

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held on **TUESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER, 2021 at 5.30pm** at **Tavistock Town Hall, Bedford Square, Tavistock**

PRESENT Councillor A Hutton (Mayor)
Councillor Mrs U Mann (Deputy Mayor)

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

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

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

146. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

147. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were made by;

- Councillor P Williamson in respect of being a property owner (Minute no 153 refers);
- Councillor Mrs U Mann by virtue of an employment relationship (Minute no 142 refers).

148. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Tavistock Town Council held on Tuesday 27th July, 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Appendix 1).

149. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No Public representations or questions had been received prior to the Meeting.

ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

150. 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 July, 2021 (Appendix 2) as listed on the Council website.

b) Budget Monitoring Report

The Council received and considered a copy of the Budget Monitoring Report (Appendix 3) as at 31st July, 2021.

151. BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE

The Council considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee (Appendix 4) held on Tuesday 31st August, 2021, the recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT subject to consideration of Minute No's 144 - 145 being deferred to a later point in the Meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Committee (Minute No's 136 – 143 inclusive) be approved and adopted.

Noted That Councillor U Mann declared an interest in Minute no 142 by virtue of an employment relationship (CAB) and left the meeting during consideration thereof.

152. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Council considered the following: -

a) Development Management & Licensing Committee - Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd August, 2021 (Appendix 5) (Minute No's 115 - 124 inclusive);

b) Development Management & Licensing Committee – Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 24th August, 2021 (Appendix 6) (Minute No's 125 - 135 inclusive);

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

Noted That: in response to a question the decision in connection with Planning Application No. 2828/21/FUL was clarified and confirmed.

153. GOOSE FAIR 2021

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Appendix 7) in connection with the above (in relation only to those parts of Goose Fair administered by the Town Council – ie not Bedford Car Park/Bus Station Fairground rides or the Cattle Market) setting out related issues and options, including the basis upon which those elements of the Fair under its management and control might either proceed or not, according to the determination of Council.

In the discussion arising, particular reference was made to a range of matters including, but not limited to:-

- The position in relation to the pandemic, cases arising nationally and the position locally (enhanced special measures);
- Potential risks attaching to the event, and consequential on it to the NHS;
- The reported views of the community regarding Goose Fair;
- The significance of the event in the annual calendar both for the Town and a wider area;
- The significance attached to a return to normality;
- Report content including potential mitigations and associated costs;
- Events both in the town and elsewhere which variously had/had not been cancelled arising from the health situation;
- Emerging Government messaging;
- The extent to which Goose Fair was/was not comparable with other events that had/had not been delivered in recent months;
- Park and ride arrangements;
- Organisational/partner capacity/wellbeing;
- Clarification that the Fair on Bedford Car Park and the Bus Station were the responsibility of the Borough Council;
- The views of the Business Improvement District;
- The extent to which visitors, businesses and residents could/could not choose whether to 'attend' at the event.

Following careful consideration of the merits and drawbacks of the available options, the Council reluctantly:

RESOLVED THAT Tavistock Town Council cancel Goose Fair, 2021 with regret, having regard to:

- a) the need to ensure residents/visitors health and public safety in situations where large numbers of people attend and mingle at outside events in a restricted area;
- b) the adverse and deteriorating incidence of Covid 19 in Devon as assessed by the public health authorities - 'Devon's health and

social care system is under extreme pressure due to high demand for services and the number of staff and patients affected by COVID-19'; together with the expectation Autumn will place more pressure on the NHS, including the seasonal resurgence of flu and other respiratory diseases as well as Covid infections;

- c) with due regard to the foregoing, the capacity of the Town Council and its partners to deliver the event with an acceptable level of assurance.

Noted That Councillor P Williamson declared an interest in the above item by virtue of land ownership and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Addendum - the cancellation does not relate to the fairground rides normally situated in the Bedford Car Park or the Bus Station.

These are administered by West Devon Borough Council and fall to a decision by it as to whether this part of Goose Fair proceeds. The Artisan Market scheduled to be held in Butchers' Hall is expected to take place.

154. CO-OPTION

The Council considered the arrangements for co-option to the Councillor vacancy in South East Ward following the occurrence of a casual vacancy (and no request being made for an election to be held within the prescribed times).

RESOLVED THAT arrangements for co-option to the Council in the Tavistock South East Ward follow the normal format, namely advertisement in the Tavistock Times, on the Council's website and social media - each interested candidate to complete the standard application form and be prepared, if required, to attend for interview.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The following items had been circulated for information only: -

155. SERVICE REPORTS

The Council received and noted the reports of the General Manager and the Pannier Market (Appendices 8-9), and an oral update in respect of the Town Hall/Butchers' Hall & Works Department.

- i. General Managers Report (Appendix 8);
- ii. Town Hall & Events Management oral update;
Noted That most aspects of that area of the organisation had been addressed in the General Manager's Report;
- iii. Pannier Market Report (Appendix 9).

Noted That immediately prior to consideration of the above the Council received a few moments of Quiet Reflection led by Reverend Dr Steven Emery-Wright of Tavistock Methodist Church, who apologised for arriving late to the Meeting.

156. FINANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

The Council received, for information, the following: -

- a) Report of the Assistant to the Town Clerk (Appendix 10);
- b) West Devon Councillor Report (Appendix 11);
- c) Project Update: Guildhall Gateway Centre Project – there was no new update, the matter having been addressed in prior reports.
- d) Updates
 - i. From Representatives on outside bodies;
 - Dartmoor Common Owners' Association – an extra Meeting had been called to review the bye-laws for usage of Dartmoor, due to the increasing levels of damage and vandalism taking place. A further update would be provided at a future Meeting;
 - Time Capsule Project – the Time Capsule, which was a partnership initiative between the Town Council, Tavistock Heritage Trust and the Lions Club, was being buried near the Duke of Bedford's Statue on Saturday 18th September, 2021 at 2pm. Details of what had been placed inside the capsule would be provided;
 - The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group advised of a recent training session for Group Members with participants in Plans from other areas which had highlighted some of the challenges that might be anticipated.

- Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) – a meeting had recently taken place where a review of the fee/subscription structure had been discussed, developments would be reported as they arose.
- ii. From Members who had attended training sessions – no feedback brought forward.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

157. 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

158. 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 144 - 145 inclusive of the Meeting (Appendix 4 refers) of the Budget & Policy Committee held on Tuesday 31st August, 2021 the recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Committee (Minute No's 144 - 145 refer) be approved and adopted.

159. PROPERTY, LEGAL, STAFFING AND FINANCE MATTERS

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i. DEBTORS

The Council considered and noted a list (Appendix 12) of all those with debts to the Council dating from earlier than the last quarter day and received updates accordingly.

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

The Meeting closed at 6.39pm

Signed:

Dated:
CHAIRMAN