

**RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2013
AT ORCHARD CORNER**

Present: Paul & Sue Bennett, John Keleher, Jeremy Logie, Dave Mitchell, Anne Ward, Kate Wilson

1. APOLOGIES: Jim Carfrae, Judy Westacott.

2. THE MINUTES of the meeting of 20th May 2013 were accepted as a true record (save for a correction to para. 4.7 "October" should read "July) and signed by the Acting Chair (PB).

3. MATTERS ARISING: none that would not be dealt with under later agenda items.

4. REPORTS

4.1. CHAIR (PB Acting Chair): In the absence of JW unfortunately indisposed, there was none.

4.2. SECRETARY: PB had received the South Hams Society bulletin which was handed to KW to be passed on to AW.

Ed Vidler had asked if books published by the Totnes Development Trust on Heritage Ceilings and Baltic Wharf could be sold at the Totsoc AGM. Agreed subject to EV being able to find someone to deal with the sale.

4.3 TREASURER JL: It had been agreed at the last meeting that a Totsoc member should be asked to audit/examine the accounts. This has been done by Nigel Kelland. The sale of Santander shares (approved at the last meeting) was taking some time. JL was keen to collect gift aid from members' subscriptions to augment TotSoc income. He had designed a gift aid form (tabled) which was approved. JL will bring copies of the gift aid form to the AGM and members present who are taxpayers will be encouraged to sign a form. The cost for printing the Grove School leaflet was £399 offset by £300 received from the Mitchell Trust and £30 from Grove School, leaving a net cost of £59 to TotSoc.

4.4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY JL: Has received an Excel file from Lionel Harper with a list of members and addresses.

4.5. PLANNING: KW reported that on the DCC proposals for Rushbrook she had not been able to obtain any further information and that it appeared to be in abeyance at the moment.

Sawmill Field, Webbers Yard and Higher Tweed Mill Dartington. Applications had been submitted for these sites following consultation and a masterplan exercise by the Dartington Hall Estate. KW had been in discussion with H&BEF members in Dartington and felt at this stage no comment from Totsoc was needed.

Although the sites fell substantially within the DPD allocation the applications were not strictly compliant as it was proposed to use part of the site allocated as employment land for residential purposes also part of the site extends slightly beyond the development boundary. Dartington Parish Council has broadly supported the proposals with reservations. KW had received information from a Dartington resident regarding proposals for a neighbourhood plan affecting the area.

Out-of-town retail proposals. The Chamber of Commerce has circulated a note regarding pre-application proposals for 1,500 m2 of retail development. The whereabouts was not made known but KW speculated that this might be on land adjoining the new Dartington Primary School (presently afflicted by major problems regarding water ingress).

Redlands Bridgetown. Although no application has yet been submitted it would seem that when it is, the proposal will be for “up-market” housing with an offsite financial contribution in place of affordable on site housing.

Stoke Gabriel. Gabriel Court Hotel. It had been decided to support the objection made by a Totsoc member resident in the village against the proposal to demolish an old cottage within the conservation area. Taking a pragmatic approach it is not possible in many cases for the planning sub-group members to make site visits to outlying areas of the District and therefore we shall be seeking help from members in those areas to give advice on controversial applications lying within their own parishes.

Draft National Planning Practice Guidance: KW is considering this; PB stated that this had received some favourable comment from professional planners.

Up-coming Local Development Plan: KW will arrange for the planning sub-group to meet and discuss our approach to this. The Housing Needs Assessment (a key document in shaping the new plan) due to be published in August is apparently not yet available. KW will arrange for the planning sub group to walk over the north west area of the town covering KEVICC and the surrounding area including the Dairy Crest site. **ACTION KW**

4.6. PUBLIC ART & DESIGN SUB-GROUP (AW): The question had been raised by Suzanne Heath (arts project manager for Baltic Wharf) regarding the appointment of a not-for-profit-charitable organisation to act as an ‘accountable body’ to receive grants or other donations which could only be made to such an organisation. The meeting agreed “in principle” for Totsoc to act in this capacity subject to further discussion as to what might be involved. **ACTION AW/PB**

4.7 HOUSING AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT FORUM: (KW/PB) The meeting scheduled for 18 September has been cancelled as Simon Cronk wishes to postpone discussing Dartington Hall’s likely proposals for its land holdings in relation to the Local Development plan pending further internal discussions. It will now be re-scheduled for November. **ACTION KW**

5. EXTERNAL BODIES:

Local Authorities: none.

Town Council: none.

T&TF: none.

PSF: none.

South Hams Forum: none

6. CONTACT (DM): Current copies printed and committee members will help PB & SB with deliveries. Others further afield will be posted. PB has emailed members asking if they would be prepared to receive Contact by email which would save on costs.

7. AGM. PB to ask the speaker what equipment he will need at the hall and otherwise make arrangements for the evening. **ACTION PB.**

8. AOB: JK is producing a fact sheet of useful statistics on Totnes and the surrounding areas to circulate amongst members. **ACTION JK.**

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

MONDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2.15 p.m. ORCHARD CORNER.

SUE BENNETT 0110.2013