is appreciative of the support the PCSO (part of the Neighbourhood Policing team in the town) gave to the Council in working with the Trustees of the Museum to identify the perpetrator of the vandalism that took place. It highlights the importance of this aspect of policing in the local community and how the PCSOs serve the town. We would like to express our full support to the Police Service in challenging the possibility of any proposed cuts to Neighbourhood Policing in the near future. Councillor Rosie Adams also proposed a vote of thanks to Inspector Tomlinson for including the requested additions within the report.
		<i>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.</i>
		The matters arising from the Personnel Committee were discussed and the following decisions were made: The Personnel Committee will revisit the discussion about the Living Wage because new information has been received about the deadline for applying the updated rate, which must be by 1 st May 2016 and not immediately. It was RESOLVED that, in order to minimise the impact on the budget, any new employee will not receive any incremental increase or pay rise within the first year of their employment. New information has been received about the rules governing the Local Government Pension Scheme: Town and Parish Councils may choose to run another scheme alongside the LGPS, subject to certain conditions. The Personnel Committee will therefore discuss this again. It was RESOLVED to close the TIC on Saturdays up to Christmas and to review arrangements in the New Year dependent on continuing staff sickness. All other items will be referred back to the Personnel Committee for further discussion.
10	To note the correspondence from a resident of Totnes.	This was noted.
11	To note the date of the next meeting: Monday 4th January 2016 at 7pm	This was noted.

END

MAYOR