

Minutes of a Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY** the **2<sup>nd</sup>** day of **FEBRUARY 2010** at **7.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Cllr Mrs M Govier Mayor  
Cllr Mrs S Bailey  
Cllr M Harper  
Cllr I Jennings  
Cllr Mrs A Johnson  
Cllr Mrs J C Metcalf  
Cllr R Pike  
Cllr Mrs D Sellis  
Cllr J Sellis  
Cllr E Sanders  
Cllr P Sanders  
Cllr E H Sherrell  
Cllr H Smith  
Cllr A Tossell  
Cllr B Trew  
Cllr D Whitcomb D Mayor

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

### **QUIET REFLECTION**

Members prepared themselves for the meeting by a few moments of quiet reflection led by Reverend Michael Brierley of St Eustachius Church. He tabled the note about Council Prayers attached to these minutes.

### **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Kevin Williams introduced WPC Karen Hall who had joined the Neighbourhood Beat Team. They reported a quiet Christmas period with few instances of ASB.

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Mrs Sellis, the Devon County Councillor for Tavistock, tabled the report attached to these minutes.

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.**

**a.** Mrs Hunt asked in the Council could include a clause restricting future sale in any deeds for the Abbeyfield Recreational Area. Could the Council reports indicate what work had been done there?

**Response.** The Mayor said the Council would take advice on any wording. She agreed the area was a 'recreational area' for all ages.

**b.** Mr Davies asked what was the Council's policy on the Core Strategy, as there was a resolution objecting to it, a specialist report against it had been paid for by the Council and they had supported the Parish Poll that voted against it. He noticed that

some 'double hatted' town councillors had voted for the Strategy at the relevant West Devon Borough Council meeting. Could this be explained?

**Response.** The Mayor explained that she had abstained at the vote, and that 'double-hatted' councillors acted in a Town Council role when at Town Council meetings, but had additional Borough responsibilities and had to take that into account when at Borough meetings. Some 'double-hatted' Members represented different groups of electors at the two councils. Members also said that some had voted against the Strategy, and some had abstained. Cllr Pike gave the example that at a Borough meeting he had to act in what was best for his rural Borough ward, and not take into account Town Council matters. Cllr Sherrell made the point that councillors were elected representatives, not delegates, and had to make up their own minds on voting. Cllr P Sanders explained that he objected to parts of the Strategy, but had voted against the whole policy as he had not been given a chance to vote on the areas to which he objected. Other 'double-hatted' Members agreed with these comments. The Mayor also reminded Members that the Council had not supported the Parish Poll vote, but had simply agreed to its taking place. (Afternote, the Standards Board have issued guidance for double-hatted members in just these circumstances and it will again be circulated to Members and to Mr Davies).

c. Mr Hunter thanked the Council for the Abbotsfield consultation, and looked forward to a favourable response to Option 3?

**485. APOLOGIES.**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr D Best.

**486. 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.

**487. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2009**

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

**488. PLANS COMMITTEE 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2009.**

Cllr Whitcomb presented the Minutes.

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

**489. PLANS COMMITTEE 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2009.**

Cllr Sellis presented the Minutes.

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

**490. PLANS COMMITTEE 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2010.**

Due to the bad weather Cllr Best had been the sole member of the Committee present at that meeting. In his absence members **RESOLVED** that the minutes of this meeting be adopted, to be signed on his return.

**491. PLANS COMMITTEE 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2010.**

Cllr Sellis presented the Minutes.

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

**492. PROPERTIES COMMITTEE 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2010.**

Cllr Trew presented the Minutes.

a. Concerning Minute 453, Cllr Smith spoke on his wish to see a memorial garden created for the late Mrs Gill Gorbutt. The Mayor had spoken to members of the family, and their wish was for trees to be planted in memory, with a granite plaque alongside. It was then **RESOLVED** that a tree and plaque should be provided, the location to be decided by the family.

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

**493. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2010**

Cllr Smith presented the Minutes.

a. Concerning Minute 472, Cllr Pike thought the original idea for a Town Crier had come from the Lions. On hearing that a full uniform could cost £1,700 he said that some were too elaborate, and something like the Mace Bearers uniforms should be provided. Members were in favour of having a Crier, and although there were issues about costs of uniforms and the relationship to the Council, as an important market town it was agreed that Tavistock should have a Crier. Members felt the Crier should be an employee of the Council, but unpaid, though allowed to claim expenses. Such a contract would require the Crier to abide by the code laid down in Standing Orders Part 3, Section 15 (Code of Practice for the Town Crier). It was then **RESOLVED** *nem con* with one abstention that the Crier should have an honorary employment contract with the Town Council. It was then unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should meet reasonable expenses of the post according to the relevant Standing Order. Members also unanimously **RESOLVED** to provide up to £200 to the Lions to fund the selection competition. The matter would be returned to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for further financial consideration.

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

**494. TAVISTOCK CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

a. Members wished to again debate their response to the July 2009 version of the Management Plan produced by the Tavistock Townscape Heritage Partnership. They have endorsed the Character Appraisal document, but resolved at Minute 305 not to find any funding for the project. There was discussion about a meeting West Devon Borough Council were holding to discuss the Heritage Initiative, but confusion as to who should attend and if it was still to be held. The Clerk was directed to resolve the matter the next day. Cllr Smith opened by saying that the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting Members agreed Minute 476 that called for the councillors on the working group tasked with formulating the Town Council's Strategic Objectives to reconvene. Apart from the requirement of the auditors for the Council to have a set of strategic objectives against which the performance could be measured he believed that without a set of published objectives the Council could justifiably be accused of having no corporate vision or overall framework inside which to work.

b. In that context he believed it would not be in the interest of the council to endorse the Management Plan at this point in time. He did however appreciate the work of the authors of the Management Plan and that it had been constructed in a proactive manner based on the endorsed Character Appraisal. His concern was that although the vast majority of the proposed actions were sound when read within the stated objectives of the partnership, in isolation he believed there needed to be greater consideration by the Council before endorsing the document. All Members had read this document many times, so he thought all that was required was a couple of examples of the actions contained within it to demonstrate what would be endorsed:

(1). The Town Council will consider commissioning a conservation and management plan for Town council Estate.

(2). The Town Council will consider carrying out a detailed survey to ascertain the full extent of any repairs needed to the Pannier market and its associated buildings.

c. In the Plan are many actions that the Town Council are being asked to support, some in conjunction with other parties and some on its own. As far as he was aware West Devon have not yet formally accepted the document and he believed it was too early for us so to do. Members thought that many of the actions required were already being undertaken by the Town Council as part of its normal business. There was also concern about the Guildhall and Bank Square proposals.

Members then **RESOLVED** *nem con* that Tavistock Town council should not endorse the Management Plan before the Working Group for Strategic objectives has reported its final recommendations to Council.

**495. 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.

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

There was no such business.

**497. 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. 20 p.m.

Signed.....

Town Mayor

Date.....