

MINUTES of the postponed Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held on **WEDNESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER, 2022 at 5.30pm** (previously scheduled for 13th September, 2022), at **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, DRAKE ROAD, TAVISTOCK**

PRESENT Councillor J Ellis (Deputy Mayor in the Chair)

Councillors Ms M Ewings, Mrs A Johnson, A Lewis, Mrs U Mann, B Smith, H Smith, P Squire, A Venning, P Williamson.

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

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting;

- Members and Officers received a presentation from Mr Michael Watts (Customer Care Director, SW Counties) of Barclays Bank plc in connection with the closure of Barclays Bank plc in Tavistock; and
- there were a few moments of Quiet Reflection led by Jo Wright of Tavistock Street Pastors.

This was followed by a Minute's Silence in memory of the late Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and three cheers for the new King.

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

184. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ms L Crawford, Ms T Eperon, A Fey, A Hutton, J Moody, P Ward.

185. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made, all in respect of Agenda Item 8 'Co-option – Tavistock South West Ward' by virtue of Members' association/connection to the candidates:-

- i) Councillor Mrs A Johnson in respect of Mr G Whalley;
- ii) Councillor Ms M Ewings in respect of J Irvine;
- iii) Councillor B Smith in respect of Mr G Whalley;
- iv) Councillor P Squire;
- v) Councillor Mrs U Mann in respect of J Irvine.

Noted That Members were reminded of the test, as set out in the Tavistock Town Council Code of Conduct, which should be applied to determine whether or not an interest subsisted and that where it did, they should leave the Meeting during consideration of this item.

186. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Tavistock Town Council held on Tuesday 26th July, 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Appendix 1).

187. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

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

ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

188. GENERAL FINANCE

The Council considered the following: -

a) Schedule of Payments

The Council received and considered copies of the monthly accounts as at 30th June and 31st July, 2022 (Appendix 2) as listed on the Council's website.

b) Budget Monitoring Report

The Council received and considered a copy of the Budget Monitoring Report (Appendix 3) as at 31st July, 2022.

Noted That in response to a question it was reported it was not yet known whether or not Town and Parish Councils would benefit from the recent business energy cap announced by the Government.

189. BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE

The Council considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee (Appendix 4) held on Tuesday 30th August, 2022, the recommendations being reported by rote.

Minute No. 159 – Budget Preparation & Precept Setting 2023/24, during consideration of this Minute particular reference was made to:

- the gravity of the financial situation the Council found itself in, with the Council endeavouring to make limited funds stretch as far as possible;
- the range of projects which the Council had previously identified as desirable, but of which only some priority projects might be affordable after adjustments to the Rolling Capital Programme (RCP) to meet revenue pressures;
- that a 1% increase in Precept generated approximately £8,000 revenue;
- accordingly a deep and wide ranging process was being undertaken in connection with Budget preparation.

RESOLVED THAT subject to consideration of Minute Nos. 171-173 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 Nos. 156-170) be approved and adopted.

Noted That:-

- Councillor Ms M Ewings requested it be recorded she abstained from voting on Minute No. 161 – Vehicle/Equipment;
- Minute No. 162 – Sustainability & Environment Working Group, a Councillor was commended on the amount of work they had put into this matter;
- Minute No. 164 – Bus Shelters, it was reported that the General Manager had been thanked by members of the community for his representation of the Council at the various meetings.

190. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Council considered the following: -

- i) Development Management & Licensing Committee – Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 9th August, 2022 (Appendix 5).

- ii) Development Management & Licensing Committee – Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 31st August, 2022 (Appendix 6).

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

Noted That attention was drawn, in particular, to:-

- Minute No. 179 – the individual listed had not been a Town Councillor;
- Minute No. 180 - due to the recent period of National Mourning for the late Queen, the next Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group Meeting would now take place on 22nd September, 2022;
- Minute No. 183 - also due to the above, the next Development Management & Licensing Committee Meeting would now take place on 27th September, 2022.

191. CO-OPTION – TAVISTOCK SOUTH WEST WARD

The Council received a short presentation from the following two (of the three) potential co-optees, in the unavoidable absence of Mr G Whalley (whose application was read out by the Town Clerk):-

- i) Mr P Peers;
- ii) Ms J Irvine.

