

MINUTES of the Meeting of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held on **TUESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER, 2025 at 6.30pm** at **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, DRAKE ROAD, TAVISTOCK**

PRESENT Councillor Mrs A Johnson (Deputy Mayor) – in the Chair

Councillors R Edlmann, A Hutton, Mrs J Hughes, A Lewis*, N Martin, Mrs B Moody, J Moody, T Munro, G Parker, R Poppe, B Smith, A Venning, P Ward, Ms S Wood.

*left the Meeting early.

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

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting, Members received at:

6.00pm – an informal presentation from Mr Guy Ayling, Principal and Headmaster of Mount Kelly College, with regard to recent impacts on, and future plans for the College; and at

6.25pm - a few moments of Quiet Reflection led by Reverend Judith Blowey from St Eustachius' Church, Tavistock.

The Deputy Mayor also took the opportunity to welcome new Town Councillor, Ms Sara Wood, to the Council, representing the North Ward.

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

141. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Absence had been received from Councillors Ms M Ewings and S Hipsey (Mayor).

142. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declaration of Interest was made at this point in the Meeting: Councillor A Hutton in respect of Budget & Policy Committee Minute No. 129 (Molly Owen Centre 'House'/Centre & Related Matters) by virtue of his involvement with Tavi Helps.

Councillor Hutton undertook to leave the Meeting whilst matters relating to Tavi Helps were discussed, but indicated he would remain in the Meeting whilst general/unrelated matters relating to the Molly Owen Centre were discussed.

N.B. Please see Minute No. 151 below, in relation to a Declaration of Interest made by Councillor G Parker, later in the Meeting.

143. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

a) RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Tavistock Town Council held on Tuesday 29th July, 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Appendix 1).

144. PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS & QUESTIONS

None received.

ITEMS REQUIRING A DECISION

145. GENERAL FINANCE

The Council considered the following:-

a) Schedule of Payments

The Council received and considered a copy of the monthly accounts as at 31st July, 2025 as listed on the Council website (Appendix 2);

b) Budget Monitoring Report

The Council received and considered a copy of the Budget Monitoring Report (Appendix 3) as at 31st July, 2025.

146. BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE

The Council considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee (Appendix 4) held on Tuesday 2nd September, 2025, the recommendations being reported by rote.

RESOLVED THAT subject to consideration of Minute Nos. 129-131 being deferred to a later point in the Meeting, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the Recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Budget and Policy Committee (Minute No's 121 - 128 refer) be approved and adopted.

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

The Council considered the following: -

i) Development Management & Licensing Committee - Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26th August, 2025 (Appendix 5) (Minute No's 112 - 120 inclusive) the recommendations being reported by rote:

RESOLVED THAT the Recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Development Management & Licensing Committee be approved and adopted.

- ii) Development Management & Licensing Committee - Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15th September, 2025 (Appendix 6) (Minute No's 132 - 140 inclusive) the recommendations being reported by rote:

Minute No. 133 – a discussion ensued following consideration of the foregoing, with particular reference being made to:

- the number of new homes anticipated to be built in Tavistock;
- that the Local Planning Authority did not currently have a 5-year land supply, and that the decision had been made for the recently adopted Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to not include settlement boundaries or site allocations;
- whether or not the Town Council should meet informally to discuss potential housing challenges arising, and the benefits or otherwise of holding such a meeting;
- the importance attached to ensuring that, in view of the extensive and detailed consideration given to housing issues (both by the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group and Council), prior to any material decisions being made the views of both the Local Planning Authority, and the Planning Consultant who had been retained by the Council should be sought together with representatives of the former NDP Steering Group;
- in general terms (certain housing policies apart) the adopted Joint Local plan continued to be relevant and in force;
- significant public consultation had been undertaken prior to the NDP being adopted which should be recognised and respected.

RESOLVED THAT the Recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Development Management & Licensing Committee be approved and adopted.

Noted That:-

- there was an informal view that an item might appropriately be added to the Development Management & Licensing (DM&L) Committee Agenda for the Meeting scheduled on Monday 6th October 2025, to discuss the merits of any potential informal meeting on the topic; and

- the Vice Chairman of the DM&L Committee undertook to provide a note setting out observations for submission to the DM&L Committee Meeting should it wish to consider the matter.

ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

148. SERVICE REPORTS

The Council received, for information, the Reports of the General Manager and the Managers of the Pannier Market, Works Department and Town Hall & Butchers' Hall (Appendices 7 –10 refer).

- General Manager Report (Appendix 7);
- Pannier Market Report (Appendix 8);
- Works Department (Appendix 9);
- Town Hall & Butchers' Hall Report (Appendix 10).

149. FINANCE & OTHER MATTERS

The Council received, for information, the following: -

- Report of the Assistant to the Town Clerk (Appendix 11)

Noted That: Members were:

- requested to respond to the various invitations they received, by the deadlines given; and
 - reminded that there was still availability on the various training courses listed within the Report, should they wish to be booked on them.
- the Report as provided by Councillor A Bridgewater of West Devon Borough Council (Appendix 12);
 - The Notes of the Heritage Alliance Group Meeting held on 15th July, 2025 (Appendix 13)

Noted That – reference was made to;

- the Heritage Open Days which were currently taking place;
 - that 35 separate events were being delivered up until Sunday 21st September;
 - that the new Chairman of Tavistock Heritage Trust was leading the initiative.
- The Notes of the Town Hall & Markets Consultative Group Meeting held on 9th September, 2025 (Appendix 14)
 - The following Member update or feedback was brought forward:
 - Representatives on outside bodies:
 - Kingdon House – it was reported that:
 - there had been a change in personnel;

- a maintenance programme was being progressed;
- future branding was being considered.
- Tavi Rail – it was reported that:
 - there was no official update available on the current situation with regard to a new rail link;
 - the meeting which had been scheduled for Friday 19th September had been postponed;
 - a meeting was being planned at Westminster to lobby for the new rail link.
- ii. Feedback from Members following attendance at any training sessions:
 - A Member reported recent attendance at a Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC) virtual meeting with regard to Local Government Reorganisation provided by the Town Clerk of Tavistock Town Council. The Member had found the meeting informative and encouraged other Members to view the presentation online, via the DALC website devonalc.org.uk/training-and-events/connectevents/

Noted That – appreciation was expressed to the Town Clerk for the presentation which had been well received.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

150. 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

151. BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE CONTINUED

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

The Council received and considered Minute Nos. 129 - 131 of the Meeting of the Budget & Policy Committee (Appendix 4 refers) held on Tuesday 2nd September, 2025, each recommendation being taken in turn.

Minute No. 129e) – Molly Owen 'House'/Centre & Related Matters

Councillor G Parker Declared an Interest in the above item by virtue of his involvement with the organisation running a Food Hub from the premises. Councillors A Hutton and G Parker left the Meeting whilst Minute No. 129e) was considered.

Noted That –

A query was raised regarding insurance liability would fall if any of the organisation's electrical items caught fire and damaged the property.

Officers undertook to check with the Council's insurers

Minute No. 130a) -Tavistock Museum

In response to a query it was anticipated completion of the Museum Lease should take place shortly.

Minute No. 131 – Multi-Use Wheeled Sports Area

An oral update was provided by the General Manager regarding:

- the current situation regarding the project, with particular reference being made to potential/projected grant funding shortfalls, the current funding available, as well as the potential for crowd and grant funding, together with the available S106 funds;
- that this matter would be considered during the upcoming budget setting period, in addition to the previously reported projects which would also require Council funding.

*Noted That: Councillor A Lewis left the Meeting during consideration of the above item.

RESOLVED THAT the Recommendations included in the foregoing report of the Budget and Policy Committee be approved and adopted.

152. PROPERTY, LEGAL & FINANCE MATTERS

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i. DEBTORS' REPORT

The Council considered and noted a list (Appendix 15) of all those with debts to the Council dating from earlier than the last Quarter Day and received updates accordingly.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION ONLY

153. PROPERTY, LEGAL & FINANCE MATTERS

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i. LANDLORD & TENANT MATTERS

No updates were brought forward.

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

The Meeting closed at 7.58pm.

Signed:

Dated:
CHAIRMAN