

MINUTES

of the Meeting of the **BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY, 2020 at 6.30pm**

PRESENT

Councillor A Hutton (Chairman)
Councillor P Williamson (Vice Chairman)

Councillors Ms L Crawford, Mrs A Johnson, H Smith, P Ward (immediate past Mayor).

Councillors J Ellis, Mrs U Mann, G Parker, Mrs G Parker, P Squire (Ward Members)

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk, General Manager

340. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for late arrival had been received from Councillor Mrs M Ewings.

341. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes (Appendix 1) of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee held on Tuesday 7th January, 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

342. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

343. TOWN HALL LIFT

The Committee received and noted the Report (Appendix 2) of the General Manager in connection with the above and associated progress/letting of contract pursuant to the previous decision of the Council to replace the lift.

344. TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE : GUILDHALL CAR PARK PUBLIC REALM

The Committee received and noted an oral report from the General Manager in connection with the above. Attention was drawn, in particular, to the outcome of archaeological investigations, discussions with Historic England/other statutory stakeholders, the lead time for materials and associated prospective options as regarded next steps.

345. SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

The Committee received and noted the Notes (Appendix 3) of the Meeting of the Sustainability and Environment Working Group held on 28th January, 2020. Attention being drawn, in particular, to an upcoming briefing by selected community groups on their activities (at which all Members of Council were invited to attend) scheduled to be held at the Council Chamber at 6.30pm on Monday 2nd March, 2020.

**346. CAPITAL PROJECTS – PROGRESS
(GUILDHALL GATEWAY CENTRE)**

The Committee received and noted the most recent progress report (Appendix 4) in connection with the Guildhall Gateway Centre. In the discussion arising particular reference was made to the recent arrangement whereby the Council, whilst not endorsing or supporting the staffing business case from the anchor partner, had made a matching allocation toward additional hours on a trial and review basis (Minute No 299 (c) refers).

URGENT ITEM

In the interest of expediting the business of the Committee the Chairman agreed to take the following item as a matters of urgency.

347. WORKING TOGETHER IN THE INTERESTS OF TAVISTOCK

The Committee was advised of recent correspondence from West Devon Borough Council looking to take forward collaborative working as between the authorities, previously initiated by a former leader of the Borough and Mayor of the Town, on a range of topics. The approach was welcomed and attendance by the relevant office holders (Mayor, Chairman/Vice-Chairman of the Committee and Chairman of the Public Conveniences Sub-Committee) endorsed.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

348. 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
FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

**349. TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE : PANNIER MARKET
SURROUND PUBLIC REALM**

(**CONFIDENTIAL** by virtue of relating to contractual, financial and/or legal matters)

The Committee considered the report of the General Manager (Appendix 5) in connection with the resolution of matters appertaining to the conclusion of the above contract, and commended the work of the General Manager and lead Architect in connection therewith.

RECOMMENDED THAT the actions taken, as set out in the report, be endorsed.

350. COMMUNITY ORGANISATION – LEASE MATTER

(**CONFIDENTIAL** by virtue of relating to contractual, financial and/or legal matters affecting persons other than the Council)

The Committee considered the Report (Appendix 6) of the Town Clerk in connection with the above and an associated request for variation of a lease by the Tavistock Museum Trust.

RECOMMENDED THAT in view of, and contingent on the funding of current window repair works by the Trust (with dry rot treatment to the associated wall being undertaken by the Town Council), the request be acceded to and the Council meet the costs of the new lease.

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS
FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

351. CAPITAL PROJECTS – PROGRESS

(TAVISTOCK TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE INITIATIVE SCHEME)

(**CONFIDENTIAL** by virtue of relating to contractual, financial and/or legal matters affecting persons other than the Council)

The Committee received and noted the most recent progress report (Appendix 7) in connection with the Tavistock Townscape Heritage Initiative. In the discussion arising therefrom particular reference was made to matters appertaining to the review of the Conservation Area Management Plan/Appraisal and maintenance of particular Council premises.

URGENT ITEMS

In the interests of expediting the Business of the Committee the Chairman agreed to take the following two items as matters of urgency.

352. LEASE MATTER

(**CONFIDENTIAL** by virtue of relating to contractual, financial and/or legal matters affecting persons other than the Council)

The Council received an oral update in connection with proceedings being brought by it for breach of lease, a further report would be brought when more information became available.

353. STAFFING

(**CONFIDENTIAL** by virtue of relating to contractual, financial and/or legal matters affecting persons other than the Council)

The Committee received an oral update in connection with pressures being placed upon Council services and associated challenges around capacity,

delivery and related matters. In the circumstances there would, inter alia, be a need to accept a higher level of organisational risk, engage temporary agency support in some areas and scale back operations in others. It was anticipated that overall spend would remain within that allocated for staffing/wages and further reports would be made to keep the situation under review.

The Meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

CHAIRMAN