

Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** of **TAVISTOCK** held in the Town Hall, Tavistock on **THURSDAY** the **13th** day of **MAY 2010** at **6.30 p.m.**

The following were present: Cllr Mrs M Govier– Mayor as Chairman
Cllr Mrs A Johnson
Cllr Mrs Metcalf
Cllr R Pike
Cllr P Sanders,
Cllr E Sanders
Cllr H Smith
Cllr D Whitcomb

7 members of the public
1 member of the Press

In Attendance: Town Clerk
Assistant to Town Clerk

1. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor welcomed all present and gave a brief address, notes of which are attached at Annex A to these minutes.

2. **JESSIE ANN ALFORD CHARITY**

The Town Clerk made the following report:

Jessie Anne Alford was the wife of William Charles Alford a local market keeper, councillor and poor law guardian in the 1920's. They were members of the Plymouth Brethren community, and when Jessie died in 1947 she left £1,000 in trust to the local council, and a scheme was established by which the charity was to benefit needy spinsters and widows aged 60 and over living in the parish of Tavistock. It has assets of 822 income shares in the charities investment fund (current value £7,778.91p, up from £7,148.03p a year ago) and receives some £350 to £400 of income each year. Distribution of money is made just before Christmas each year to a maximum of 8 deserving applicants selected by the trustees. Last year there were three applicants for a grant, and the trustees awarded each £200. After this distribution and advertising costs a bank balance of £208.23p was carried forward to 2010.

3. **INTRODUCTORY WORDS BY THE NEWLY RE-ELECTED LOCAL MP, GEOFFREY COX QC MP.**

Due to the change in Government Mr Cox was unable to attend and sent his apologies.

4. **BRIEF ON THE RECENT CHANGES AND THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE IN TAVISTOCK BY DR GRAHAM JOHNSON OF THE TAVYSIDE (OLD STANNARY) SURGERY.**

Dr Johnson was unable to attend the meeting

5. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chairman then invited general questions from the public. Members of the public put the following questions:

Question. A MOP had written to WDBC about traffic congestion on Callington Road and the impact that the Core Strategy build would have on that. Were there any plans for DCC to widen the pavements?

Response. Cllr P Sanders answered as the County Councillor. The DCC infrastructure strategy was still being developed, and this matter could be addressed as part of it. A lot depended on the rate of residential development, and he thought that the Highways Agency probably felt that problems on the Callington Road were short term and at set times of the day.

Question. A request was made for updates on the Court Gate/Town Hall banner problem, and the concept of an awning at the Town Hall door.

Response. The Mayor explained the background to the WDBC officer objection to flying banners between the Town Hall and Court Gate. She explained that improvements we had made addressing safety and visual matters had been removed due to the objections, and the situation was now as it had been for over 50 years. The matter was now in WDBC hands though she felt it bizarre that the improvements making the system safer, tidier and 'greener' had been felt inappropriate. It was explained that we were researching the provision of an awning to cover the approach to the main door to the Town Hall to provide a more attractive entrance and cover for entry during parties, weddings etc. It was suggested that a red carpet could be included!

Question. A complaint was made about the standard of recent decoration of windows on the west face of Court Gate, and that a large stone had fallen from Betsey Gimbals Tower and not yet replaced.

Response. We would look into these complaints, and pass on answers by e mail.

Question. A MOP had heard that the last meeting of the WDBC Forward Planning and Housing Committee had discussed taking away from Tavistock the accolade of 'Market Town'. She felt this to be linked in some way with forcing through the Core Strategy plan to build 750 houses in the Town.

Response. The Mayor directed that WDBC be asked for assurances that no such discussions took place, and that WDBC could have no such plans to remove the Market Town title. Members recalled that Tavistock holds two Royal charters from King Henry I (1105 and 1107) granting it the right to hold Markets and thus be a market town. They rather suspected that a Royal Charter took precedent over the core strategy.

(Afternote – a reply was received from WDBC saying please be assured that the reference to Tavistock as a Main Town rather than a Market Town in the Core Strategy relates purely to its functional role within West Devon. They have set up a hierarchy which relates to Main Towns, Local Centres and Villages. This does not impact on any status or charters which the towns within West Devon currently hold.)

There were no more questions, and the Mayor then thanked everyone for coming to the Meeting. The meeting ended at 7. 10 pm.

Signed.....
Town Mayor

Date.....