

**TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2018**

**Minutes**

The Annual General Meeting of the Totnes & District Society took place on Thursday 18 October 2018 at 7:00PM at Totnes Cinema, Totnes, TQ9 5NP. 33 members were present together with 13 guests.

The meeting was opened by the chairman, Paul Bennett.

1. Apologies

Isabel Carlisle, Charles & Julia Fox, Mary Coughlan-Clarke, John&Zellie Cole.

2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM and matters arising

The minutes of the annual general meeting held on Thursday 19 October 2017 were approved. There were no matters arising.

3. Annual Report of the Chair (Paul Bennett)

a. The Chairman thanked members for attending and their input and emphasised the importance of having a substantial membership as that is what underpinned the work of the Society. He encouraged members to encourage others to join.

b. As a local conservation society, the work of Totsoc is hampered by a lack of local, democratic control of planning decisions affecting Totnes. Planning decisions are taken by those with little knowledge of Totnes and there is a lack of understanding of the respective roles of the Town Council, the District Council and the County Council.

c. The Chairman expressed a personal view that the town and democracy would be better served by the abolition of the district council and the transfer of its local powers such as planning transferred to a revitalised town council.

d. The Chairman thanks the members of the executive committee for their work and contribution during the year.

4. Hon. Treasurer's Report (Jeremy Logie)

The Hon. Treasurer presented his annual report that had been distributed to those attending. He noted that membership was similar to last year but the income was more due to the successful quiz night that raised £240. Expenses were almost unchanged.

At the year-end, the Society had a cash balance of £18,508.30 of which £14,473.63 was cash held on behalf of the Baltic Wharf Public Realm Art Fund. The Society's own funds at the year-end were £4,034.67.

The accounts were APPROVED unanimously.

The Hon Treasurer noted the assistance of Nigel Kelland as Independent Examiner and requested that a vote of thanks be recorded.

5. Planning Officer (Kate Wilson)

The Planning Officer reported:

- a. That the Society made representations on all major and contentious planning applications.
- b. She thanked those members who had asked the committee to look at particular applications and encouraged more members to respond.
- c. The Independent Inspectors of the Joint Local Plan have completed the hearing sessions and are consulting on details.

6. Election of Officers and Members to the Committee\*

The Chair asked the President (Judy Westacott) to take the chair. Paul Bennett was proposed and seconded for the office of Chair and was duly re-elected on a show of hands.

The Chair proposed and was seconded that all the current elected officers and members of the Executive Committee be re-elected and this was agreed on a show of hands.

The President, Officers and Executive Committee members as of 18 October 2018 are:

President	Judy Westacott
Officers	Paul Bennett Chair
	Tom King Secretary
	Jeremy Logie Hon.Treasurer and Membership Secretary
	Kate Wilson Planning Officer

Executive Committee Members

Sue Bennett  
Jim Carfrae  
John Keleher  
Dave Mitchell  
Anne Ward

7. Any Other Business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:15pm.

The AGM was followed by a photographic presentation by Barrington Weekes from the Totnes Image Bank on 'The High Street'.