

**RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 23rd November 2016 AT
ORCHARD CORNER**

Present: Judy Westacott, Sue & Paul Bennett, Jim Carfrae, Tom King, Jeremy Logie, Dave Mitchell, Anne Ward

1. APOLOGIES: John Keleher, Kate Wilson.

PB welcomed Tom King to the meeting as our new Secretary.

2. THE MINUTES of the meeting of 21st September 2016 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair (PB).

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

4.1. CHAIR (PB): He referred to the South Hams Society that was contemplating disbanding because of lack of members coming forward to join the committee. TOTSOC had always enjoyed a good relationship with the SHS and joined forces several times in making representations on planning matters. A meeting is scheduled and looks as though the SHS will be able to continue.

PB also referred to the AONB on which TOTSOC currently had no representation. It was agreed that PB should contact members and ask for a volunteer to take on this important role. **ACTION PB.**

4.2. SECRETARY (TK): No report in view of his recent appointment.

4.3. TREASURER: (JL): There had been little movement on the accounts since these were presented to the AGM. As JW is now President it was agreed that she would cease to be a cheque signatory and that TK should become a signatory along with PB and JL. It is time to submit Totsoc annual return to the Charity Commission.

4.4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Membership numbers during the year had remained much the same with the ones leaving being replaced by new members. JL's decision to increase subscription charges to those members who pay cash has worked very well: at the AGM several members signed standing order instructions and nobody paid cash. He has now receive £440 in subscriptions and will receive £30 in standing orders later this year.

5. PLANNING (PB): The Planning Group had made substantive objections to Linden Homes proposals for eight new housing units on the access road to the current Riverside Development but lying outside the development boundary. In the context of the Joint Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan the application could be judged to be "premature" but more importantly in breaching the present development boundary this could open the floodgates to applications in adjacent fields.

The Group had also attended the exhibition by Baker Estates of its proposals for

Great Court Farm. JC/DM said that these could be a lot worse but did not feel very much like Totnes (e.g. use of thatch). The children's play also needed moving to the middle of the estate rather than being located at the edge.

4.6. PUBLIC ART & DESIGN SUB-GROUP (AW): Baltic Wharf Public Art Programme. Funding arrangements are close to being concluded to enable the "Natural Play Space" project to go ahead in April next year. Further funding might be available from various sources including funds controlled by SHDC and the allocations made to Councillors to spend on good causes. The final drawings for the Baltic Wharf street furniture should be signed off shortly.

4.7. Totsoc Forum: nothing to report.

5. EXTERNAL BODIES:

Local Authorities: Town Council. JW reported on the possibility of working with Caring Town Totnes to provide new facilities for Tourist Information and signposting for other local services. Committee members commented on the poor provision at the present time with virtually none of the information outlets promised functioning properly.

T&TF: No report.

No further reports.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS :

Dartington: (KW by email). KW as co-ordinator has secured a grant from Locality to allow various pieces of work to be reviewed and completed. This includes the Open Space Strategy, a Landscape Assessment and Design Guide/Principles, analysis of the traffic survey results and the business survey results and a review of the NP evidence base. Work on producing a pre-submission draft is underway and there will be a final major consultation exercise to test the assumptions in February 2017. The final consultation stage of the draft Joint Local Plan before it is submitted to an inspector is not expected to be ready until February/ March 2017. There have been additional JLP consultations for villages around the criteria for a sustainable location and for additional sites – in Dartington this includes employment sites at Beacon Park and near Huxham's Cross. Many in Dartington feel that the village is too large and taking a disproportionate amount of development, but the housing numbers are unlikely to change as Dartington comes out as being very sustainable. The employment sites will be supported. Dartington Hall Trust continues to work closely with the NP steering group. Most of the JLP housing sites allocated in the village are DHT owned and

the Trust is working with the NP to agree an approach to housing developments. DHT is also updating the Special Policy Area which will form part of the NP.

Totnes: (PB) The consultation on the Vision & Objectives forming part of the draft Plan has taken place with stalls at several events within the town. On the whole the draft received favourable comment. There is a general emphasis on better pedestrian links in the town, traffic free centre and footbridge from Steamer Quay to Vire island. Much time has been taken up with the furore over the Joint Local Plan's proposal for the Market/Civic Square (T3) where an out-of-date plan included the Leechwell Garden as part of the site for possible housing. A protest group was formed and dealing with this has led to much additional work falling upon the NP Steering Group. Crucially the housing figure of 70 needs to be removed from the Joint Local Plan and the future detailed plans for the area coupled with master-planning should be left for the Neighbourhood Plan. A planning consultant is starting on the drafting of the remainder of the Plan and liaising with SHDC to ensure compatibility with the Joint Local Plan.

7. CONTACT. (DM). The Autumn edition had been published and he now awaited contributions for the Spring edition.

8. A.O.B: A member had requested that the Society raise formally with DCC the impact of the reversal of the Traffic Order resulting in one way traffic being restored to the entirety of the main street. This was agreed and PB instructed to write accordingly (**ACTION PB**). A further request had been made to ascertain whether the Society had any influence regarding the co-ordination of projects being undertaken within the town. Members felt there would be difficulties arising having regard to previous occasions when this had been attempted but not very successfully. PB instructed to respond accordingly. (**ACTION PB**)

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 23rd January 2017 2.15.PM
ORCHARD CORNER.

Sue Bennett
01.12.16