

**RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2014
AT ORCHARD CORNER**

Present: Judy Westacott, Sue & Paul Bennett, Jim Carfrae, John Keleher, Jeremy Logie (part), Dave Mitchell (part), Anne Ward, Kate Wilson

1. APOLOGIES: none

2. THE MINUTES of the meeting of 15 September 2014 were accepted as a true record and signed by JW.

3. MATTERS ARISING: 4.1. Caravan Club site. JW reported that this had been postponed for a further site visit in the New Year.

4. REPORTS

4.1. CHAIR(JW): JW referred to discussions taking regarding buildings in the ownership of the Town Council and the continuing negotiations over the future of the Mansion. Nothing has yet been decided but should the Town Council vacate the Guildhall the Almshouses Trust has expressed an interest in taking these over and the possibility of creating a further residential unit.

4.2. SECRETARY (PB): The Elmgrant Trust had made a grant of £200 to the Baltic Wharf Arts Fund. AGM: Attendance had been disappointing but the planning talk by Professor Balch was well received. The Narrows: PB had tried to get an update from Cllr, Vint but not succeeded so it is not clear what action DCC us now taking. Totnes Community Development Society: KW and PB had met with Dave Chapman (DC) following discussions between him and PB regarding the possibility of relocating SHDC Follaton offices to the Atmos site. This would help the viability of the Atmos site and free up the Follaton site for more beneficial uses than the present car park. The discussion broadened as to whether it might be possible for the Development Society (which is an Industrial and Provident Society intended for community benefit) to act as an umbrella body to take over public sites where SHDC is no longer prepared to do so. Much more work is needed and a further meeting has been arranged for the end of January.

4.3 TREASURER: (JL) £419 (£18 less than at this time last year) in subscriptions . The AGM had produced £22,50 in door receipts plus a donation of £10 leaving a net loss of £34.50 on the evening. With regard to the Elmgrant Trust payment JL would ask the Charity Commission whether a separate account is mandatory otherwise it will be paid into the existing account but noted separately to distinguish it from general funds.

4.4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (JL): Several members needed reminding of the need to pay their subscriptions. **ACTION JL/PB.**

4.5. PLANNING: (KW) KW had been attempting to find out from SHDC the position of money collected under S106 Agreements. How much has been spent and on what and the amounts still retained and how it is intended to allocate these. KW has also tried to find out the position regarding the implementation of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) but again without success. "Our Plan": there appears to be a three month slippage in the programme for this which in turn will impact on the preparation of Neighbourhood Plans. April 2015 is now thought to be the next time for further public consultation. **Neighbourhood Plans:** KW is now the paid administrator for the Dartington NP and is meeting with the various task groups. Although the Totnes NP has set up both task groups and a steering group it is lacking direction, **Great Court Farm:** PB confirmed that SHDC does not have a 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites and its current applicable plan is therefore "non compliant" in terms of the NPPF . The test therefore is whether overall the proposal is "sustainable". DCC is not raising objections on highway grounds and Strategic Planning is unlikely to raise objections. There be grounds for refusal because of its agricultural grading and the air quality concerns for Bridgetown Hill. There is a holding objection by SHDC housing which wants a higher proportion of affordable housing. **Linden Homes (Riverside Bridgetown)** (PB): The reserved matters application has now been approved under delegated powers leaving the unsatisfactory level of design. The connection of the cycle/footpath to Steamer Quay remains outstanding as does the future upkeep of the public open space. JW has been assured by Linden that the cycle/footpath connection will be made. **Extra Care Home Bridgetown:** JC had attended the preview meeting and believes that in design terms the proposal is broadly acceptable. However the initial drawings showed the construction to be timber framed whereas in later versions the proposal appears to have been changed to concrete. JC stated that timber framing is more sustainable than what is now proposed. Agreed that JC should draft a letter to the architects asking that the construction should revert to the originally proposed timber framing. **ACTION JC. TOTSOC site proposals in response to "Our Plan":** PB had met with Ian Franklin and John Baulch of the Totnes Trust with a view to producing brief proposals for each of the sites in question. Further work on this will continue and it is hoped that this will make a contribution to the site selection process within the "Our Plan" and the Neighbourhood Plan.

4.6. PUBLIC ART & DESIGN SUB-GROUP: (AW): She reported on the continued work by Suzanne Heath at Baltic Wharf and the various applications for funding. Also there are plans next year for a residency of artists and negotiations are taking place with the Finnish Institute for funding of this.

4.7. TOTSOC FORUM: no further meetings had taken place.

5. EXTERNAL BODIES:

Local Authorities: no report.

T&TF. The AGM had taken place but PB was unable to attend.

6. OPEN/PUBLIC/MEMBERS ETC. MEETINGS (KW/JK): KW said that Totsoc must do more to promote these preferably with a specific topic and a speaker; she appreciated that someone was needed to organize these. AW agreed to take this on but needed input from Totsoc members as to subjects/topics etc.

ACTION AW. JK reported Barry Weekes is willing to provide a slide show of image Bank photographs with proceeds to be shared between Totsoc and the Image Bank on a basis to be agreed; venue to be decided but with the aim for the first meeting to be held in the New Year. SB suggested that an afternoon rather than evening meeting at that time of year might attract more people.

ACTION JK

7. WHOSE JOB IS IT ANYWAY? JK asked committee for comments on his piece regarding nuisance/anti-social behaviour/unkept streets and open spaces in the town and whether it should be published in the next edition of Contact. He wishes to engage members in a dialogue within the Society.

8. CONTACT (DW). The committee approved the suggestion that Contact should be printed in A5 size; it would be cheaper to print and easier for delivery. Articles can be sent to him any time but the deadline for the next edition is 1st March 2015.

9. A.O.B. None.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 26th January 2015 2pm at ORCHARD CORNER. ***Please note start time.***

Sue Bennett
27.11.2014