

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF TOTNES TOWN COUNCIL**

**MONDAY 4TH APRIL 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL**

## Present: Councillors J Hodgson (Chair), M Adams, S Collinson (from 19.50), J Cummings, J Hannam, A Oliver, P Paine and S Skinner.

Apologies: Cllrs Allen, Hendriksen, Piper, Price, Stopp, Trow, and District Cllrs Rose and Sweett, and Cllr Collinson joining the meeting late.

Not present: Cllr Webberley

## In Attendance: District Councillor Birch, members of the press and public, and C Marlton (Town Clerk).

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

### **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.

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

**Reports from County and District Councillors.**

1. **County Cllr Hodgson**
2. **District Cllr Birch**
3. **District Cllr Rose**
4. **District Cllr Sweett**

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

a. County Cllr (C Cllr) Hodgson updated on: the increasing levels of Covid in Devon; the preparatory work being undertaken to assist Ukrainian refugees with accommodation, healthcare and benefits; the 20mph speed limit pilot; replacing the speed bumps in Collapark and Smithfield; and the Fore Street traffic calming survey. Cllrs asked if the police could be asked to monitor the cars that are speeding through Collapark at certain times of the evening.

b. District Cllr Birch gave an update on the Airband zoom meeting that took place last week. Airband are due to publish a question and answer sheet for the issues raised by members of the public at that meeting which the Town Council will be invited to share on its website. Cllrs asked for an update on Baltic Wharf – the developers Acorn have drawn up a new scheme which is currently at the pre-application stage and remains confidential until Acorn decide to make it public.

c. District Cllr Rose was not present.

d. District Cllr Sweett was not present.

*The Council reconvened.*

### **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)***

1. **Full Council 7th March 2022.**

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

**To note the following minutes:**

**b. Council Matters 14th March 2022.**

Noted.

**c. Planning Committee 21st March 2022.**

Noted.

**d. Town Matters Committee 28th March 2022.**

Noted.

### **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)***

1. **Full Council 7th March 2022.**

No matters arising.

**b. Council Matters 14th March 2022.**

Item 4 – Devon County Council Pension Scheme Investments. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Town Council formerly requests that:

a. Devon County Council’s pension scheme investments in unsustainable and environmentally damaging businesses are urgently sold and investments switched to sustainable projects such as renewable energy that will help society address and mitigate the Climate and Ecological Emergency; and

b. In addition to this request, the Devon Pension Fund Board is urged to carry out a poll of its members (pension fund holders) to seek their views on the investments made on their behalf.

**c. Planning Committee 21st March 2022.**

No recommendations.

**d. Town Matters Committee 28th March 2022.**

Item 2 – Citizens Advice. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Town Councillors meet with Citizens Advice and District Councillors to discuss the energy and housing issues faced in the town.

Item 4 – Proportional Representation Electoral System. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Town Council:

a. seeks the support of neighbouring town councils (Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, Ivybridge, Salcombe) by end of May 2022 to send a joint letter (Cllr Cummings to draft);

b. writes to Her Majesty’s Government to request changes to legislation that would permit local councils in England to take steps to increase their diversity and representativeness by allowing councils to trial a more proportional voting system in County, District and Town Council elections; and also requesting an increase of funds to support greater levels of electoral registration;

c. informs South Hams District Council and Devon County Council of this decision, and invite them to pass similar resolutions;

d. asks our MP, Anthony Mangnall, to support such a change in the law; and

e. issues a press release to the Totnes Times, informing the public of this resolution.

Item 7 – Commemorative Bench on Coronation Road. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Town Council agrees to the request for the use of its land on Coronation Road for Totnes Gardens to install a commemorative bench at their own cost.

### **COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME APPLICATIONS**

**To consider the applications for the community grant scheme.**

Discussion was had to ensure that the applications will be spent in the interests of the area of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with expenditure, as per the spending powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. Totnes Town Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to allocate £24893.64 [£24895.55] to Community Grant applicants listed below, £8793.64 [£8796.55] of which is considered S137 expenditure.

