

AGENDA ITEM No 5

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY 14th APRIL, 2015** at **6:48pm**

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, E Sanders, J Sellis, J Sheldon, E Sherrell, 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 and to receive a written report from County Councillor Mrs D Sellis.

In addition the Council received a report from retiring Borough Councillor E Sherrell who, amongst others, conveyed his thanks and best wishes to Councillor colleagues.

428 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors C Rogers and P Sanders.

429 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

430 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tavistock Town Council held on Tuesday 3rd March, 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Noted That arising from consideration of the above Councillor B Trew requested an item be placed on the Agenda for consideration by the next Meeting of the Properties Committee for discussion entitled "Tavistock Guildhall – Disabled Access".

431 REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Council considered the following Reports of Standing Committees:-

a) Plans Committee – 10th March, 2015

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Plans Committee held on 10th March, 2015 (Minute No's 391 - 399 inclusive).

b) Plans Committee – 31st March, 2015

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Plans Committee held on 31st March, 2015 (Minute No's 400 - 408 inclusive).

c) Properties Committee – 7th April, 2015

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Properties Committee held on 7th April, 2015 (Minute No's 409 - 414 inclusive).

d) Finance and General Purposes Committee – 7th April, 2015

Subject to:-

- i) The deferral of Minute No's 426 - 427 to a later point in the Meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted; and
- ii) The deletion in Minute No. 423 of the words "early in the new Council term" and the insertion, to precede "meetings" of "June"

the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 7th April, 2015 (Minute No's 415 – 425 inclusive).

Noted That arising from consideration of Minute No. 421 a Councillor made a statement disagreeing with the content of the Minute and alleged breaches of statutory and/or other provisions. Reference was further made to the content of the document which had given rise to the Minute by way of explanation and, in particular, the perceived impact of same and views of the Member concerned.

In the ensuing discussion reference was made variously to:-

- a) The origins of the matter and extent to which it was/was not appropriate to be included within the normal course of business of the Council at that time;

- b) Related details including reference to aspects of Council projects and practices;
- c) Whether the Council may have been brought into disrepute;
- d) The accuracy or otherwise of the documents under discussion;
- e) The importance of Councillors working collaboratively together with the opportunities and obligations placed upon them in the conduct of their duties.

A motion was received and duly seconded that

“In light of the Local Government Act 1986, this Council wishes to disassociate itself from the matters included in item 421 – Councillor Conduct and apologises to the Councillor in question for any breach of the Act”.

Upon receipt of a request the voting was recorded by way of roll call.

In favour - Councillors J Moody, J Sheldon, B Trew

Against - Councillors Mrs S Bailey, R Eberlie, Mrs M Ewings, E Sanders, J Sellis, E Sherrell, H Smith, Mrs J Whitcomb, D Whitcomb.

Abstained - Councillors Mrs A Johnson, Mrs J Metcalf.

The motion was defeated by nine votes to three with two abstentions.

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

432 REQUESTS/OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

a) Calendar of Meetings 2015/16

The Council received and considered an indicative Calendar of Meetings for the 2015/16 Civic Year which would be finalised, in due course, by the new Council at the Annual Meeting.

In the discussion arising from consideration of the above particular reference was made to the challenges posed by the obligation to recruit a further five Members to the Council. Arising from same the consensus was that it would

be appropriate for the new Council to consider an amended Calendar of Meetings which made provision (over the first few weeks) for Meetings of Council to be convened on a three weekly basis to consider all business until such time as the Council was in a position to appoint Committees.

433 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.

434 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 7th April, 2015, consideration of which had previously been deferred (Minute No's 426 – 427 refer).

a) **Finance and General Purposes Committee – 7th April, 2015**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 7th April, 2015 (Minute No's 426-427 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.

435 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 Press and Public were readmitted to the Meeting.

It being the last Meeting of Council prior to the Annual Meeting for the new Council Term on 19th May, 2015 the Mayor expressed appreciation to colleagues for their support and hard work throughout the past Council term and extended best wishes for the future

The Meeting closed at 7:40pm.

Chairman_____

Date _____