

MINUTES

of the Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY 3rd MARCH, 2020 at 6.45pm.**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A Johnson (Mayor)
Councillor A Hutton (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors Ms L Crawford, J Ellis, Mrs M Ewings, A Lewis, Mrs U Mann, Mrs G Parker, G Parker, B Smith, H Smith, P Squire, A Venning, P Ward and P Williamson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk, General Manager, Assistant to the Town Clerk.

Noted That prior to the Meeting there was opportunity for quiet reflection led by the Mayor.

364. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A Fey and J Moody.

365. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

366. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Tavistock Town Council held on Tuesday 11th February, 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Appendix 1).

367. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No Public representations or questions had been received.

ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

368. GENERAL FINANCE

The Council considered the following:-

a. Schedule of Payments

The Council received and considered a copy of the monthly accounts as at 31st December, 2019 and as listed on the Council website.

b. Budget Monitoring Report

The Council received and considered a copy of the Budget Monitoring Report (Appendix 2) as at 31st December, 2019.

Noted That it was confirmed that recommendations would be brought forward in the normal way with regard to any year end unutilised budgets, and how they would be dealt with.

369. BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE

The Council considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee (Appendix 3) held on Tuesday 18th February, 2020 (Minute No's 340 - 347 inclusive) the recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT

- a) the recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Committee be approved and adopted;
- b) consideration of Minute No's 349 - 353 be deferred to a later point in the Meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Noted That;

- i. Appreciation was expressed to the Sustainability & Environment Working Group, and the various community organisations who attended the Open Evening held on 2nd March, 2020. The consensus was that it had been a successful and informative Meeting
- ii. Minute No. 347 – 'Working Together in the Interests of Tavistock'

The notes of this meeting would be circulated on receipt from West Devon Borough Council.

370. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & LICENSING COMMITTEE (DM&L)

The Council considered the following:-

- a. Development Management & Licensing Committee – Minutes (Appendix 4) of the Meeting held on Tuesday 4th February, 2020 (Minute No's 326 - 334 inclusive);

- b. Development Management & Licensing Committee – Minutes (Appendix 5) of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25th February, 2020 (Minute No's 355 - 363 inclusive).

Noted That Minute No. 361 a Member, who is also a Member of West Devon Borough Council, confirmed that a Meeting of that Authority had been held to discuss this Planning Application. It was anticipated that the Planning Application would be re-submitted at a future date to include improvements and modifications.

The recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations included in the foregoing reports of the Committee be approved and adopted, subject to the insertion, in connection with Minute No. 361 of the following detailed resolution as referred to in the recommendation of the Committee:- namely,

Planning applications:

- a) 4181/19/OPA Rockspring Barwood Plymouth Ltd
- b) 4185/19/OPA Rockspring Barwood Plymouth Ltd

Outline planning applications for land at Woolwell JLP Allocation (Policy PLY44) to construct a total of 2,000 dwellings.

The above planning applications were considered by the Development Management and Licensing Committee of Tavistock Town Council at its meeting on Tuesday 25th February, with a recommendation being made to full Council at its Meeting on 3rd March 2020.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT Tavistock Town Council be opposed to the construction and occupation of the proposed dwellings until such time as improvements to the Tavistock – Plymouth A386 road have been agreed and completed in order to mitigate the effects of the increased traffic consequent upon the construction of 2,000 new dwellings on the “Land at Woolwell” allocation sites.

The A386 is the only realistic route between Tavistock and Plymouth and is heavily used, especially during peak commuting hours. Paragraph 4.153 of the Joint Local Plan (JLP) acknowledges that the A386 is “**a vital route into the city from communities to the north**” and that “... **there has been an over-reliance on travel by car creating traffic congestion at peak hours**”. Traffic volumes are such that even relatively minor events can result in considerable delays as evidenced by the effects of recent road works in the Woolwell roundabout area.

Access to Plymouth is essential for many Tavistock residents. JLP Paragraph 5.83 states: “**There is a strong economic relationship with the city of Plymouth and a significant amount of residents from Tavistock commute to Plymouth on a daily basis. With further development planned for the town, there is a need to provide more attractive and realistic alternatives to the private car for journeys between Tavistock and Plymouth, whilst also continuing to maintain and improve the A386 as a vital transport route.**”

Paragraph 4.154 of the JLP considers the measures required to achieve the strategic objectives for the Derriford and Northern Corridor Growth Areas. These include **1b “Strategic transport improvements, including supporting the safe and efficient operation of the A386 and A38 and re-opening of the Tavistock to Plymouth rail link”**

Policy PLY47 lists the strategic infrastructure measures for the Derriford & Northern Corridor Growth Area. These include: “**1. A386 and B3250 capacity and bus priority improvements including the Derriford Transport Scheme and Woolwell Roundabout to the George Junction scheme. A386 improvements to be considered as part of a wider study of the A386 corridor up to Tavistock, considering all transport modes.**”

Policy TTV3 "Strategic infrastructure measures for the main towns" lists key strategic measures and infrastructure projects to be provided during the plan period to support the delivery of the strategy for the Main Towns. These include **1. "A386 improvements between Tavistock and Plymouth (subject to a further study to identify key interventions, all modes to be considered, and including consideration to cycle route and public transport measures"** and **2. "Improvements to rail infrastructure in Okehampton and Tavistock"**.

