

**RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 25th January 2016 AT
ORCHARD CORNER**

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

1. APOLOGIES: Jim Carfrae

2. THE MINUTES of the meeting of 23rd November 2015 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair (JW).

3. MATTERS ARISING: Lawrence Green's articles: had left this with Bob Mann and the Longmarsh Press to pursue. Lawrence Green will continue to supply more articles for Contact. Re plaques: nothing further from Cllr. Whitty. 4.5. (JW) Application planning for the Coco's Nursery site has been approved. 9. JK – re Image Bank working more closely with Totsoc: JK is now a Trustee of the Image Bank. A possible joint project involving primary schools in the area had been mooted. JK to attend Trustees Meeting on 19th February and will report back.
(ACTION JK)

4. REPORTS

4.1. CHAIR (JW): She had attended a meeting arranged of Town Councillors for those interested in tourism e.g. bus operators, ferry boat operators to Dartmouth, traders etc. The way forward is seen to be a Tourism Partnership within the town. There is to be another meeting early in February. No decision has been made on the future of the Tourist Information Centre. Sophie Hoskin, a CEO of SHDC, attended a meeting with TTC Councillors to discuss matters of common concern but nothing of substance was agreed. The much delayed pedestrian crossing outside the Grove School should be installed tomorrow. Regarding the maintenance of green open and play spaces SHDC no longer pays for their upkeep and other models of financing this are being considered.

4.2. SECRETARY (PB): The letter to the Housing Minister via Sarah Woollaston regarding the Housing and Planning Bill had been sent and a response received. As anticipated the letter largely reiterated government policy with no indication that its adverse impact on the provision of affordable housing in areas similar to ours and many others within the South West would be changed.

4.3. TREASURER: (JL): Assuming the quiz night is another success the accounts for 2015-16 should show a healthy surplus of between £200 and £300. Last year the surplus was £144. The main reason for the improvement was the financial success of the popular AGM evening when the income was shared by the Image Bank. The finances were also helped by bank interest (the funds we are managing for the Baltic Wharf project) and £38 from Barclays Bank by way of an apology for using our funds for another customer's business.

4.4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (JL): Most members had now paid their 2015-16 subscriptions and a total of £442 had been received. This included four new members. Three others had standing orders for payment in the spring. Seven members had not yet paid their 2015-16 subs. PB offered to help chase them.
ACTION JL/PB.

4.5. PLANNING (KW): referred to a recent blog about the overdevelopment of the town but which failed to mention that all the current developments were the result of site proposals comprised in Development Plan documents adopted 6 or so years ago. She also referred to the latest Bulletin No.7 issued by SHDC in respect of "Our Plan" which was entirely driven by developers and landowners putting forward sites for their own gain rather than determined by need. DM asked about the 5 year land supply and KW said this figure was set by central government and did not relate to those on the housing waiting list. PB referred to SHDC now working with Plymouth, West Devon and Dartmoor to assess housing needs figures for this sub-region before finalizing each individual plan. In commenting on the request made by SHDC in October 2014 for possible developments sites to be put forward it had not been made clear that only land owners or their agents could put forward proposals. Consequently the work done by Totsoc had been fruitless. There was therefore little point in Totsoc responding to the further request for sites to be put forward.

Coco's Nursery site. Outline consent for 8 dwellings had been approved notwithstanding objections from KEVICCs, the Police Authority and Totsoc. KW addressed the committee but the decision was made solely on party lines. PB had protested that the Totsoc letter of objection did not appear on the website but had been told that the committee was fully informed of its contents.

Riverside Linden Homes. PB said that DCC had reneged on its agreement to adopt the cycle/footpath leading from Weston Lane down to Steamer Quay but Thomas Jones (SHDC planner) had now agreed with Linden that it should be adopted and was pursuing this further with DCC.

