

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

**MONDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2024 IN THE GUILDHALL**

## Present: Councillors E Price (Chair), L Auletta, C Beavis, T Bennett, J Chinnock (left at 19.14), S Collinson, T Cooper, J Cummings, J Hannam, J Hodgson, D Peters, A Presswell, N Roberts, T Robshaw, and M Trant.

Apologies: Cllr L Smallridge.

## In Attendance: Members of the press and public, District Cllrs 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.**

The apologies were received and accepted. There were no amendments to declarations of interest.

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

**Reports from County and District Councillors.**

1. **County Cllr Hodgson**
2. **District Cllr Allen**
3. **District Cllr Birch**
4. **District Cllr Presswell**

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

a. County Cllr (C Cllr) Hodgson was present and gave a verbal update on her report circulated prior to the meeting including: a petition to ask Devon County Council (DCC) to divest its investments in companies supplying arms to Israel; concern about DCC maintenance of hedges and verges; a reduction in Horseshoe bat numbers in Buckfastleigh; flooding; and community composting. Cllr Chinnock left the meeting during this item.

b. District Cllr Allen was present and had not submitted any report. She updated on enforcement issues at Morrision’s petrol station around planning and alcohol licencing.

c. District Cllr Birch was present and gave a verbal update on his written report including: DCC will not ringfence additional council tax revenue from second homes for housing; the Heritage Festival in Totnes on 28th September; meeting with the Dartington Trust about Schumacher College; and requesting Town Council support for the South Hams Festival.

d. District Cllr Presswell was present and gave a verbal update on her written report, including meetings with: Network Rail about the condition and appearance of the railway station and railway bridges; and about the investment required for the Pavilions Leisure Centre.

*The Council reconvened.*

**3. CLERK’S REPORT (Standing Item)**

**To note the Clerk's Report for August 2024 (general updates and correspondence).**

Noted. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk’s report will be tabled bi-monthly (next due in November).

### **4. 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)***

**a. Full Council 1st July 2024.**

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

**To note the following minutes:**

**b. Council Matters Committee 8th July 2024.**

Noted.

**c.** **Planning Committee 15th July 2024.**

Noted.

**d. Town Matters Committee 22nd July 2024.**

Noted.

**e. Planning Committee 19th August 2024.**

Noted.

### **5. 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)***

**a. Full Council 1st July 2024.**

No matters arising.

**b. Council Matters Committee 8th July 2024.**

Item 6 – Financial Regulations. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Financial Regulations.

Item 8 – Information and Data Protection Policy. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the reviewed Information and Data Protection Policy.

Item 9 – Freedom of Information Publication Scheme. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the updated Freedom of Information Publication Scheme.

Item 10 – Complaints Procedure. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the reviewed Complaints Procedure.

Item 11 – Vexatious Behaviour Policy. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the reviewed Vexatious Behaviour Policy.

**c. Planning Committee 15th July 2024.**

No recommendations.

**d. Town Matters Committee 22nd July 2024.**

Item 3 – Open Spaces, Sports, Recreation and Wellbeing Plan Review. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Totnes Town Council Open Space, Sports, Recreation and Wellbeing Plan.

Further updates and a review of the South Hams District Council comments will be considered by the Town Matters Committee in November.

**e. Planning Committee 19th August 2024.**

Item 5 – National Planning Policy Framework Consultation. It was **RESOLVED** to respond to the consultation with the following comments:

• Housing Numbers – there is not enough evidence on the topography and landscape of an area to be able to support the new-build numbers required in the proposed changes.

• Community Infrastructure Levy should be included for all new builds.

• No mention of the proportion of social housing to affordable housing that should be attained.

• No mention of the environmental standards required of the new buildings.

• Insufficient detail about, and no commitment to provide, the infrastructure required (roads, schools, health, flood risk) to support the year-on-year house building targets.

Item 6 – Traffic and Transport Forum, Engagement with Peninsula Transport. It was **RESOLVED** to that the Town Council supports the intension of being an official stakeholder with Peninsula Transport but that engaging solely at Town Council Level has previously met with limited response, and therefore the Town Council should also seek District and County Councillor representation with Peninsula Transport.

### **6. ECONOMY WORKING GROUP – COMMUNITY ECONOMIC PLAN**

**To consider the Economy Working Group’s recommendation identifying stakeholders to take part in South Hams District Council’s Community Economic Plan project.**

The proposed Community Economic Plan stakeholder engagement list was **RESOLVED**.

### **7. COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIPS**

**To consider:**

**a. Cllr Trant joining the Planning Committee;**

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Trant to the Planning Committee.

**and**

**b. a request from Stepping Stones for a councillor representative and appoint an individual(s).**

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllrs Hannam and Robshaw are appointed as Councillor representatives to Stepping Stones.

**8. LIST OF MEETING DATES** **AND COMMUNICATIONS POINTS**

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

Noted.

### **9. NEXT MEETING**

**To note the next meeting date of Monday 7th October 2024, 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.*

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

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

None.

### **11. SOUTH HAMS FESTIVAL FUNDING**

### **To consider a request for funding for the South Hams Festival (commercial).**

It was **RESOLVED** by majority to pledge the requested £2500 to this arts project.

### **12. STAFFING CAPACITY AND UPDATE**

**To note an update on staffing and capacity (staffing).**

Noted

### **13. ELMHIRST PROJECT (Standing Item)**

**To consider any update on the Elmhirst Site project (commercially sensitive).**

There were no updates at this time.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Cllr Emily Price

Chair