

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE** held on **Tuesday 5th October, 2021** at 5.30pm at the **BUTCHERS' HALL, TAVISTOCK**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs U Mann (Vice Chairman & Deputy Mayor – in the Chair)

Councillor A Hutton (Mayor)

Councillor Mrs A Johnson (Immediate Past Mayor)

Councillors J Ellis, Mrs M Ewings, Mrs G Parker

Ward Members – Councillors B Smith, P Squire (Observers)

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

180. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor H Smith.

181. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT The Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee held on Tuesday 31st August, 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Appendix 1).

182. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made;

- Councillor Mrs M Ewings – in respect of Agenda Item 5 (Devon Air Ambulance Trust) by virtue of membership of Tavistock Football Club;
- Councillor A Hutton – in respect of Agenda Item 4 (Tavistock Tennis Club) by virtue of membership of the Club.

ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

183. TAVISTOCK TENNIS CLUB – REQUEST FOR PRACTICE BOARD

The Committee received an oral update from those Councillors who had previously attended the demonstration provided in connection with the above.

Particular reference was made to the extended period it had taken for the matter to be resolved, also that whilst excessive noise from the

usage of the board was not detected during the junior demonstration the possibility that senior use could cause more noise was acknowledged. As such any consent, if granted, should be subject to review should material issues arise.

RECOMMENDED THAT Tavistock Town Council accede to the request for the Practice Board to be installed, but on the basis that:

- a) should material complaints be received with regard to noise levels resulting from usage of the board the permission be reviewed;
- b) any such review to take place at the end of Summer 2022, in order that a representative period would have elapsed.

Noted that Councillor A Hutton declared an interest in the above matter and left the Meeting during consideration thereof.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

184. DEVON AIR AMBULANCE TRUST (DAAT)

The Committee received the Report of the Town Clerk in connection with a request for assistance from DAAT, for a night landing (dusk til 2.00am) site to be provided in Tavistock (Appendix 2).

It had previously been identified that the prospective site at Tavistock Football Club would meet the requirements of such a facility, due to its existing floodlights and onsite parking for emergency vehicles. Consequently, and following consultation with the Committee, the Clerk had entered into the necessary arrangements so as to expedite the provision of the service on the basis as set out in the report.

185. GOOSE FAIR 2022

The Committee received the Report of the Town Hall & Events Manager in connection with proposals to support and develop arrangements for the Tavistock Goose Fair 2022 (Appendix 3) and beyond.

The emerging direction of travel was welcomed and further reports would be brought both to the Committee, and the stakeholder forum (Goose Fair Consultative Group) which included representatives from organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Borough Council, Business Improvement District and Showmen amongst others.

186. GUILDHALL GATEWAY CENTRE – PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received and noted an oral update from the General Manager, in connection with the progress on the Guildhall Gateway Centre with particular reference to:

- practical completion had been achieved on the main build, with outstanding tasks to be completed over the next 6-8 weeks;
- the Interpretation Centre fit-out would be substantively completed by the end of week commencing 4th October, 2021;
- prior to opening pre-booked tours would be undertaken at designated times during November 2021;
- the audio/visual fit-out would start on 11th October, 2021 and would take 2-3 weeks to complete;
- a 'soft' opening was planned to take place in early December, 2021, with a provisional opening date of Saturday 4th December which would be a 'ticket-only' event with due regard to the health situation.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

187. 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 FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL.

188. WORKS DEPARTMENT

(**CONFIDENTIAL** by virtue of relating to matters of a legal, financial, staffing or contractual nature affecting persons other than the Council)
The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Appendix 4) in connection with the above.

During the ensuing discussion particular reference was made, in addition to those matters set out in the report, to;

- the cost savings which the Council had achieved over the previous year by not recruiting into vacant staff posts in order to make savings essential to addressing the shortfall arising from the pandemic;
- the consequential impacts on those staff required to pick up multiple roles/responsibilities;
- the specific circumstances of the case at hand, material and non-material factors in coming to a view, and related independent guidance.

RECOMMENDED THAT in accordance with fair employment practice the recommendations as set out in Paragraph 4.1 a-d of the Report be endorsed and adopted.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

189. PROPERTY MATTERS

(**CONFIDENTIAL** by virtue of relating to matters of a legal, financial, staffing or contractual nature affecting persons other than the Council)
The Committee received an oral update in connection with the outcome of preliminary inspection works to the Market Road/River Tavy boundary wall and surrounding area.

The Meeting closed at 7.10pm

Signed:

Dated:
CHAIRMAN