

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY** the **20th** **JANUARY, 2015** at **6:55pm**

PRESENT Councillor H Smith (Mayor)
Councillor Mrs S Bailey (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors R Eberlie, Mrs M Ewings, Mrs A Johnson, Mrs J Metcalf, J Moody, C Rogers, J Sellis, J Sheldon, B Trew, D Whitcomb, Mrs J Whitcomb.

IN ATTENDANCE Town Clerk, Assistant to the Town Clerk

Note - Prior to the Meeting there was an opportunity for quiet reflection, to receive a report from Borough Councillor J Moody together with a report from the Police in connection with recent matters raised. Note was taken of changes permitting issue of electronic summonses and an apology for absence was received from County Councillor Mrs D Sellis.

341 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors E Sanders, P Sanders and E Sherrell.

342 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor reiterated an interest previously made in relation to Council Grants and noted the obligations placed upon Members by the Code of Conduct

343 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tavistock Town Council held on Tuesday 2nd December, 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

344 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Council considered the following Reports of Standing Committees.

a) Plans Committee – 9th December, 2014

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Plans Committee held on 9th December, 2014 (Minute No's 295 - 303 inclusive).

b) Plans Committee – 6th January, 2015

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Plans Committee held on 6th January, 2015 (Minutes No's 315 - 323 inclusive).

Arising from consideration of the above Planning Application No 10468/2014 had been listed for determination by Council. This represented a revision of the application to which the Council had previously objected. Following consideration of same it was:-

RESOLVED THAT West Devon Borough Council be advised that Tavistock Town Council supports the above application No 10468/2014.

Noted That reference was made to the significance of the former hotel site in the town, the history of past applications and Council arrangements for consideration of planning matters.

It was further reported that in connection with Minute No 322 (Application No. 01453/2014) additional information had been received from the Borough Council. This clarified the nature of the proposal (the original representation being that the Council had insufficient information to come to a view). In the circumstances it was:

RESOLVED having regard to the additional plans submitted the Council object to the application in view of the potential undesirable precedent for loss of car parking spaces.

c) Properties Committee – 13th January, 2015

Subject to the addition in relation to Minute No 330 (see below) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Properties Committee held on 13th January, 2015 (Minute No's 324 – 330 inclusive).

Noted That

- i. Minute No. 328 – an indicative format for the performance/progress reporting of capital projects had been circulated. The style and layout being supported subject to adjustment to be capable of incorporation on one page.

It was reported the detail of the projects listed would be developed and brought for consideration at a future Meeting. As such no decisions had been made in relation to matters such as the possibility that the Works Department temporarily re-locate from the Butchers Hall during the conduct of aspects of THI work.

- ii. Minute No. 330 – in the discussion arising from consideration of the foregoing reference was variously made to the:-
 - a. Hunt events in and around the vicinity of Bedford Square on Boxing Day, 2014 and comparison as between the alleged treatment of those in connection with control of dogs and traffic management as compared to Remembrance Sunday;
 - b. Clarification sought from the Police & West Devon Borough Council;
 - c. The views of the Borough Council which had confirmed that the Dog Control Orders did not require dogs to be placed on leads in the locations under discussion but did require the picking up of dog faeces. No complaints had been received by that Council in respect of dog fouling at the event (the Member who had raised the matter previously confirmed he had been advised dog faeces had been picked up on the day in question).
 - d. Correspondence received from the Police which had confirmed that:-
 - i. Road Closure/traffic management - historically the Police had endeavoured to assist small local annual events through aspects of traffic control. If the Police had acted to restrict traffic at that or other events it would have been on safety grounds. However, because the Police

no longer had the power to make road closures (except in the case of an emergency) where a road closure was required it was necessary for event organisers to apply for a closure order.