Turning specifically to the proposed development in Woolwell paragraph 4.180 states *"It is acknowledged that there are current restraints in relation to the transport infrastructure in the area and its ability to accommodate significant development. As such, the plan sets out the measures required to address these issues. In particular, **the Woolwell to the George Junction transport schemes should be implemented prior to the occupation of development.** Additionally, it will be important **to deliver the main access to the scheme as a first phase of development so that there is adequate access for construction traffic** and to protect the amenity of the existing community".* Policy PLY44 "Woolwell sustainable urban extension and community park" states at point 2 **"The main access arrangements are to be agreed prior to the commencement of development and delivered commensurately with the associated phase of the development. Additionally, there should be no occupation of new homes until the A386 Woolwell to the George Junction Transport Scheme has been implemented, with the exception of where this can be accommodated without resulting in a severe impact on the operation of the local road network."**

The **Land at Woolwell transport assessment appears to** comprehensively address the transport and access needs for residents of the proposed development but does not satisfactorily address the needs of people coming from further north up the A386 and travelling towards the city centre. Indeed some of the proposed solutions, including the construction of a new roundabout and diverting the Service No 1 bus route may be to the detriment of through traffic and passengers as a result of increasing journey times.

In summary, whilst Tavistock Town Council has no objection to the development of the Woolwell urban extension in itself, it cannot support these applications at the current time and will not do so until appropriate measures have been put in place to improve the A386 and other links between Tavistock and Plymouth. The Joint Local Plan is very clear that A386 improvements and other means of transport are essential if the TTV objectives are to be delivered, that these should precede the occupation of any new dwellings, and that initial improvements in the Woolwell to George Junction area should precede the construction phase. Any new developments along the Northern Corridor Growth Area that risk making the journeys of Tavistock residents more difficult are not acceptable unless and until appropriate mitigation has been put in place.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The following items had been circulated for information only:-

371. SERVICE REPORTS

The Council received and noted the reports of the General Manager, Town Hall/Butchers' Hall and Pannier Market (Appendices 6-8 refer).

Noted That:-

- i. The General Manager provided an update in connection with:
 - o Infrastructure and future proofing associated with the Guildhall Square Parking scheme;
 - o Potential/opportunities around the future improvement of Market Road

Thanks were conveyed to the General Manager in respect of the support which had been provided to the Tavistock BID Company.

- ii. Town Hall/Butchers' Hall Report – noted, however it was

Noted That;

- o the introduction of the facility for card payments in the Town Hall bar and Pannier Market was welcomed;

- an explanation was provided with regard the Council's policy not to accept credit card payments across the organisation;
 - the General Manager provided an update on the water ingress which had occurred in Butchers' Hall, and the actions which had been taken in an effort to alleviate these problems
- iii. Pannier Market Report – noted.

372. FINANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

The Council received, for information, the following:-

- a. Report of the Assistant to the Town Clerk (Appendix 9)

Noted That Members were reminded that the deadline for responses to the Civic Ball invitations was Friday 6th March, 2020.

- b. County Councillor Report – noted (Appendix 10);

- c. Tavistock BID Company – Minutes of the Meetings held on 3rd December, 2019 and 15th January, 2020 (Appendix 11);

Noted That ;

- the Council's representative confirmed that an Extraordinary Meeting of the BID Board was due to take place on 4th March, 2020 which he would be attending.
 - A query was raised with regard the Council's role in Britain in Bloom
- d. Southern Links Committee – Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th November, 2019 (Appendix 12)

Noted That – disappointment was expressed that no reference had been made to Climate Change at this meeting and it was hoped this would be addressed in future.

A Council's representative on this Committee undertook to raise this matter at the next meeting.

- e. Tavistock Matters – Notes of the Meeting held on 20th November, 2020 (Appendix 13)

Noted That concerns were raised regarding homelessness and rough sleepers.

- f. Project update:-
- i. Townscape Heritage Initiative;
 - ii. Guildhall Gateway Centre Project

Members had previously been provided with copies of the progress reports, as submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

- g. Updates from Council representatives serving on outside bodies:-
- Farmers' Market AGM – the Council's representative confirmed that the Committee had been very complimentary with regard to the Council's improvements to the Pannier Market perimeter and Guildhall.
 - World Heritage Site Partnership – the Council's representative explained that concerns had been raised within the last Conservation Report to UNESCO, with regard planning processes in the UK and the response was outlined.
 - DALC (Devon Association of Local Councils) – it was confirmed that DALC had set up a Climate Emergency Working Group which would include a review of how DALC worked itself. It would also be looking on how it could help Town/Parish Councils in Devon develop their own arrangements which it hoped to circulate over the coming weeks.
 - West Devon Safe Haven – it was advised that three Syrian families continue to live in Tavistock.
 - A Councillor confirmed he had facilitated a training session in the Council Chamber, for 20 A Level students from Tavistock College. This was to provide an understanding of the work of the three levels of Government. Councillor Ellis was congratulated on his initiative.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

373. 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 items of business.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

374. BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

(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).

The Council considered confidential Minute No's 349 - 353 inclusive of the Meeting (Appendix 3 refers) of the Budget & Policy Committee held on Tuesday 18th February, 2020 the recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Committee be approved and adopted.

375. PROPERTY, LEGAL AND FINANCE MATTERS

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

i. **DEBTORS**

The Council considered and noted a list of all those with debts to the Council dating from earlier than the last quarter day, and received updates accordingly (Appendix 14).

ii. **STOCK AUDIT REPORT**

The Council considered and noted the outcome of the recent Stock Audit Report (Appendix 15)

iii. **LEGAL UPDATES**

The General Manager provided a detailed update with regard ongoing contractual matters, and remedial works required to a Council property.

The Press and Public were re-admitted to the Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 7.52pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

CHAIRMAN