**S137 DECISION OF 4TH APRIL 2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant | Project | Amount Requested £ | Project Cost £ | % of Total Cost | Grant Awarded |
| Totnes Caring | Costs towards the Community Transport coordinator | 4,000.00 | 17,354.00 | 23.0 | FULL £4,000 grant awarded. Powers for Community Transport. |
| South Hams Citizens Advice | Contribution to outreach support worker in partnership with Totnes Caring | 7,000.00 | 9,800.00 | 71.4 | FULL £7,000 grant awarded. Power to support CAB. |
| Totnes Bike Hub | Volunteer training costs to upcycle bikes | 3,960.00 | 6,960.00 | 56.9 | FULL £3960 grant awarded. **S137 allocation.** |
| Stepping Stones Totnes CIC Food Hub | IT set up – laptop mobile, printer, etc | 2,394.55 | 2,394.55 | 100.0 | FULL £2394.55 grant awarded. **S137 allocation.** |
| Sharpham/Totnes Park Run | Set up costs for a new Park Run | 1,000.00 | 4,000.00 | 25.0 | FULL £1000 grant awarded. Power to provide provision of entertainment and support of the arts AND Tourism |
| St John’s Church | Community wellbeing activities and Jubilee event | 1,800.00 | 9,000.00 | 20.0 | FULL £1800 grant awarded. Power to provide provision of entertainment and support of the arts |
| Dartington Morris Men | The Brutus Pageant | 550.00 | 750.00 | 73.3 | FULL £550 grant awarded. Power to provide provision of entertainment and support of the arts AND Tourism |
| Bridgetown Alive! | Contribution to newsletter and notice boards | 940.00 | 1,280.00 | 73.4 | FULL £940 grant awarded. **S137 allocation.** |
| Inclusive Totnes | Community benches outside The Mansion | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 100.0 | 75% £1500 grant awarded. **S137 allocation.** |
| Totnes Garden Trail Group (Formerly Gardening for Health) | Notice board at The Lamb garden and new Garden Trail leaflets | 1,000.00 | 1,500.00 | 66.7 | FULL £1000 allocated in principle - subject to paperwork and checks being completed. Powers under Recreation/ Information/Tourism. |
| Participate Arts | Creative Connections | 750.00 | 3,500.00 | 21.4 | FULL £750 allocated. Power to provide provision of entertainment and support of the arts AND Tourism. |
| Total |  | 25,394.55 | 58,538.55 | 43.4 | £16100 under various powers, **£8795.55 S137,** TOTAL £24895.55 |

### **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND LINK COUNCILLORS 2022/23**

**To elect members to committees, committee chairs, working groups, outside representatives and link councillor roles.**

It was **AGREED** to defer this item until the May meeting.

### **MAYORAL CHOOSING**

**To consider (document attached): To appoint Councillors to undertake the following duties at the Mayoral Choosing ceremony on 19th May 2022:**

**a. To propose the election of the new Mayor;**

**b. To second the election of the new Mayor;**

**c. To propose and endorse the election of all other Council positions and Committees; and**

**d. To propose a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor.**

It was **AGREED** to defer this item until the May meeting.

### **PLANNING FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY CONSULTATION**

**To consider the ‘Planning for the Climate Emergency’ consultation being run by Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon and a Council response (consultation closes on 21st April).**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to give the Clerk delegated authority to write a supportive statement that accompanies the Climate Emergency Working Group’s comments as a community (not Council approved) response.

### **LIST OF MEETING DATES**

**To note a list of upcoming meeting dates.**

Noted. The Arts Working Group will move to 27th April due to school holidays, and the annual Town Meeting has been rescheduled for 18th May.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**To note the next meeting date of Monday 9th May 2022, 6.30pm public session, 7.00pm formal meeting in the Guildhall.**

Noted.

*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.*

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

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

Town Matters Committee Item 10 – Community Award. It was **RESOLVED** accept the proposed recipient of the 2022 award and that all nominees are invited to attend the Mayoral Choosing ceremony and that the winner is announced on the day.

### **WAYFINDING**

**To consider the tender applications for the manufacture of the signage as part of the wayfinding project.**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to give the Town Clerk delegated authority to decide between two possible tender applicants on the basis of references received and checks undertaken, to go ahead and instruct them to fabricate phase 1 of the wayfinding project signage.

### **ELMHIRST PROJECT**

**To consider an update on the Elmhirst project and to consider next steps/actions (commercially sensitive).**

It was **RESOLVED** to write to KEVICC SLT and Governors with a formal offer to purchase the lower field site subject to funding being secured, contract and survey.

Cllr Jacqi Hodgson

Deputy Mayor