

Minutes of a Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY** the **27th** day of **OCTOBER 2009** at **7.00 p.m.**

Present: Cllr Mrs M Govier Mayor
Cllr Mrs S Bailey
Cllr D Best
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 B Trew
Cllr D Whitcomb D Mayor

In Attendance: Town Clerk
Assistant to the Town Clerk
Works Superintendent
One member of the press
17 Members of the public

QUIET REFLECTION

Members prepared themselves for the meeting by a few moments of quiet reflection led by Mr Abul Chowdhury, a leading member of the Tavistock Moslem community.

POLICE REPORT

PCSO Kevin Williams reported that Goose Fair had been very successful, with no fights, assaults or other problems reported.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Mrs Sellis, the Devon County Councillor for Tavistock, had tabled a written brief covering Morwellham, bus stops at Tiddybrook, traffic controls at St Rumon's school, Drake's Trail route through Tavistock and double yellow lines at Grenville Drive junction.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

a. Mrs Corner wished to ask a question, and began to read from a document that clearly dealt with the Pannier Market and Council officers. The Mayor stated that this matter was subject to grievance and disciplinary actions and three firms of solicitors were involved. As this was *sub judice* it was inappropriate to raise the subject in public so she asked Mrs Corner to cease speaking. Mrs Corner refused and continued to read loudly from her document. The Mayor then adjourned the question time in accordance with Standing Orders, and asked Mrs Corner to leave the Chamber. She refused and continued to try to read from her document. PCSO Williams assisted in ejecting Mrs Corner from the Chamber. The Mayor then re-

convened the public question time, Members congratulated her on her handling of what was a difficult situation.

b. Mr Eberlie had asked to be allowed to make a short statement about the Tavistock Town Heritage Partnership, and what they wanted from the Town council. The Partnership was working to support town conservation. There were two documents (Tavistock Conservation Area Management Plan and Character Appraisal) that supported the bid to the heritage Lottery Fund. That bid had been rejected and they did not intend to pursue another bid yet without Town Council support. He asked the Council to look again at the two documents and to endorse them. The Town Council needed to be able to hold WDBC and DCC to account, and he commended both documents and recommended them for careful scrutiny and adoption.

c. Mr Brent from the Retreat asked if the Council decided to sell the open space near Abbotsfield then could they offer it to residents who wished to use it as a nature reserve.

Response. The Mayor explained that the Works Superintendent would meet with residents to discuss a way forward. The matter would then come back to the Properties Committee on 8th December. We were researching the market value.

330. APOLOGIES.

There were no apologies for absence.

331. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Councillors were reminded to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in any item to be considered at the meeting.

332. CO-OPTION

Members agreed to defer any consideration of co-option until the end of the meeting.

333. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 8th SEPTEMBER 2009

The Mayor presented the minutes of the meeting. She reported on the progress of the Courtlands' play park project, and that consultations had been held and visits made to all residents who were now clearly in favour of the concept. This was a complete turn-around, and she thanked Mr Southall and Mrs Ashton for all their work. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of this meeting be adopted.

334. PLANS COMMITTEE 2nd SEPTEMBER 2009.

Cllr Pike presented the Minutes.

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

335. PLANS COMMITTEE 15th SEPTEMBER 2009.

Cllr Best presented the Minutes.

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

336. PLANS COMMITTEE 29th SEPTEMBER 2009.

Cllr Jennings presented the Minutes.

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

337. PLANS COMMITTEE 12th OCTOBER 2009.

Cllr Jennings presented the Minutes.

