

Minutes of a Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY** the **15<sup>th</sup>** day of **DECEMBER 2009** at **7.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr Mrs M Govier Mayor  
Cllr Mrs S Bailey  
Cllr D Best  
Cllr Mrs A Johnson  
Cllr Mrs J C Metcalf  
Cllr R Pike  
Cllr Mrs D Sellis  
Cllr J Sellis  
Cllr P Sanders  
Cllr E H Sherrell  
Cllr H Smith  
Cllr D Whitcomb D Mayor

**In Attendance:** Town Clerk  
Assistant to the Town Clerk  
One member of the press  
3 Members of the public

Before the meeting commenced members of Tavistock Forward gave Members a short presentation on their project to digitise the eighteenth century 'Wynne' map of Tavistock

### **QUIET REFLECTION**

Members prepared themselves for the meeting by a few moments of quiet reflection led by Reverend Jeff Moles of the Tavistock Methodist Church.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Sgt Anning reported that PC Simon Dell was retiring that week. Members asked that a letter of thanks be sent to him for his long and dedicated service to the Town and area. St Anning also warned of livestock thefts during the run-up to Christmas. The Mayor wished a quiet Christmas period to all the constabulary.

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Mrs Sellis, the Devon County Councillor for Tavistock, tabled the report attached to the minutes. Cllr Whitcomb asked for an update on on-street parking meters, and was told that she had spoken to the portfolio holder and that the matter would be reviewed in 12 months. Cllr P Sanders confirmed that such meters were being introduced in other market towns, and that the deficit in that budget was quite considerable. Cllr Sellis also informed Members that pot holes on roads could be reported on the DCC Highways web site, and repairs were undertaken rapidly in her experience.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.**

Mrs Hunt asked about the documents for the Abbotsfield site, and was thanked by the Mayor for all her time in going through the old minutes. It was confirmed that we were dealing with the Land Registry about lost of destroyed title deeds.

**414. APOLOGIES.**

The meeting proper then commenced at 7. 20pm. There were apologies for absence from Cllr I Jennings, Cllr B Trew, Cllr M Harper and Cllr E Sanders.

**415. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Councillors were reminded that this item allowed the Chairman to receive disclosures of personal and prejudicial interests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest. If they became aware, during the course of a meeting of an interest that has not been disclosed under this item they must immediately disclose it. They may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is prejudicial. A personal interest is prejudicial if a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard it as so significant that is likely to prejudice the councillors judgement of the public interest and it relates to a financial or regulatory matter.

**416. CO-OPTION**

Members **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 1.6 to allow voting by ballot.

a. Members considered the co-option of a councillor for the North Ward. Copies of application forms had been circulated to Members. Three of the six applicants were present to make a short presentation.

b. The applicants left the Chamber. Members then voted and on the first ballot Mr Ashley Tossell was selected by an aggregate majority. He signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the council meeting.

c. It was then **RESOLVED** to re-introduce Standing Order 1.6.

**417. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009**

The Mayor presented the minutes of the meeting. Cllr P Sanders asked if Minute 338d was being implemented and Cllr Mrs Bailey confirmed she had been working with the Town Hall staff and that arrangements for courses were already in train. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of this meeting be adopted.

**418. PLANS COMMITTEE 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009.**

Cllr Best presented the Minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of this meeting be adopted.

**419. PLANS COMMITTEE 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2009.**

Cllr Best presented the Minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of this meeting be adopted.

**420. PLANS COMMITTEE 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2009.**

Cllr Best presented the Minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of this meeting be adopted.

