

AGENDA ITEM No. 3a

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held on **TUESDAY 9th MARCH, 2021 at 5.00pm** conducted remotely via Zoom and YouTube

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

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

*arrived late at the Meeting

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

267. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence had been received, it being noted that Councillor Moody would be late in joining the Meeting.

268. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

*Councillor Mrs U Mann joined the Meeting

269. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- a) RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Tavistock Town Council held on Tuesday 26th January, 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Appendix 1).
- b) Matters arising – the Council’s representative on the Oke Rail Forum reported that he had been unable to attend a recent meeting, but undertook to provide the referenced feedback at a later Council Meeting

270. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No Public representations or questions had been received.

ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

271. BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE

The Council considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee (Appendix 2) held on Tuesday 23rd February, 2021, the recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT

- a) Subject to the change of words 'Blue Plaque Scheme' to 'Blue Heart Scheme' in Minute No. 246, the recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Committee (Minute No's 243 - 251) be approved and adopted;
- b) consideration of Minute No's 252 - 257 be deferred to a later point in the Meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Noted That *Councillor J Moody joined the Meeting during the consideration of this item.

272. GENERAL FINANCE

- a) Schedule of Payments

The Council received and considered a copy of the monthly accounts as at 31st January, 2021 (Appendix 3) as listed on the Council Website;

- b) Budget Monitoring Report

The Council received and considered a copy of the Budget Monitoring Report (Appendix 4) as at 31st January, 2021.

273. DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT & LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Council considered the following: -

- a) Development Management & Licensing Committee - Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th February, 2021 (Minute No's 234 - 242 inclusive) (Appendix 5);
- b) Development Management & Licensing Committee - Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th March, 2021 (Minute No's 258 - 266 inclusive) (Appendix 6);

RESOLVED THAT subject to the following changes and additions to the Minutes of the Meeting of 8th March 2021, the recommendations included in the foregoing reports of the Committee be approved and adopted:-

Regarding Minute No. 265b(ii) - Planning Application 4257/21/OPA – Outline Application with all matters reserved for erection of 10 dwellings at SX4918 7541 Old Exeter Road, Tavistock;

Objections;

c – to now read 'There appears to be the potential for significant harm to a nearby 'statutory' monument (The Trendle) where there may be significant findings under the site, which are as yet unknown (Section 16 NPPF)' and add;

'd - Lack of safe pedestrian access to the site;

e - Whilst there was a cycle path nearby, this was not easily accessible due to it being on the old railway line some distance away from the site'

Noted That

- i) A communication provided by the Transition Tavistock Active Transport Group had not been circulated to all members of the Development Management & Licensing Committee.
- ii) Councillor J Moody Declared an Interest in the above Planning Application, by virtue of being a West Devon Borough Council Member for the Ward where the proposed development would be sited.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The following items had been circulated for information only: -

274. SERVICE REPORTS

The Council received and noted the reports of the General Manager, Town Hall/Butchers' Hall & Works Dep't, and the Pannier Market (Appendices 7 – 9 refer).

275. FINANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

The Council received, for information, the following: -

- a) Report of the Assistant to the Town Clerk (Appendix 10);
Noted That attention was drawn to the rescheduled proposed date for the Civic Ball of Friday 24th September, 2021.
- b) Town Hall & Markets Consultative Group Meeting
Notes of the Meeting of the Town Hall & Markets Consultative Group held on 24th February, 2021 (Appendix 11);
Noted That a verbal update was provided regarding the re-opening of the town centre, once pandemic lockdown restrictions had been eased and partnership working with other stakeholders.
- c) The Report of County Councillor (Mrs D Sellis) was received, particular reference being made to the education information contained therein (Appendix 12).
Noted That:
- Members were advised to forward any questions for the Devon County Council event, planned for 22nd March, 2021, by the deadline of 12 noon on Thursday 18th March, 2021;
 - Reference was made to funding Devon County Council was making available for street furniture across the County, and eligibility for funding.
- d) Tavistock BID Company – Minutes of the Meetings held on 2nd December, 2020 and 21st January, 2021 (Appendix 13)
- e) Project Update:
- i. Tavistock Townscape Heritage Initiative Scheme (THI) – it was reported that the completion of the public realm works had been delayed due to recent weather conditions, which had affected the laying of the resin and granite pavers. Reference was also made to the recently installed bollards, which had been installed as a public safety measure;
 - ii. Guildhall Gateway Centre Project – circumstances were unchanged.
- f) Updates
- i. From Representatives on outside bodies
 - Kingdon House – it was confirmed that whilst the property was currently closed, it was hoped it would re-open soon. Whilst closed, the refurbishment of the

toilets had been undertaken, reference was also made to the significance of Government support;

