

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held on **TUESDAY 19th October, 2021 at 5.30pm** at **Butchers' Hall, Tavistock**

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

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

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

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting there were a few moments of Quiet Reflection led by Reverend Rosie Illingworth of St Eustachius' Church, Tavistock

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

190. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A Fey and Mrs G Parker.

191. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A Declaration of Interest was made by Councillor Mrs M Ewings by virtue of association with Tavistock Community Football Club (Budget & Policy Minute No. 184 refers).

192. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Tavistock Town Council held on Tuesday 14th September, 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Appendix 1).

193. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

194. 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 August, 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 August, 2021.

Noted That in the interests of clarity, and in response to a question, in future the section of the report identifying income 'spent' would be adjusted to reflect that it referred to income received.

195. BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE

The Council considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee (Appendix 4) held on Tuesday 5th October, 2021, the recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT subject to consideration of Minute No's 187 - 189 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 180 – 187 inclusive) be approved and adopted.

196. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Council considered the following: -

i) Development Management & Licensing Committee - Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 15th September, 2021 (Appendix 5) (Minute No's 160 - 169 inclusive);

ii) Development Management & Licensing Committee – Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4th October, 2021 (Appendix 6) (Minute No's 170 - 179 inclusive);

RESOLVED THAT, subject to items (a)-(b) below, the recommendations included in the foregoing reports of the Committee be approved and adopted.

The Council further considered:-

- a) Minute No. 173 refers– Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) Consultation on proposed changes to its Byelaws.

The Council considered the responses received from members of the DM&L Committee in respect of the above proposals. In the ensuing discussion reference was variously made to:-

- the areas of Whitchurch Down which fell within the proposed designation;
- the range of views from local residents that had been posted on social media, often objecting to the proposals;
- the view that those who disregarded the Byelaws already in place would likely also ignore any new Byelaws which might be adopted;
- that it was felt by some there were insufficient Park Rangers to implement the current Byelaws, so it was anticipated that they would be unable to effectively implement any further/more restrictive ones;
- that the majority of users of the National Park abided by the current Byelaws, and also kept their dogs under control, and it would be these local residents who would be most impacted should any further restrictions be put in place.

RESOLVED THAT Tavistock Town Council 'object' to the proposed amendments to the Dartmoor National Park Authority's Byelaws.

Noted That Councillor P Williamson Declared an Interest in this matter, by virtue of a business association with motor home interests, and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

- b) Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

It was noted that Councillor H Smith, who made a short personal statement, had stood down from the Steering Group. The Chairman of the Steering Group thanked him for his contribution to the work of the Group and outlined future arrangements proposed - including a public meeting on Wednesday 10th November, 2021.

RESOLVED THAT the Steering Group be authorised to identify a replacement member of the Steering Group from the community to fulfil the role of either Secretary or Finance Officer.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

197. SERVICE REPORTS

The Council received and noted the reports of the General Manager, Town Hall/Depot and Butchers' Hall, and the Pannier Market (Appendices 7-9);

- i. General Managers Report (Appendix 7);
- ii. Town Hall, Depot and Butchers' Hall Report (Appendix 8);

Noted That arising from consideration of the above a Member reported that Tavistock had been successful in the Britain in Bloom 2021 competition winning the following awards:-

- It's Your Neighbourhood Awards;
- Celle Garden – Town Twinning Level 4 Thriving;
- Tavistock Museum – Level 4 Thriving;
- Westmoor Vets, Tidy Tavi, the Green Burial Meadow and Tavistock Community Sensory Garden – all Level 5 Outstanding

Main Competition;

- 2 Gold Awards for the BID entry and the Town entry in the Sargent Cup;
- Judges' Discretionary Award nomination for best portfolio ('excellence' received);
- A nomination for a Community Award for an outstanding project;
- Won the SW TV Award (a Certificate and engraved plate for the Sensory Garden project).

The Council commended those community groups, individuals, staff and businesses who had contributed to the outcome.

- iii. Pannier Market Report (Appendix 9).

198. 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 – Councillor A Coulson (Appendix 11)

Noted that reference was made to West Devon Borough Council's decision not to pursue 3-weekly bin collections in the town, which was welcomed;

- c) Town Hall & Markets Consultative Group – Notes of the Meeting held on 21st September, 2021 (Appendix 12);
- d) Tavistock BID Company – Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th August, 2021 (Appendix 13)

Noted that the Council was advised that the BID AGM was due to take place in The Bedford Hotel on Wednesday 20th October at which all were encouraged to attend;

- e) Project Update: Guildhall Gateway Centre Project – there was no new update beyond that listed in the Report of the General Manager;

f) Updates

- i. From Representatives on outside bodies;
 - Time Capsule Project – the Time Capsule, which was a partnership initiative between the Town Council, Tavistock Heritage Trust and the Lions Club, was buried near the Duke of Bedford's Statue on Saturday 18th September, 2021. The President of Tavistock Lions Club (Councillor B Smith) was asked to convey the thanks of the Town Council to his Club colleagues for the considerable amount of work which had been undertaken to deliver this Project.
- ii. From Members who had attended training sessions – no feedback brought forward.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

199. 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

200. 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 187 - 189 inclusive of the Meeting (Appendix 4 refers) of the Budget & Policy Committee held on Tuesday 5th October, 2021 the recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT the Council endorse and adopt:

- Minute No 188: the adoption of recommendations (c)-(d) as set out in the report to the Budget and Policy Committee as consequentially renumbered (b)-(c);
- the amendment of recommendation (a) in the report to incorporate the
 - o insertion of the words 'to be able to exercise the facility as set out in para 2.3 of the report' to follow 'postholder',
 - o the deletion of the words 'and General Manager.....(to)....1st November, 2021' from recommendation (a) and consequential rewording.

Noted That an update was provided in connection with the emerging work of the General Manager (item (c) above refers).

201. PROPERTY, LEGAL, STAFFING AND FINANCE MATTERS

(**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)

i. DEBTORS

The Council considered and noted a list (Appendix 14) of all those with debts to the Council dating from earlier than the last quarter day and received updates accordingly.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

202. PROPERTY, LEGAL & FINANCE MATTERS

(**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)

An oral update was provided regarding progress on the Guildhall Gateway Centre project including the challenges faced regarding capital, interpretation and volunteer works, together with funding arrangements and associated constraints and related matters in meeting a critical deadline for completion.

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

The Meeting closed at 6.39pm

Signed:

Dated:

CHAIRMAN