**421. PROPERTIES COMMITTEE 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2009.**

Cllr Sellis presented the Minutes.

a. Concerning Minute 371c, Cllr Best was concerned at the request for a 30-year lease without break points for the Archway shop. Ms Trout from WDBC was present to explain to Members the reasons for this, that eligibility for Heritage Lottery grants

depended on such a term. Members confirmed that the Town Council should ask for regular rent reviews and break clauses. There was debate about the Landlord and Tenant Act provisions for these, and WDBC acceptance of reviews conducted by the Town Council's valuer. Cllr Sellis pointed out that the Town Council had received no rental for this building for some 6 months while we negotiated with WDBC. Our surveyors should now be instructed to draw up broad Heads of Terms with agreed wording about rent reviews. It was then **RESOLVED** to refer the matter to our professional advisers to draw up a sensible commercial lease. On a question by Ms Trout it was confirmed that this could involve a 30-year tenure.

b. Concerning Minute 373, the Mayor confirmed that it had been the Tavistock Community Football Club she had mentioned, not the Crowndale Trust.

c. Concerning Minute 377, Cllr P Sanders was concerned that an outright ban on an event on remembrance Sunday would jeopardise a significant event. Other Members pointed out the Remembrance Day was a day, not just an hour, and that large sports events were inappropriate. It was generally felt that the event had grown in the last few years and that the resultant noise and traffic was unacceptable to local residents. The Town Council would give the Club time to find alternative days.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of this meeting be adopted.  
Cllr Sherrell left the meeting.

#### **422. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2009**

Cllr Smith presented the Minutes.

a. Concerning Minute 389, Cllr Mrs Metcalf asked what had been done to acknowledge the retirement of the Town Crier. The Clerk replied that he had written to Mr Rose as instructed by the Council. Cllr Smith asked her to bring any specific suggestions to the next F&GP Committee meeting. Any presentation could be made at the hand-over to the next crier.

b. Concerning Minute 392, Cllrs Mrs Govier, P Sanders and A Tossell all declared a personal interest in the matter of the Rugby Club grant. A letter from the Club explaining further their financial state had been tabled. Cllr Smith thought that the Committee had given the matter full consideration on the facts available. On a proposition by Cllr Sellis it was **RESOLVED** by 5 votes for, 3 against and 3 abstentions to increase the grant to £1,500.

c. On a proposition by Cllr Smith it was then **RESOLVED** to set the precept unchanged at last years level at £418,200.

d. Concerning Minute 397, Cllr Mrs Johnson reminded Members of the communication from Mr Eberlie, the Chairman of the Tavistock Townscape Heritage Partnership asking for Town Council support for the two Plans. She asked for support for the Character Appraisal as that was a document of record, and also the management Plan as that provided the support framework. Cllr Smith was still concerned that all the Town Council comments had not been accepted, and wanted to go through the documents paragraph by paragraph. Cllr Pike informed members that there would be a Partnership meeting in February and that he would take Members comments back. Cllr P Sanders commented that as the Town Council had always been members of the Partnership, it could be said that we had already accepted the revised documents. Cllr Smith was still concerned about the detail of the

Management Plan (e.g., the Bank Square matter) but he had no problems with the Conservation Plan. It was then **RESOLVED** that the Town Council supported the Conservation Area Character Appraisal, and Members would liaise with Cllr Pike over comments on the Management Plan.

e. Concerning Minute 398, Members **RESOLVED** not to support the TaVi charitable trust application, and directed Cllr Pike not to sign the application.

f. Concerning Minute 401, Cllr Mrs Johnson made it clear that the extra £5,000 to be granted to the Chamber of Commerce for their overspend in 2009 would come from the sum of £10,000 budgeted for in 2010.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of this meeting be adopted.

**423. TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS OR REPORTS AS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MAYOR AND TO PASS SUCH RESOLUTIONS AS REQUIRED.**

There were no such communications.

**424. URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MAYOR**

There was no such business. The Mayor wished all a very Happy Christmas.

**425. SEAL.**

**RESOLVED** that the seal be affixed to the various Deeds and Documents to be made or entered into for the carrying into effect the several decisions and matters approved.

Rising 8. 45 p.m.

Signed.....

Town Mayor

Date.....