Having considered the submissions, and mindful that, having applied the test as set out in the Code of Conduct six Members were disabled from speaking and voting on the above matter - and moreover in view of the number of absences due to apologies; it was:

RESOLVED THAT the co-option of a Member to the South West Ward be deferred to the Meeting of the Council scheduled to be held on 18th October, 2022.

Noted that:-

- Councillors Mrs A Johnson and Mrs U Mann declared an interest in one of the candidates by virtue of association and left the Meeting during the consideration of the item;
- Councillors Ms M Ewings, B Smith, P Squire and A Venning declared an interest in one of the candidates by association. Solely in order to maintain a working quorum they were

permitted to remain by the Meeting on the basis of undertaking to take no part in the discussion or voting thereon;

- the Assistant to the Town Clerk undertook to notify the three applicants of the arrangements and date of the next Council Meeting.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

192. SERVICE REPORTS

The Council received, for information, the reports of the General Manager, Pannier Market, Works Department and Town Hall & Butchers' Hall (Appendices 6-9 refer).

Noted That;

- reference was made to how well the newly erected Sir Francis Drake Interpretation Board looked in its location on Plymouth Road;
- thanks were conveyed for the work undertaken on the rainwater goods at the Museum and Subscription Library;
- thanks were also conveyed to the Works Dept. for the replacement of the bench on Callington Road, which had been well received by the public;
- the newly appointed Town Hall & Events Manager was commended for his first report to Council.

193. GUILDHALL GATEWAY CENTRE

The Council was informed that, due to the recent mourning period for the late Queen, the planned Awards Ceremony for the Cornwall Buildings Group and Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site had been postponed. The Ceremony would take place at a future date, to be arranged.

194. FINANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

The Council received, for information, the following: -

- a) Report of the Assistant to the Town Clerk (Appendix 10)

Noted That a Member reported that they had attended two training sessions as provided by another Authority, of which they were also a Member

- b) Town Hall & Markets Consultative Group – Notes of the Meeting held on 6th September, 2022 (Appendix 11).

Noted That –

- following discussion on pest control (Note 17(b) refers), the General Manager undertook to provide an update in due course;
 - it was stressed that the feeding of pigeons in the Town Centre was to be avoided - not only due to the resultant fouling in the public realm, but in view of the ongoing Avian Flu epidemic and associated Government restrictions/advice. In particular the feeding of birds in ways that encouraged them to congregate in large numbers increased the risk of the infection being passed between them, and from them to domestic and commercial flocks, with associated unnecessary loss of life in both the wild, domestic and farmed populations.
- c) Goose Fair Consultative Group – Notes of the Meeting held on 1st September, 2022 (Appendix 12);
- d) Devon County Councillor Report (Appendix 13);
- e) Updates
- i) From representatives serving on outside bodies – Tavistock Museum Trust. It was reported that the current Trust was transitioning to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and was in the process of transferring its Trustees and assets to the new organisation. A meeting between representatives of the Town Council and the Museum Trust would be held in the near future in connection with property matters.
 - ii) From Members who had attended training sessions – no feedback brought forward.

Noted That no Report had been received from West Devon Borough Councillor D Turnbull. A 'dual hatted' Member in attendance was requested to encourage Borough Councillor colleagues to provide these occasional written updates (typically 1 or 2 each per year) when requested.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

195. 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

196. 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 person or persons other than the Council).

The Council received and considered Minute Nos. 171-173 of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee (Appendix 4 refers) held on Tuesday 30th August, 2022, the recommendations being reported by rote.

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

Noted That attention was drawn in particular to:-

- Minute No. 171 – Members and Officers were reminded of the availability of information/support from the Business Information Point (BIP), for businesses in financial difficulty;
- Minute No. 173 – the Council was advised that the Contract had been 'let', in view of the timeframes involved.

197. PROPERTY LEGAL & FINANCE MATTERS

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1) Debtors

The Council considered and noted the list (Appendix 14) of all those with debts to the Council dating from earlier than the last Quarter Day.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

198. PROPERTY LEGAL & FINANCE MATTERS

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There were no updates in connection with the above beyond a short oral update on developments in connection with Goose Fair Park and Ride and associated revised arrangements.

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

The Meeting closed at 6.35pm.

Signed:

Dated:

CHAIRMAN