

**RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 1st June 2015 AT
ORCHARD CORNER**

Present: Judy Westacott, Sue & Paul Bennett, Jim Carfrae, John Keleher, Dave Mitchell, Kate Wilson, Anne Ward.

1. APOLOGIES: Jeremy Logie

2. THE MINUTES of the meeting of 30th March 2015 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair (JW).

3. MATTERS ARISING: None that would not be dealt with under standing items below.

4. REPORTS

4.1. CHAIR (JW): JW is now a member of the Planning and Place, Operations, and Personnel Committees of the Town Council.

The Mansion: There will be a further meeting of the Steering Group to consider the transfer of the building from DCC to local control. DCC had offered £10,000 towards the cost of repair works but the report commissioned by the Steering Group stated that necessary work would cost in the region of £500,000. The Totnes Community Development Society (responsible for the Atmos project) has expressed an interest in administering The Mansion but clearly this can only be done on the basis of it being financially viable.

Totnes Heritage Partnership: This is being promoted by the Town Council as a body to look at the town's heritage assets to assess how best these can be managed and to coordinate a bid for funding to the Heritage Lottery under the Townscape Heritage Initiative.

4.2. SECRETARY (PB): ASHTAV: Subscription of £25 now due; it was agreed to continue our membership.

PB expressed concern that following the outcome of the general election the previous government's planning policies which had so adversely affected areas like the South Hams would now continue. It was agreed that he would draft a note in conjunction with the planning group to Dr. Sarah Wollaston MP. He would seek support from the South Hams Society assuming its members felt similarly.

ACTION PB

4.3 TREASURER: (JL). No report. A separate note will be attached to these minutes on JL's return.

4.4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (JL): as for 4.3.

4.5. PLANNING: (KW). KW stated that Totsoc should become more involved in the problems confronting the Dartington Hall Trust. The annual deficit running at £1m. cannot be sustained and the Trustees therefore wish to create an endowment fund the income from which would offset this annual loss. There are several ways in which this might be achieved but the most straightforward one would involve the sale of various sites for commercial development which on the scale required would be met with considerable opposition from Dartington residents. Other proposals include an eco-village, re-development of the “Shops at Dartington” (which are loss making) and the Abundant Life scheme; as far as the latter is concerned this will provide no additional income for the Trust for a period of some thirty years. Foxhole where the scheme is to be sited is in a poor state and as a Grade 1 and Grade II* listed building presents considerable problems for its re-development. KW believes that Totsoc should provide a forum for discussion. This was agreed and KW to take forward. **ACTION KW**

4.6. PUBLIC ART & DESIGN SUB-GROUP: Baltic Wharf: AW reported on the meeting with Johanna Vakkari from the Finnish Institute which had been successful and it is hoped that an artists’ residency can be set up next year. The first phase if the children’s play area is now to go ahead and AW will circulate details of the proposals to the committee and place them on the Totsoc website. **ACTION AW**

5. EXTERNAL BODIES:

Local Authorities: Town Council. JW reported on various appointments including Jacqi Hodgson as Mayor for a further year. Rosie Adams takes over as Chair of the Planning and Place Committee and Tony Whitty is a member.

SHDC. Following the recent elections Cllr. Tucker continues as Leader of the Council with Cllr. Lindsey Ward as the new Deputy and lead for younger people.

T&TF: No report.

6. Winsland House: DM reported on the meetings which he had attended relating to the owners of this property discussing the possibility of development within its grounds. The land lies outside the present development boundary and was regarded by SHDC as having “severe constraints”. However because of present government planning policy the site is at risk. A further meeting is to be held on 3 June which DM cannot attend. KW/JC agreed to be there. A decision afterwards will be taken by the planning group as to whether to hold a Totsoc Forum meeting to widen discussion. **ACTION KW/PB**

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS : Dartington NP. KW referred to the difficulties posed by Dartington Hall on the one hand needing to maximize the value of its land against the wishes of residents on the other to limit development. Some had proposed that no sites of greater than ten units should be permitted but the consequence of that would be no affordable housing at all in view of the recent relaxation in the requirements to provide such housing. There is to be an open

meeting on 20 June in the Parish Hall looking at housing. Consideration was being given to an Open Space Strategy also a Design Strategy.

Totnes NP. PB reported that the evidence gathering would continue during the summer making use of students from Plymouth University and that a public event would be held on 18th July. The various task groups had been meeting and the input of the students would be helpful to them. It was intended to start work on the plan preparation itself in the Autumn.

8. AGM arrangements: JK has spoken further with Barry Weekes and he is happy to do an Image Bank presentation at the AGM which will be centred around Fore Street, High Street and the Narrows. He would prefer for the meeting to be held at the Seven Stars subject to cost. JW said that the Stars sometimes allowed use of the Ballroom for charities at no cost. She would approach the Stars to find out whether they would be prepared to do so for Totsoc or otherwise what the charge would be. **ACTION JW**

9. CONTACT. DM said that the next edition would be due out in early October before the AGM and he will therefore need articles by early September.

10. Coronation Road Roundabout – change of direction arrows: Tony Whitty (Town Councillor and Totsoc member) asked the Committee to give support to the proposal to change the direction arrows as follows: Left lane straight on and left turn, right lane right turn only. The Committee agreed to support the proposal and that PB should contact members to give them the opportunity to express a view. **ACTION PB**

11. AOB. AW referred to murals in the Civic Hall which were not being properly cared for. AW to discuss further with JW who would seek to ensure that appropriate action was taken. **ACTION AW/JW**

AW reported on initial survey, which she had instigated relating to the proliferation of redundant signs within the town which had become an eyesore. This work is continuing.

JK (with Barry Weekes) had been continuing his survey on the increase in fly-posting which is disfiguring the town and giving a bad impression to those visiting. Further work is being undertaken but it is proving difficult to establish where the responsibility lies for dealing with this problem.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 27 July 2pm at ORCHARD CORNER

Sue Bennett