- Tavistock Community Football Association – it was hoped football would re-start shortly with preparatory works undertaken. Appreciation was expressed to a Councillor for work in that connection and other activities improving the street scene.
- Slow Ways Initiative – it was reported Tavistock Ramblers had registered for the Scheme, and that the Slow Ways organisation would be happy to provide literature to help publicise the Initiative;
- West Devon Safe Havens – it was reported that whilst there were currently 3 families being helped in the area, one was shortly due to move away;
- Tavistock Lions Club – reference was made to an article due to appear in the local press later in the week, regarding the Lions Club’s plans for an ‘alternative’ Carnival, over the weekend of 17th/18th July 2021, including an event planned to take place in The Meadows;
- West Devon Borough Councillor Report - Councillor Moody provided an oral update on the work of the Borough Council, a written note having been circulated earlier in the day;
- Feedback on Attendance at Training Sessions – Devon Carbon Plan webinars – a Member reported on attendance.

i.

276. COMMUNICATIONS OR REPORTS AS MAY BE SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR

- a) The Mayor reminded Members of the upcoming Devon County Council Briefing, scheduled for Monday 22nd March 2021, at 5pm. All Members were encouraged to attend, and to submit their questions to the Assistant to the Town Clerk, no later than 12 noon on Thursday 18th March, 2021;
- b) Western Power – following several electricity outages in the town over the previous 2 weeks it was reported that Western Power were working hard to ensure these did not continue. Members, who might be aware of vulnerable people in the town, were encouraged to advise them to register with

their provider in order that help was available when such outages occurred.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

277. 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.

The Meeting then temporarily adjourned at 6.05pm.

The Meeting reconvened at 6.15pm attendance by Councillors and authorised Officers at the Confidential reconvened part of the Meeting was accessed via Zoom.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A Johnson (Mayor)

Councillor A Hutton (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors Ms L Crawford, J Ellis, Mrs M Ewings, A Fey, A Lewis, 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

DECLARATION On entering the Confidential section - each Councillor present was asked to declare to the Mayor that there were no other persons present, nor would be present, who were not entitled to be (hearing or seeing), and/or recording the Meeting. All Members made a positive Declaration.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

278. 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 252 - 257 inclusive of the Meeting (Appendix 2 refers) of the Budget & Policy Committee held on Tuesday 23rd February, 2021 the recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT the recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Committee (Minute No's 252 - 257 refer) be approved and adopted.

Noted That reference was made to;

- the basis for the tendering process for Council Insurance on this occasion (Minute No. 253 refers);
- why no amendment was required to the Council's Complaints Policy at this time (Minute No. 254 refers) albeit it was agreed that a reference to the new separate process in connection with commercial premises could be included when the Complaints Policy was next reviewed.

279. PROPERTY, LEGAL, STAFFING AND FINANCE MATTERS

(**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)

i. DEBTORS

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

Noted That the report also included an update outlining the position of those commercial tenants who had taken advantage of the Council's COVID Deferred Rent Scheme, with a further verbal update being provided at the Meeting.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

280. PROPERTY, LEGAL AND FINANCE MATTERS

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- a) Legal updates – there were no new updates to report.
- b) Following a query regarding the possibility of the continuation of remote Meetings, after the current expiry of temporary legislation on 7th May 2021 an oral update on the current situation was provided.

Noted That at the close of the Meeting there was a general discussion in connection with the re-opening of the town centre, partnership working, public health and related matters.

The Press and Public were re-admitted to the Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed:

Dated:
CHAIRMAN