

MINUTES

of the Special Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY 19th NOVEMBER, 2019** at **5.45pm**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A Johnson (Mayor)
Councillor A Hutton (Deputy Mayor).

Councillors Ms L Crawford, J Ellis, Mrs M Ewings, A Fey, Mrs U Mann, J Moody, Mrs G Parker, G Parker, B Smith, H Smith, P Squire, A Venning, P Ward, P Williamson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk, General Manager, Assistant to the Town Clerk.

235. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received.

236. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Parker declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in Minute No 239 by virtue of membership of a partner organisation to the Scheme (Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site Partnership Board).

237. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tavistock Town Council held on Tuesday 22nd October, 2019 (Appendix 1 refers) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

238. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No public representations or questions had been received.

ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

239. GUILDHALL GATEWAY CENTRE: APPLICATION FOR BORROWING APPROVAL & LOAN FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD

The Council received the Report of the Town Clerk (Appendix 2) in connection with the above, and considered the recommendations set out therein.

By way of background the Meeting noted, in summary:

- borrowing approval was required from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for capital funding by way of loan from the Public Works Loan Board;
- the loan was proposed over a 25year term, enabling repayments to be funded from existing budgets and without an increase in the Precept;
- extensive public consultation and engagement had been undertaken in connection with the Scheme, most especially since 2017;
- details of the particular arrangements proposed for borrowing had been publicised via an article in the Tavistock Times and Gazette, on the Council Website and in an article being circulated to all households in the Council's Winter Newsletter.

Progress toward delivery of the final stages of this significant regeneration, restoration and community scheme was welcomed.

RESOLVED THAT the Council:

- a) authorise the Clerk to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a Public Works Loan Board loan of £400,000 over the borrowing term of 25 years for the restoration and repair of the Guildhall Complex on the basis set out in the Report (with the facility to draw down from 10th January, 2020); to bring it into a state of repair, remove it from the Buildings at Risk Register and provide a Guildhall Gateway Centre;
- b) agree the measures listed in para 2.3 of the Report to secure the funding of loan repayments without recourse to an increase in the Precept;
- c) further agree that: -
 - i. the dedicated Guildhall Project page on the website <https://www.tavistock.gov.uk/your-council/council-initiatives/guildhall-project> be updated on a monthly basis with progress reports – both in connection with the progress of the works and the application for borrowing approval;
 - ii. the Council newsletter to all households in the Town continue to carry updates throughout the project and further press releases be issued regularly. The next Council newsletter to all households being issued later in November.

iii. And note

1. as works progress, and when safe to do so, the Council and Tavistock Heritage Trust will be initiating engagement and promotional activities (including soft launch activities, tours, talks, early access etc) to publicise and promote the facility and its patronage in accordance with the approved Bid;
2. as part of the scheduled National Lottery Heritage Fund post project evaluation a survey would be undertaken with residents and visitors at opening.

The Meeting closed at 5.55pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

CHAIRMAN

FOR INFORMATION