

Minutes of a Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY** the **27th** day of **APRIL 2010** 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 J Sellis
Cllr Mrs D 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
One member of the press

QUIET REFLECTION.

Members prepared themselves for the meeting by a few moments of quiet reflection led by Peter Squire of the Tavistock Quaker community.

POLICE REPORT.

WPC Karen Hall from the Neighbourhood Beat Team gave Members a short brief on crime statistics in Tavistock. There was discussion of the anti social behaviour car driving being moved from Bedford to Riverside car park and what action was required to stop the occurrences.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT.

Cllr Mrs Sellis, the Devon County Councillor for Tavistock, tabled the report attached to these minutes. She drew Members attention to 'Grow Tavi' and the need for more areas of land to be available for cultivation by those wanting to grow their own. Cllr P Sanders voiced concern at the DCC youth provision in the future, particularly the service restructuring and financial provision.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

There were no questions.

648. APOLOGIES.

There were apologies for absence from Cllr M Harper. The Mayor announced that she had received a letter of resignation from the Council from Cllr I Jennings for personal reasons. Members gave a vote of thanks to Cllr Jennings for his work with the Council, and the Mayor would write to thank him.

649. 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.

650. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 16th MARCH 2010

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

651. PLANS COMMITTEE 16th MARCH 2010.

Cllr Best presented the Minutes. Noted that the attendance paragraph was in error, as Cllr Harper was in fact absent and Cllr E Sanders was present.

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

652. PLANS COMMITTEE 30th MARCH 2010.

Cllr Best presented the Minutes.

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

653. PLANS COMMITTEE 13th APRIL 2010.

Cllr Best presented the Minutes.

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

654. PROPERTIES COMMITTEE 20th APRIL 2010.

Cllr Trew presented the Minutes.

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

655. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 9th MARCH 2010

Cllr Smith presented the Minutes.

a. Allowances.

(i). Concerning Minute 625c, Cllr P Sanders was concerned about the recommendation to increase allowance payments to Members, and could not understand why the basic allowance should be increased by 50% or why it was suggested that new allowances should be paid to the Mayor and committee chairman. This had not been done in the past and would be an 'own goal' from the point of view of electors suffering under the recession. Cllr Smith explained that we had not reviewed the allowances since 2003, while other councils had. He had asked the Parish Remuneration Panel to make a report, and this, with their recommendations, had been circulated to all Members. His committee had felt their recommendation showed that the Panel did not fully understand the operation of the Town Council, and they had made some minor changes.

(ii). Most Members felt that while the existing allowances helped offset expenses incurred as a Councillor, any increase would be tactless, and that the Town Council should set an example and not accept increases this year. Cllr Sanders then proposed that there should be no change to the allowances, and that no additional allowances should be introduced this year. This was seconded by Cllr Trew, and a recorded vote called for. Members voted as shown:

For	Against	Abstain
Cllr Best	Cllr Mrs Bailey	Cllr Mrs Govier
Cllr Mrs Metcalf	Cllr Whitcomb	Cllr Mrs Johnson
Cllr Pike		
Cllr E Sanders		
Cllr P Sanders		
Cllr Mrs Sellis		
Cllr Sellis		
Cllr Sherrell		
Cllr Smith		
Cllr Tossell		
Cllr Trew		

It was **RESOLVED** by 11 votes for, 2 against and 2 abstentions that that there should be no change to the allowances, and that no additional allowances should be introduced this year.

b. Concerning the Minute after 627, it was noted that it should be Minute 627A.

c. Concerning Minute 636, Cllr Trew noted the move towards single spinal points for employees pay, but explained to Members that there was no system in place to undertake the annual review of pay that this entailed. It was felt this should be simple (e.g., the Chair of Staffing and the Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee with advice from the Clerk) with the Mayor arbitrating in case of disagreement. Cllr P Sanders agreed that any system should be transparent and fair and applied equally. It should measure pay against the job description for the post, and this showed the importance of the job description. It was then **RESOLVED** *nem con* that the Staffing Sub-Committee should recommend the setting up of a system to review pay for those employees on a single spinal point on the anniversary of their employment.

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

656. REPRESENTATIONAL REPORTS

Those Members who represent the Council on local charities and organisations have been invited to forward a report on their activities for inclusion in the minutes. Those received so far are attached to these minutes.

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

a. The Mayor reminded members of the opening of the Courtlands Play Park and the Civic Ball.

658. URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MAYOR

a. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 it was **RESOLVED** that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be

transacted, the public and the press leave the meeting during consideration of staffing matters.

b. Cllr Trew briefed Members about a staffing matter that had commenced in August 2009. Cllr Pike thanked Cllr Trew for all his work as Chair of Staffing, and said he had done a marvellous job in dealing with this matter. Cllr P Sanders also thanked the lawyer who had dealt with the matter, Sarah Austin, and said he had written to thank her for her efforts.

c. **Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960**
RESOLVED that the public and press be re-admitted to the Meeting.

659. **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. 36 p.m.

Signed.....
Town Mayor
Date.....