

TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Monday 23 January 2017 at 2:15pm

Place: Orchard Corner, Kingsbridge Hill, Totnes

Present:

Paul Bennett (Chair)	P	Jeremy Logie	A
Sue Bennett	A	Dave Mitchell	P
Jim Carfrae	P	Anne Ward	P
Tom King	P	Judy Westacott (President)	P
John Keleher	P	Kate Wilson	A

P = Present. A=Apologies

1. Apologies – see above
2. Minutes
 - a. Previous minutes - the minutes of the meeting on 23 November 2016 were approved. PB will print off, sign and place in minute book.
 - b. Matters arising – (4.1) Representation on AONB. JW noted that it met 3-4 times a year. Totsoc representative to attend remains outstanding.
3. Reports:
 - a. Chair

A paper on the proposals of the St. Mary's Partnership was circulated prior to the meeting. The Committee recognised this as an important project. JW agreed to be the Totsoc representative.
 - b. Secretary

TK working on reconciling the various lists of members. Agreed to suggestion that he and PB meet JL to resolve all issues on membership/subscriptions. JC will forward the label list to TK.
 - c. Treasurer
 - i. The Committee noted the brief email sent by JL.
 - ii. DM will send JL an invoice for £24.96 for the website.
 - d. Membership Secretary – as 3(c)i above.
 - e. Planning Officer
 - i. PB reported that the Linden Homes application for 8 houses on the access road leading to the new Riverside development and to

which the Society had raised objections (see minutes of previous meeting) has been refused by the District Council.

- ii. JC reported on the Transition Homes CLT scheme at Clay Lane. A planning decision is expected soon, and will provide 27 (mostly) affordable dwellings.
 - iii. JC reported on the Plantation. This is the Dartington Trust self build scheme. This is in early stages, and has yet to go to planning. There are issues over solar orientation. The scheme will be 50% affordable.
- f. PA&DF
- i. Baltic Wharf – AW circulated details of the proposed external seating. It has been designed by Raw Edges, a London based design practice and would be constructed of timber and/or fibreglass. The project has funding but siting of the seats had still to be agreed. The design team favoured the open space adjacent to the play area but Bloor (the developer) wanted then in the ‘streets’. It was noted that the latter were very narrow. The seating is provisionally due to be in place by June this year. AW will circulate further details including the concept design after the meeting.
- g. Totsoc Forum – Nothing to report

4. Reports:

- a. External Bodies – Nothing to report
- b. Local Authorities
 - i. Totnes Town Council – JW reported on the difficulties facing the council. The Mayor has taken two weeks leave and the town clerk has resigned. This comes at the time that the council should be setting its precept for 2017/18. There are a number of larger funding bids being considered. These include the Neighbourhood Plan, Mayor’s Art Project, A ‘signposting service’ for local services and funding for a tourist information service.
 - ii. SHDC - JW reported that the council would not now be transferring its activities into a service company.
- c. T&TF – Reviewing its plans to feed into the Neighbourhood Plan.

5. Neighbourhood Plans (PB)

- a. Totnes NP: Two meetings with SHDC Strategic Planners have now taken place to discuss the positioning of the NP in relation to the Joint Local Plan (JLP) covering Plymouth, South Hams and South West Devon. The JLP is intended to be “high Level” and “Strategic” and thus leave the more detailed proposals and policies to be formulated within the NP.

The vexed problem of the Central Area with an original housing allocation of 70 dwellings has now been resolved with the District Council agreeing that no figure should be attached to it. This will leave it to the NP where any proposals will be the subject of a community led master-planning exercise. The whole area is within the ownership of the District Council which would be involved in this. The JLP draft plan will be published in early March and an initial draft of the NP should be available shortly afterwards.

- b. Dartington NP: KW (via PB). A character assessment of possible sites would shortly be completed. Some surveys remain to be completed, as does a traffic assessment. A list of consultations as supporting evidence of policy proposals is being prepared.

6. Matters raised by members

- a. Michael Heather

Mr Heather's email was circulated prior to the meeting. He raised concerns regarding the decline in number of market stallholders, promoting non-polluting delivery vehicles and possible closure/future use of the Budgens store. The Committee concluded that none of the issues were within its remit but as Mr Heather had shown considerable interest in Totsoc since joining, PB and TK would arrange to meet him to explain the role of Totsoc.

- b. Tom King

A letter from SHDC was circulated prior to the meeting. TK raised a concern regarding Listed Building enforcement. He cited a recent example of a carport constructed on a listed building that after several years of seemingly half hearted enforcement action, SHDC had given up. It was agreed that TK would draft a letter for PB to send to Richard Gage (Conservation Officer) seeking clarification of the process and criteria that the council applies in such cases.

- c. John Keleher

A paper from JK was circulated prior to the meeting. JK presented his views on the geographic extent of 'the Totnes District' and whether Totsoc should widen its remit. It was noted that some of the areas mentioned in discussion were already covered by other civic societies. However the specific idea of seeking volunteers in neighbouring parishes to research their war memorials (in whatever form) so that something could be written up by next year (the centenary of the ending of WW1) was agreed.

7. Contact

- a. DM confirmed that the next edition of Contact would be published in April. He would be seeking contributions by the end of March. PB will provide a contribution on the JLP and JC on the Transition town site. JW may also provide a contribution.

8. AOB
 - a. PB reported that KW had taken up a position as clerk to Dartington Parish Council.
 - b. There was some discussion as to the value of the Facebook page.
 - c. DM had met with KW to discuss changes to the website and the use of Wordpress software.

9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 29 March 2017 at 14:15 at Orchard Corner.