Atmos site. TCDS (Totnes Community Development Society) had clearly listened to the criticisms made of the McCarthy & Stone proposals for the Retirement Home. This has now been re-sited to the northern end within the main site leaving the station approach available for housing on the station approach which should meet many of the objections made in respect of the overbearing bulk of the earlier proposals. SB believed that residents of the retirement home would also prefer the new proposed site. JK remains concerned at the access problems onto Station Road likely to result from the development. JL said that Totsoc should, at the appropriate stage, offer its congratulations to TCDS for the way in which it had undertaken the public consultation.

4.6. PUBLIC ART & DESIGN SUB-GROUP: AW reported on the Baltic Wharf Arts project. The commissioning of the unstructured natural play area was nearing completion but discussion was continuing on its siting. The Juno Project incorporating timber sculpture and music is to be launched on the evening of February 12th at Drift Records in The Narrows. All welcome.

4.7. Totsoc Forum. KW felt that more topics should be brought forward for discussion so as to raise its profile. AW had previously agreed to come forward with ideas for this and agreed to revisit and report further. **(ACTION AW)** PB stated that he had agreed with the ATMOS Project Manager that the Forum would sponsor a public meeting at the appropriate time for discussion on the proposals which would be going forward for examination prior to a town wide referendum.

5. EXTERNAL BODIES:

Local Authorities: Town Council. JW reported that the People Committee wants to make representations to the Boundary Commission to alter the present town parish boundary to better reflect the natural boundaries of the Totnes built up area. The consequent loss to Dartington and Berry Pomeroy is likely to make this a contentious issue.

T&TF. Nothing to report.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS :

Dartington NP (KW). Dartington Hall Trust is negotiating with SHDC to allocate the old plantation site at the end of the Lower Drive for custom-built housing and aiming for 50% affordable housing. The site is currently allocated for mixed use. The parish is working on an outline which will form the first draft. There is an overall vision for the NP and objectives which will be delivered by specific areas being looked at by task groups. Each area also has vision and objectives policies and, in some cases, projects. The transport group is looking at the feasibility of a "Cott to Tot" footpath which avoids the bottleneck of Barracks Hill. It is also looking at footpath connectivity through the parish. The environmental group has commissioned a biodiversity map from the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre and is looking at setting up a local biodiversity group, one of the functions of which will be to add further data to this map.

The Open Space and Recreation group is producing an Open Space strategy and part of this has been to audit historic and current provision and to identify future needs. SHDC has been very complimentary about the strategy so far even though it is still in draft form. The strategy will be used in allocating the s106 money available for sport and recreation in the parish.

Totnes NP. PB reported that Richard Jackson (DCC) had attended the last Steering Group meeting and gave details of section 106 money raised from developments within the town (Baltic Wharf, Riverside etc.) which would become available over the next few years. With regard to congestion on the A385 caused by through traffic he offered very little hope of anything substantial being done to remedy this. It may be possible to persuade road users to take a different route from Torbay to the A38 (e.g. making use of the Kingskerswell by-pass) but this seems unlikely to be formalized.

Regarding brownfield sites put forward for consideration, many of these are within the ownership of SHDC and, without its co-operation, would not be “deliverable” as required by NP planning guidance and consequently likely to fail any examination.

8. CONTACT. DM: has copy from Lawrence Green and JK and DM promised something on the Leechwell Gardens. An article on Atmos is needed – KW to ask around for a volunteer – and Baltic Wharf – AW to ask. (**ACTION KW/AW**). Deadline for next edition is MID MARCH.

8.4. LOST CHAPELS: Robin Lacey has kindly agreed to produce an article on four lost chapels in Totnes and carry investigations forward with the possibility of marking these sites.

9. A.O.B: DM raised the question of whether it would be feasible for the Leechwell Garden Association to use Totsoc as its accountable body in connection with the funding of work to be carried and paid for by SHDC. DM/PB to investigate further in consultation with JL. (**ACTION DM/PB/JL**).

KW: Dart Valley Learning Trust AGM on 27th January.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 21st MARCH 2016 2.15 p.m,
ORCHARD CORNER

Sue Bennett

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