

Minutes of a meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY** the **8th** day of **DECEMBER 2009** at **7. 25p.m.**

Present:	Cllr H Smith	Chair
	Cllr Mrs Govier	Mayor
	Cllr Mrs A Johnson	
	Cllr Mrs J Metcalf	
	Cllr J Sellis	V Chair Properties
	Cllr D Whitcomb	D Mayor

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

383. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Cllr M Harper, Cllr I Jennings, Cllr P Sanders and Cllr B Trew

384. 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

385 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 the private briefing from the Council's consultant.

386. CORE STRATEGY

Mr Stephen Gill was present to give Members feedback on the results of the recent WDBC meeting about the Core Strategy, and their revised timetable for future work. Members of the Properties Committee had been asked to remain in the Chamber for this item. He reported that two matters contained in the Town Council comments had been incorporated by WDBC, (infrastructure matters and the concerns about rural areas). However the main concern about the size and placing of the 750-house development was not adopted. WDBC still say their strategy was sound. He was disappointed that WDBC members had not debated the comments or the matter of the Parish Poll. He thought the WDBC policy concentrated on the need to have a strategy as opposed to not having a strategy rather than how good the strategy was. Some members of

WDBC had supported the original strategy concept on the principle that it was going out to consultation, but had not been given a chance to revise their opinion since then. A ‘master planning’ concept was being used to give individual members aspects to manage, and this was drawing their attention away from the main issues. There would be no more public consultation, and he would raise matters like the lack of a RSS and the arguments about urban extensions at the public inquiry. On a question by Cllr Sellis he replied that it would be very unusual to have a preferred developer at this stage of the matter.

387. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

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

388. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 20th October 2009, previously circulated and adopted by Council on 27th October 2009, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

389. MATTERS ARISING

Members noted the Action Log. Cllr Mrs Metcalf asked what had been done about the Town Crier, and was informed that the Lions seemed ready to undertake the competition for a replacement. She would raise the matter of some farewell to the last Crier at the next meeting.

390. MEETING OF THE PROPERTIES COMMITTEE HELD EARLIER THAT EVENING

The Chairman of Properties informed Members that his Committee had discussed the Archway shop and that would have financial implications in the future. Also the Town Clock chimes needed repair at £1,088.

391. MINUTES OF THE FORWARD PLANNING, POLICY AND PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2009 (previously circulated to meet Council meeting of the 27th October).

392. MINUTES OF THE FORWARD PLANNING, POLICY AND PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2009. They **RECOMMENDED** that the precept be frozen at last years amount of £418,200.

393. MINUTES OF THE DAPC LARGER LOCAL COUNCILS SUB-COMMITTEE

Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd October 2009.

394. MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN PARISHES LINK COMMITTEE

Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th September 2009.

395. MINUTES OF THE TAVISTOCK PARKING FOCUS GROUP

Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th September 2009.

- 396. MINUTES OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Members noted the minutes of the meetings held on the 5th October and 2nd November 2009.
- 397. MINUTES OF THE TAVISTOCK TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP**
Members noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st October 2009. Cllr Smith was disappointed in the minutes as they did not reflect the Town Council's confusion and questions. Cllr Pike would take comments to the next meeting.
- 398. MINUTES OF THE TaVi DEVELOPMENT FORUM**
Members noted the minutes of the meetings held on the 17th September, 15th October and 19th November 2009. Members also noted also the documents attached to these minutes concerning the preparation for a change to a Charitable Company set up by TaVi. Cllr Mrs Govier noted that the original representative of the Town Council she had resigned because of the drive to the change to a Trust. Cllr Pike questioned why they now needed to make the change, and noted that one of their Group had resigned recently because of this. Members thought it was because TaVi wished to start trading. TaVi now seemed to be a pressure group with limited funding from WDBC, and the Council should consider at the AGM if they still wished to be represented on the Group, and continue to pay their administrative costs.
- 399. GENERAL FINANCE**
- a. Accounts** Members considered the monthly accounts for submission to the next Council Meeting, a copy of which is at Annex A. It was **RECOMMENDED** that they be passed for payment.
- b. Outturn.** Members noted the phased budget reporting system print to 30th November 2009.
- 400. PUBLIC QUESTIONS BEFORE COUNCIL MEETINGS**
After the problem that arose before the last Council meeting, it had been suggested that the Town Council should adopt the same policy as WDBC and require at least 3 days notice of any public questions, and the questions to be provided in written format. This would also help the preparation of rapid replies. Standing Order 1.29.3 refers and would need amending if this policy is adopted. A suggested draft was tabled. After some debate members agreed that such a change would affect the spontaneity of meetings, and prior notice was not used at Parish level. They **RECOMMENDED** not to change the existing system.
- 401. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**
A meeting was held on 20th November with the Chairman and Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. An income and expenditure for this years lights was tabled. The Chamber had acknowledged the £1,500 grant made this year, and the £10,000 budgeted for replacement bulbs. However Mr Eadie from the public benches now asked if £5,000 of the £10,000 budgeted next year for

further replacement bulbs could be paid this year as an additional grant towards running expenses. Members noted the £5,000 shortfall in the Lights and Dickensian night costs incurred by the Chamber due to they recession. And that they had not anticipated the lack of grants and sponsorship. They still required new lights and replacement cabling next year, and Members agreed to work with the Chamber over the next few months to see how this could be supported. They **RECOMMENDED** *nem con* that the additional grant be supported.

402. 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 debtors to the Council.

403. DEBTORS

Members received a list of all those who had a debt to the Council dating from earlier than the last quarter day.

404 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

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

405 URGENT BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN.

There were no such matters.

Rising 8. 35 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....