

**RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2013  
AT ORCHARD CORNER**

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

Judy Westacott was welcomed back to chair the meeting following her recent illness.

1. APOLOGIES: Jim Carfrae, Anne Ward.

2. THE MINUTES of the meeting of 16th September 2013 were accepted as a true record and signed by JW.

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

4. REPORTS

4.1. CHAIR: JW reported that a public meeting regarding the detailed proposals for Riverside would be held in December; she believed that an additional piece of land adjacent to Lansdowne Park had been acquired by Linden Homes which might help in providing pedestrian/cycle access to the development. KW asked JW to request Linden to arrange for consultation to take place through the Totsoc Forum (H&BEF). **ACTION JW.**

4.2. SECRETARY: PB distributed Autumn ASHTAV magazine and reported on the ASHTAV/HTV event at Exeter entitled "Development, growth and the historic environment – unholy trinity or happy necessity?" Perhaps the most interesting speaker looked at the relative short termism of planning policies contrasting these with the need to consider the long term consequences of growth and posed the question "is growth inevitable ...to self destruction?"

4.3 TREASURER JL: reported that the Santander shares have finally been sold. The shares, which were sold for £71.88 more than shown in the year-end accounts are now in the Savings a/c. The bank balance now stands at £2,796. Discussion on how to get Gift Aid forms signed by existing members. Agreed to publish a request for this in the next edition of Contact, due out in March. (see also under AOB)

4.4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY JL: thanked PB for his help in assembling all the necessary information to compile an accurate membership list. Subscriptions collected so far amount to £422 with some standing orders due to be paid later in the year. There is a mystery regarding one member for whom there appears to

be only first names (Kathleen Patricia). SB thinks she might know the identity of this person and will investigate. **ACTION SB.**

4.5. PLANNING: KW dealt with matters arising from the previous meeting. JW said that work had started on the Rushbrook centre. This followed DCC granting itself planning permission without further public consultation. The applications for Sawmill Field, Webbers Yard and Higher Tweed Mill Dartington were ongoing. KW hoped that the resurrected Dartington Community website would give further information. PB said it appeared that SHDC Affordable Housing was not happy with the present proposal by the applicant and required further viability testing before numbers could be agreed. Draft National Planning Practice Guidance: KW had not looked at this. The planning group (KW, PB, DM, JC) has arranged to meet and consider the “the north west quadrant” (KEVICC through to Dairy Crest) in the context of the Local Plan preparation.

The Strategic Housing Market Needs Assessment (SHMNA) has now been published and will be the largest single factor influencing the Local Plan. Sheepfield site. It is expected that proposals for 20 houses will shortly be made public. This site is within the present Site Allocation DPD and the principle therefore of development has been accepted. PB has suggested to the SHDC planning officer that the Totsoc Forum (H&BEF) would be an appropriate vehicle to use for public consultation.

KW reported on the meeting which she (and PB) had with Dr Wollaston to discuss planning and other matters relevant to Totsoc as the civic society for the area. Housing (particularly affordable housing needs) was discussed with reference to the SHMNA and the local plan and the question raised as to how the estimated need for 242 affordable housing units a year could be provided when central government funding had been stopped. Dr Wollaston whilst accepting the need stated that there was no money available at the present time. KW referred to neighbourhood planning and the difficulties in a town like Totnes where the urban area crossed into neighbouring parishes with the consequent need for cross town/parish council consultation and agreement. She felt that without funding for professional help it was beyond the competence of local communities to develop these plans. Dr Wollaston believed it would be useful for KW to meet the planning minister and she would arrange for this after first receiving from KW an email setting out the problems. **ACTION KW**

KW had attended a meeting organized by the Town Council to discuss a neighbourhood plan for Totnes. KW stressed the problems referred to above and suggested that the plan should concentrate on “bite size” areas such as the Civic Hall/market square which it would be easier for the community to understand and take an interest; it would therefore want to become involved. The meeting nonetheless agreed to move forward on the broader front. A steering group was formed for this which KW declined to join but Totsoc member Helen Kummer will be able to report back on its progress.

4.6. PUBLIC ART & DESIGN SUB-GROUP: PB reported that Suzanne Heath (arts project manager for Baltic Wharf) was completing a funding application for

approval by Totsoc as the prospective accountable body to receive funds for the project.

4.7 HOUSING AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT FORUM: There will be no further separate reports for this as it is now incorporated within Totsoc and in future forum activities will be dealt with under the Planning Officer's report.

#### 5. EXTERNAL BODIES:

Local Authorities: none.

Town Council: none.

T&TF: PB had attended the AGM at which a revised draft constitution had been presented. After amendments this will be put before a further meeting for final approval.

PSF: none.

South Hams Forum: Neither KW nor PB were able to attend its last meeting at which the SHMNA was discussed. Apparently members felt it was substantially flawed and needed re-visiting. PB emailed John Chalmers (chair SHF) indicating that there was little purpose in pursuing that point as the report had been done and had to be accepted as the starting point for housing needs in the local plan. John Chalmers shared a similar view and questions to South Hams have yet to be framed.

6. CONTACT (DM): deadline for copy for next edition is 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH. So far DM only has one article (by JK). JL suggested that a Gift Aid form should be included in the March edition and a Membership request form in the Autumn edition.

#### **ACTION JL.**

JW to let DM have a quiz on "How well do you know Totnes". **ACTION JW.**

7. AOB: JC has indicated that he would be able to attend Totsoc meetings were they to take place on Wednesday afternoons but would prefer a later start as would KW. The meeting agreed to this with SB indicating that she would not wish the start time to be later than 4pm

JK is concerned about the escalation of fly posting in the town. JW to discuss with the Town Council. **ACTION JW.**

#### 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2014 2.15 PM ORCHARD CORNER. (subject to change – see para 7)