

AGENDA ITEM No 3(a)

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held at the Council Chamber, Drake Road, Tavistock on **TUESDAY 30TH JULY, 2019** at **6.45pm**

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE Town Clerk, General Manager.

102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A Fey, J Moody, and P Ward.

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this point in the Meeting.

104. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT subject to the deletion of the last two paragraphs as listed in Minute No 64 (c) and their replacement with the following:-

“the first part of an amended (two part) motion to declare a Climate Emergency at that time was unsuccessful, the second part being carried in the affirmative was as follows:

RESOLVED THAT, the matter be referred to the Budget and Policy Committee to recommend the actions that can be taken by Town Council in support of the Climate Emergency”

the Minutes of the Meeting of the Tavistock Town Council held on Tuesday 25th June, 2019 (Appendix 1 refers) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

105. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

The following written questions had been received from members of the public – Ms S Cooper of Whitchurch Road and Ms P Twine of Priory Close Tavistock. Respectively, the questions were as follows:-

"The Town Council narrowly voted against declaring a Climate Emergency on the basis that they lacked funding to act. Has the Council since then taken any advice as to the cost and effects of various climate policies? There are now a number of organisations like Can-Do Cities that identify the needs and demands of the local community and provide a guide to investment costs and returns of a range of sustainable strategies. Of the 408 UK Councils, 271 have now declared a Climate Emergency. These Councils range in size and budget from County, Unitary and Borough to Town and Parish. Parliament has also declared a Climate Emergency and Theresa May has legislated to bring forward the UK's target of carbon zero. Whether or not that Tavistock Town Council deems there is budget, there is no doubt we do have a Climate Emergency and all future policy decisions will have to acknowledge this. I therefore ask why the Town Council have not yet declared a Climate Emergency?"

and

"Since the beginning of July when the Council voted against declaring a Climate Emergency, a number of things have happened. There has been a mass lobby of MP's at Westminster and Theresa May, the Prime Minister has legislated to bring forward the date by which the UK must go carbon zero. There is also now a very worrying recognition of the desperate state of our environment and the collapse of biodiversity. Both climate change and our ecosystems are effected by the same root problems. There are equal concern and the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and the WWF (World Wildlife Fund) have both stressed that urgent action is needed. As a rural county we have a particular responsibility to safeguard the environment and biodiversity. As the action needed to address these issues is the same as the action required to halt climate change, when are you going to acknowledge the Climate Emergency we face?"

In the presence of the first questioner, and the absence of the second questioner, the response was as follows:-

"Thank you for your questions and drawing your views to the attention of the Council. By way of clarification the Council did not vote against declaring a Climate Emergency as such, but against declaring it at the time of the last meeting, pending appropriate due diligence. Initiatives which seek to support environmentally sound and sustainable practice, and which acknowledge the importance of our environment, are to be welcomed. This is an area where work has already been undertaken by the Council around energy efficiency, biodiversity, compacting and recycling, but there is more to be done. Looking forward, and subject to the outcome of tonight's meeting a working group of the Budget and Policy Committee will look holistically at the range of issues and options available to it, including with regard to actions that can be taken in support of a Climate Emergency."

ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

106. GENERAL FINANCE

The Council considered the following:-

a. Schedule of Payments

The Council received and considered copies of the monthly accounts (Appendix 2) as at 31st May, 2019.

Noted That reference was made to the practice of circulating the Schedule of Payments with the Council Agenda (or replacing same with publication on the Council's website, or other).

b. Budget Monitoring Report

The Council received and considered a copy of the Budget Monitoring Report (Appendix 3) as at 31st May, 2019.

107. BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE

The Council considered Minute No's 89-95 inclusive of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee (Appendix 4) held on Wednesday 24th July, 2019, the recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Committee be approved and adopted - subject to the

addition, to Minute No 92 of the appointment of Councillors J Ellis, Mrs A Johnson, B Smith and H Smith to the Public Conveniences Sub-Committee (together with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Budget and Policy Committee (ex-officio)).

Noted That

- a. pursuant to Minute No 94 (a) a Member made reference to the possibility that the Town Council might be involved/associated with emerging work being undertaken by West Devon Borough Council in connection with climate change. In the event a formal offer to participate was received from the Borough Council a nomination(s) would be made in the normal way;
- b. The recent Councillor workshop/policy session was commended.

108. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & LICENSING COMMITTEE (DM&L)

The Council considered the following:-

- a. Development Management & Licensing Committee – Minutes (Appendix 5) of the Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July, 2019 (Minute No's 71-79 inclusive);
- b. Development Management & Licensing Committee – Minutes (Appendix 6) of the Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd July, 2019 (Minute No's 80-88 inclusive).

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes be received.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The following items had been circulated for information only:-

109. SERVICE REPORTS

The Council received and noted the reports of the Works Department, Town Hall/Butchers' Hall and Pannier Market (Appendices 7-9 refer).

Noted That:-

- Works Department – reference was made to repairs required to Council property;

- Appreciation was expressed to the Town Hall and Events Manager regarding organisation of the recent Royal Visit and to all others who had participated to the make the day such a successful community and civic event;
- Pannier Market – reference was made to the positive outcome of a recent meeting between Council representatives and Market Traders, together with the high profile of the Pannier Market on Trip Advisor.

110. FINANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

The Council received, for information, the following:-

- Report of the Assistant to the Town Clerk (Appendix 10);
- Southern Links Committee – Notes (Appendix 11) of the Meeting held on 4th July, 2019
Noted That West Devon Borough Council had afforded the opportunity to consultees and others to comment on the operation of the Development Management System;
- Tavistock BID – Notes (Appendix 12) of the Meeting held on 19th June, 2019;
- West Devon Borough Councillor Report – Report (Appendix 13) of West Devon Councillor J Spettigue;
- Project update:-
 - Townscape Heritage Initiative – the positive feedback of the HLF (now NLHF) Monitor was noted;
 - Guildhall Gateway Centre Project – this item was to be considered later on the Agenda.
- Updates from Council representatives serving on outside bodies:-
 - The Council representative on the Dartmoor Commoners requested feedback of any issues to him;
 - The representative of the Council on DALC Larger Councils Committee noted a recent meeting.

111. COMMUNICATIONS OR REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN MAYOR

Attention was drawn to a recent consultation by the Fire Service scheduled to end on 20th September, 2019 and an associated event to be held in Tavistock Library on 12th August, 2019 between 11.00am and 3.00pm.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

112. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was:-

RESOLVED THAT the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

113 BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

(**CONFIDENTIAL** by virtue of relating to legal and/or commercial matters, staffing and/or the financial or business affairs of a person or persons other than the Council).

The Council considered confidential Minute No's 96-99 inclusive of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee (Appendix 4 refers) held on Wednesday 24th July, 2019, the recommendations being reported by rote.

In connection with Minute number 97 it was:-

- Reported that following a detailed review of the Council's Capital Programme sufficient funds were available to progress the Scheme, should that be the will of Council;
- Reference was made to the outcome of the recent tendering exercise, value engineering undertaken, associated issues and options and anticipated benefits associated with the project.

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Committee be approved and the Minutes be received.

114 PROPERTY, LEGAL AND FINANCE MATTERS

(**CONFIDENTIAL** by virtue of relating to legal and/or commercial matters, staff and/or the financial or business affairs of a person or persons other than the Council.)

i. DEBTORS

The Council considered and noted a list of all those with debts to the Council dating from earlier than the last quarter day, and received updates accordingly (Appendix 14).

ii. **STOCK AUDIT REPORT**

The Council considered and noted the outcome of the recent Stock Audit Report.

READMISSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC

The Press and Public were readmitted to the Meeting.

115 BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

The Committee considered Minute No's 100-101 (non-confidential items) inclusive of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee (Appendix 4) held on Wednesday 24th July, 2019, the recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Committee be approved and adopted subject to the amendment of that associated with Minute No 101 to read

"RESOLVED THAT a transfer of up to £5,000 be made from the General Reserve to the cover the cost of the recent Royal Visit."

Noted That in connection with Minute No 100 the Mayor, Councillor Mrs A Johnson, declared a personal non-prejudicial interest by virtue of the Office held and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

The Meeting closed at 7.59pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

CHAIRMAN