

AGENDA ITEM No. 5

MINUTES

of the Meeting of the **BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY 19th FEBRUARY, 2019 at 6.30pm.**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A Johnson (Chairman)
Councillor P Ward (Vice Chairman)

Councillors P Sanders, Mrs M Ewings, P Palfrey,
P Williamson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk, General Manager.

273 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor A Hutton.

274 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee held on Tuesday 8th January, 2019 (Appendix 1) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

275 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P Sanders declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in Minute Nos. 276 and 278 by virtue of membership of West Devon Borough Council.

ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

276 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN TAVISTOCK

The Committee considered the Report (Appendix 2) of the Town Clerk in connection with the above.

In the ensuing discussion reference was made, in particular, to:-

- i. The preliminary outcome of public survey results received to date;
- ii. Concern that the proposed offer of a full repairing lease (in connection with the Bedford Car Park Toilets) was:-

- both inappropriate, and onerous in relation to a prospective incoming tenant being asked to take on the delivery of a public service at its own cost;
- in part unlawful – i.e. insofar as the obligation applied to a greater percentage of the premises than that which would be occupied by the Town Council and (so far as the additional proportion was concerned) was thereby outside the lawful powers of the Town Council as regulated by S8 Local Government Act 1894;
- iii. Anticipated benefits and drawbacks associated with “Pay As You Go”;
- iv. The detail of the cleaning specification currently in place and reference to “non-standard” hours events;
- v. The obligations placed upon the current landowner in connection with asbestos surveys;
- vi. Concern regarding the lack of available information in connection with the condition of premises/repair/maintenance records;
- vii. The need to have clear information regarding the costs associated with the new cleaning contract;
- viii. Potential options in connection with delivery of toilet cleaning services;
- ix. The nature of the relationship between the bus station toilets and associated “kiosk”.

RECOMMENDED THAT:-

- a.
 - i. With due regard to the content of the report, and preliminary consultation responses received, the Town Council consider keeping some (or all) of the Public Conveniences to be released by the Borough Council open;
 - ii. Careful consideration be given as to charging (pay as you go) in view of associated challenges in connection with matters such as displacement, public health, vandalism and the (unless charges were to be significant) potentially modest level of income generated.
- b. The Town Council at its Meeting on 5th March, 2019 consider a further report in connection with this matter and indicate to the Borough Council, in principle, how it intends to proceed.

Noted That arising from the debate and in order to better inform a decision of Council clarification would be sought upon a range of issues including - contract prices under the new cleaning contract, servicing cost for "pay as you go" systems, related income projections and various lease details with regard to Bedford Car Park, maintenance costs etc.

277 STANDING ORDER REVISION WORKING PARTY

The Committee considered the Notes of the Meeting of the above Working Party held on the 12th February, 2019 (Appendix 3).

RECOMMENDED THAT the Notes of the Meeting of the Standing Order Revision Working Party held on 12th February, 2019 be received and the actions and recommendations included therein be endorsed and adopted.

278 CO-LOCATION OF COUNCIL SERVICES

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk in connection with the above (Appendix 4).

In the discussion arising from the Report reference was made to a range of issues and associated potential opportunities and challenges connected with the possibility of the co-location of Town and Borough Council Services. It was further noted that a report on the matter was being presented to the Borough Council 'Hub' Committee on 19th March, 2019.

The consensus view within the Committee was that it was important to work collaboratively to secure the retention of the widest possible range of Council Services, at all tiers of Local Government, both for Tavistock and its hinterland and also the wider Borough.

RECOMMENDED THAT the Town Council continue to engage in discussions with the Borough Council regarding the progression of options.

Noted That in coming to the above view reference was made to the need to be mindful of any associated costs being both proportionate and equitably shared between the partners.

URGENT BUSINESS

The following items of urgent business were brought forward at the discretion of the Chairman.

279 S106 FUNDING IN TAVISTOCK (TOWN OPEN SPACE, SPORTS AND RECREATION PLAN)

The Committee was informed that a communication had been received from the Local Planning Authority (West Devon Borough Council) inviting the participation of the Town Council in the production of a Town Open Space Sport and Recreation (OSSR) Plan.

In the ensuing discussion reference was made to the possibility of joint collaboration between this Committee and the Development Management & Licensing Committee to monitor and review the application of S106 funding for the Town.

RECOMMENDED THAT:-

- a. The Council convey its interest, in principle, in being involved in the production of a Tavistock Open Space, Sports and Recreation Plan;
- b. The Council indicate to the Borough Council the possibility that after the elections in May it anticipates reviewing whether or not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan (of which an OSSR could constitute a work stream);
- c. The Local Planning Authority be requested, as a matter of future practice, to provide periodic s106 updates in the form set out in the recent communication.
- d. The matter be referred to the Development Management & Licensing Committee for consideration.

280 TAVISTOCK GUILDHALL GATEWAY CENTRE

The Committee was advised, for information, that current cost estimates indicated the potential that the Project had shortfall in funding of in the region of £222,000.

To address this matter additional Grants were being sought alongside the preparation of a mitigation plan identifying those parts of the scheme which could be amended and/or deleted in such a way as to enable Heritage Lottery Fund to grant permission for the Council to go out to tender. If, following the procurement

exercise, a shortfall still existed it would be necessary to bring the matter back both to the partner body (Tavistock Heritage Trust) and Town Council for further instructions.

The Meeting closed at 8.22pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

CHAIRMAN