

**MINUTES**

of the Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2015** at **6:45pm**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs S Bailey (Mayor)  
Councillor Mrs M Ewings (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors T Gibbins, Mrs A Johnson, P Palfrey, Mrs L Roberts, C Rogers, P Sanders, J Sheldon, H Smith, A Venning, P Ward, Mrs J Whitcomb, P Williamson.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Town Clerk, General Manager, Assistant to the Town Clerk

Note - Prior to the Meeting;-

- there was an opportunity to receive a written report from the County Councillor for the area (who attended her apologies) and a report from Borough Councillor R Oxborough together with a period of quiet reflection led by Reverend Pam Stranks of the Tavistock Methodist Church.

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**189 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors J Moody and E Sanders.

**190 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**191 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tavistock Town Council held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**192 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Council considered the following reports of standing committees.

- (a) Plans Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015.  
The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (Minute No's 158 – 165 inclusive)

- (b) Plans Committee – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015.  
The minutes of the meeting of the Plans Committee held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (Minute No's 166 - 174 inclusive).
- (c) Properties Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015  
The minutes of the meeting of the Properties Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 (Minutes No's 175 – 178 inclusive).
- (d) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015  
Subject to the deferral of Minutes No's 187 – 188 in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 (Minute No's 179 – 186 inclusive).

RESOLVED THAT subject to any amendments listed above, the recommendations included in the foregoing reports of the Committee Meetings be approved and the reports be received.

### **193 TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL – COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Council considered the report of the final meeting of the review of Committee Arrangements Task & Finish Group, held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

In the ensuing discussion particular reference was made to the perceived benefits and drawbacks associated both with the present "advisory" committee based approach and the proposed "Council based" approach, including:-

- The extent to which current and alternative options had/had not yet been fully explored;
- Impacts which might arise from change in relation to the role of the Mayor;
- The duration of existing committee meetings;
- Views regarding the most effective/efficient way forward;
- Issues associated with administering the anticipated future business of the Council;
- Challenges identified by the Task & Finish Group regarding (if a delegated approach were to have been recommended) what the limits of delegation might appropriately be and how a call-

in procedure could operate within a small Council of 17 Members;

- The extent and depth of deliberation by the Task & Finish Group;
- Benefits which might accrue from and draw backs associated with the status quo;
- The need for any new arrangement to reflected in standing orders and working practice;
- How detailed work would be identified and developed/delivered in a "Council only" approach together with the need to address the role and operation of the "presently" Forward Planning, Policy & Programme Sub-Committee;
- Potential for Task & Finish Groups or similar to undertake all the detailed works.

RESOLVED THAT with effect from the 2016 Annual Meeting of Council, Tavistock Town Council discontinue the operation of the Finance & General Purposes and Properties Committees and determine matters itself upon a six weekly cycle, the new arrangements to be subject to review after a period of twelve months in operation.

#### **194 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Council considered opportunities for representation on the following Outside Bodies:-

- (i) Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau

RESOLVED THAT no appointment be made.

- (ii) Destination Okehampton

RESOLVED THAT Councillor Mrs A Johnson be appointed to represent the Council on Destination Okehampton.

#### **195 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor commended the work of the Town Hall staff in connection with the delivery of a recent "Allo Allo" event.

**196 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS ACT 1960)**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was:-

RESOLVED THAT the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business.

**197 COMMITTEES (CONTINUED)**

**(CONFIDENTIAL** – by virtue of relating to legal matters and/or the financial or business affairs of a person or persons other than the Council).

The Council considered the outstanding report of the following Standing Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 consideration of which had previously been deferred (Minute No. 192 (d) refers).

- a) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015  
The minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 (Minute No's 187 – 188 inclusive).

RESOLVED THAT subject to any amendments listed above the recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Committee Meeting be approved and the report be received.

The Press and Public were readmitted to the meeting.

**198 COUNCIL SEAL**

RESOLVED THAT – the Seal to affixed to the various deeds and documents to be made or entered into for the carrying into effect of those decisions or matters approved by the Council this day.

The Meeting closed at 7.31pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