- ii. Remembrance Sunday. If service organisers wished to close the road they would need to apply accordingly (see (i) above). However, the Police did not consider this as likely to be necessary – a presence was maintained at the event and if there were to be a potential problem in relation to safety it could be treated as an emergency. In addition, as a matter of respect and courtesy, the Police invited drivers to stop during the two minute silence and this was normally well observed. The overriding concern of the Police for highway events/ incidents was safety.
- iii. Regarding the Dog Control Order the Police had a delegated power to act. However, this was rarely if ever exercised because dog owners did not permit uncollected fouling when there was a uniformed person nearby. Police officers had always been able to provide a statement to the Borough Council in order for a prosecution to occur.

Having considered the matter it was:

RESOLVED THAT letters be sent to

- the area Chief Inspector seeking clarification as why the Police allegedly closed the road for the conduct of the Hunt on Boxing Day 2014 but not for Remembrance Sunday;
- West Devon Borough Council requesting clarification of the obligations placed upon the Hunt as regarding the collection of faeces and requesting that the Dog Warden be in attendance at future Boxing Day events.

**d) Finance and General Purposes Committee –
13th January, 2015**

Subject to:-

- i) The deferral of Minute No. 340 in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted; and
- ii) The referral back to the Forward Planning, Policy and Programme Sub-Committee of the grant application made in respect of Tavistock Edge and the Scrapstore

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13th January, 2015 (Minute No's 331 – 339 inclusive)

Noted That

- i. Attention was drawn, in particular, to Minute No 336 (b) in connection with the setting of the Council Budget and Precept, namely the recommendation that:
 - a. Subject to adjustment of the Budget Line for Member Training to include an additional £1,500 in view of Council elections 2015 together with reference to anticipated Public Works Loan Board repayments the proposed Council Budget for 2015/16 be adopted
 - b. The Precept for Tavistock Town Council (exclusive of Precept Support Grant) for 2015/16 be set in the sum of £497,844.
- ii. Reference was made to the content of the Minutes and, in particular, the suggestion the use of the names (as opposed to cross referencing) in Minute No. 336(a)(i) would be helpful. Accordingly the applicants as referred to in that Minute being Tavistock Edge, Tavistock Museum Charitable Trust, Tavistock Scrapstore, Whitchurch Montessori and the Tavistock Youth Cafe.
- iii. It was confirmed that when final proposals for its information technology requirements had been implemented alongside a functional website non-confidential committee documents would be web posted to provide the widest access. Proposed future functionality would also facilitate the filming of Council Meetings.
- iv. The provisions of the Council Code of Conduct identifying where a personal interest would arise – in particular

7.2 ((a) affecting the financial position or well-being of a group and (b) such that a reasonable person with knowledge of the relevant facts would consider the interest so significant as to prejudice judgement) were reported. A Member reported that, in their view, an interest did not arise in consideration of the proposal made in respect of Tavistock Edge.

- v. A request made that, at the next Meeting of the West Devon Borough Council Tavistock Consultative Group or the Southern Parishes Link Committee, clarification be provided regarding works to the bridge on Callington Road now that a cycle track was not to be provided along the Bere Alston railway line.
- vi. In connection with Minute No 338 it was agreed that the word "sponsor" included in the recommendation be deleted and the word "submit" be included.

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.

345 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.

346 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 13th January, 2015, consideration of which had previously been deferred (Minute No 344 refers).

a) Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 13th January 2015 (Minute No. 340).

Noted That in connection with item "b" listed on the schedule it was reported that agreement had been reached with the tenant regarding a repayment plan. However, in view of the extent of the outstanding debt it would be prudent, should the tenant fall further into arrears, to provide the facility for recovery proceedings to be initiated arising from which it was further:

RESOLVED THAT in the event that "b" falls further into arrears authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to bring proceedings for the recovery of arrears of rent and such other proceedings as are necessary.

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 re-admitted to the Meeting.

347 COUNCIL SEAL

RESOLVED THAT - The Seal be 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 8:31pm.

Chairman_____

Date _____