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

338. PROPERTIES COMMITTEE 20th OCTOBER 2009.

Cllr Trew presented the Minutes.

a. Concerning Minute 282a, the matter of the signs at Pixon Lane were still under consideration, as the ATC and ACF detachments seemed also to be interested.

b. Concerning Minute 282b Cllr P Sanders thought as the vote had been tight it ought to be put to full Council. Some members of the public had expressed concerns to councillors that the track was in the wrong place, others felt that it was a long way from any neighbouring houses and a good spot; central and safe. It had been a wet area in the past but HydroPower had rebuilt the canal wall recently and that should have solved the problem. Cllr Sherrell saw no problem, in that for 5 to 6 months of the year with no artificial light the tracks would be used only in daylight hours, and it would use land that had not been used for years. The residents of Harewood House might enjoy the spectacle of the riders. Cllr Pike still wanted the putting course back and felt the Riders should ask WDBC for land at Kilworthy. Members then **RESOLVED** by 10 votes for, 4 against and 2 abstentions to allow the club to proceed with the Track as planned.

c. Concerning Minute 283a Cllr Trew reported that he had consulted with Market traders about the £8.50 per table rate, and after the last 2 year moratorium on increases they were in full agreement with it.

d. Concerning Minute 283b the comment about bad bar design had been Cllr Mrs Sellis' and she had since been persuaded by arguments from earlier years. So far as hospitality training was concerned, it referred to hospitality business courses, and the appraisal system could not identify who needed which course as no-one yet had any knowledge of what was available or needed. Cllr Mrs Bailey was asked to advise the Town Hall staff.

e. Concerning Minute 287 Cllr Mrs Johnson declared a personal interest. Her children had played in the open space, and she hoped it would not be lost as they needed adventure play to combat 'nature deficit disorder'. Mr Southall explained it had been designated an open space in 2004, and had never been subject to RoSPA inspections or weekly safety inspections like real play parks. He felt that local people would always call it a play area. Members **RESOLVED** *nem con* to refer the matter back to Properties after local consultation.

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

Cllr Sherrell left the meeting.

339. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 20th OCTOBER 2009

Cllr Smith presented the Minutes.

a. Concerning Minute 305 Cllr P Sanders noted the recommendation referred only to money, not to the documents. (Minute 190 had recommended not to endorse the Plans, and the Council had referred the matter to the next cycle of meetings). The Regeneration Option document had not been supported as there was no linked money being made available. Cllr Pike said there were now 3 or 4 documents tabled and it

was all confusing. Neither WDBC nor DCC had yet discussed the documents, yet it was the Town Council being criticised. The Clerk explained the information gathered at the last Partnership meeting, that the two Plans were not involved with the earmarking of money, and could be taken on their own. Cllr Trew felt the matter should go back to Properties. Cllr Harper queried what had happened about the proposed meetings with Mr Plumb, and was informed by Cllr Smith of the results of the 2 meetings and many e-mails. Cllr P Sanders asked if the Council did not endorse the Plans did they have to sever membership of the Partnership? Mr Eberlie (the Partnership chairman) from the public benches responded “no”. The Mayor asked Mr Eberlie if his Partnership could send a detailed statement on what they wished the Town Council to decide on, and this would be taken at the next round of meetings.

Cllr Trew left the meeting.

b. Concerning Minute 307 Cllr Mrs Metcalf asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Rose on his retirement as Town Crier.

c. Concerning Minute 308 Members **RESOLVED** *nem con* that the Mayor should respond on behalf of the Council on the Gambling Act consultation.

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

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

The Mayor reminded Members of the Remembrance day parade on 8th November, and that all were invited to participate, meeting at 10. 40 at the Council offices.

341. CO-OPTION

Members noted that only two applicants had responded to the advertisement for co-option, and neither was present at the meeting. They **RESOLVED** *nem con* to defer to the December meeting any consideration of co-option, and asked that the vacancy be advertised again.

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

343. 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.

344. COUNCILLORS BEHAVIOUR.

The Mayor read out a legal statement warning councillors about acting on their own and interfering in staffing matters currently on-going.

345. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

RESOLVED that the public and press be re-admitted to the Meeting.

346. 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. 28 p.m.

Signed.....

Town Mayor

Date.....