

**RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 26th January 2015 AT
ORCHARD CORNER**

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

1. APOLOGIES: Jeremy Logie.

2. THE MINUTES of the meeting of 24 November 2014 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair (JW).

3. MATTERS ARISING:

4.1. Caravan Club site (JW) – no decision made as yet. SHDC will inform JW of the outcome when a decision is reached.

The Mansion – there is to be a public meeting about its future use on 21st February from 10 – 11 a.m.

6. Open/Public Meetings – AW to progress this and agreed to produce a Press Release also an article for this edition of Contact. Jan O’Highway has offered to help her. **ACTION AW.**

4. REPORTS

4.1. CHAIR (JW): None

4.2. SECRETARY (PB) **Baltic Wharf Arts Fund:** The Arts Council had refused the application but invited a further application. Mitchell Trust also had refused but had indicated that a grant might be made towards something more tangible. Cllr. Vint had made a contribution of £1000 from his DCC allowance which had been received.

South Hams Society Bulletin and ASHTAV magazine were distributed.

Chichester Society now received electronically had been distributed to all members.

4.3 TREASURER: (JL) In his absence JL had produced a written report on the current state of affairs as both Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Total current a/c balance (including the grant from DCC and Elmgrant for Baltic Wharf) stood at £2194.22 and the savings a/c at £1951.44

4.4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (JL): There have been several new members join during the last year. Queries remain on subscriptions which will be pursued.

4.5. PLANNING: (KW) Not surprisingly outline planning consent had been granted for the **Great Court Farm** site but the request by Totsoc for additional contractual strengthening in respect of the affordable housing provision was

rejected. The planning group has supported the application for the **Extra Care Home** units subject to a request for sustainable materials to be used in their construction, Proposals are likely to be put forward for the development of Winsland House (off Brook Lane Totnes). The consultants acting for the owners are holding an initial consultation meeting with local organizations on 29th January at Follaton. DM and/or JC will endeavour to attend. **Our Plan:** Further consultation on Resources and Heritage has been undertaken by SHDC. The Totsoc responses and those of Friends of the Earth have been sent to members and will be placed on the Totsoc and H&BEF websites.

4.6. PUBLIC ART & DESIGN SUB-GROUP: (AW) There had been no meetings. **Baltic Wharf:** AW confirmed that the Finnish Institute proposals for a residency of artists will take place but not now until May 2016. Negotiations are continuing regarding the form and content of the children's play area.

4.7. TOTSOC FORUM: no further meetings had taken place. AW has now agreed to take over responsibility for organising these but does need input from members as to topics.

5. EXTERNAL BODIES:

Local Authorities: JW reported that several members will not be standing for re-election. JW will stand again for the Town Council but not for the District Council.

T&TF. nothing to report but the minutes of its meetings are available on its website.

6. JOINT MEETINGS WITH THE IMAGE BANK (JK). Barry Weekes (BW) and JK are eager to encourage closer relationships between Totsoc and the Image Bank and with that in mind are working on a presentation likely to be entitled "The Street" which will be looking at the changes to Fore Street and High Street. The dates still to be decided but will be either on 11th or 12th March or Wednesdays or Thursdays thereafter. Venue will be the Totnes United Reform Church in Fore Street. JW and BW will organize this. It was agreed that Totsoc should fund the cost of the first meeting and once Totsoc had recouped that cost any surplus should go to the Image Bank. JK/BW will provide posters which JC has offered to design and AW has agreed to distribute them. **ACTION JK, BW, JC, AW.**

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS (Dartington and Totnes). KW has been appointed Coordinator for Dartington NP and PB to chair the Totnes NP steering group. KW said that task groups were working towards a community consultation event on Feb 28th and that there are other events planned during March. KW has been successful in obtaining a grant of £6k from Locality to support community consultation which will include filming the Future Homes conference on 6th and 7th February; publicity for and organisation of

the February 28th open event; consultation on the Community Charter and consultation, primarily with children, on play facilities and equipment. Dartington Hall Trust had identified of a considerable amount of land it owns for consideration in the SHLAA [the site selection process for new developments] which had caused anger in the parish. After lengthy discussion it has been agreed that the Trust will work with the Parish in producing its Neighbourhood Plan and that land at the Core of the Estate will be included in this process. PB reporting on the Totnes NP said that the process had stalled and hence his appointment as an outside Chair coupled with the appointment of a coordinator to bring the NP back on track and progress it. The task groups needed to be set up and almost certainly outside professional help would be required to enable the NP to be completed within a reasonable time frame. KW and PB had met with Sarah Wollaston and had a useful discussion with her about neighbourhood plans which she is keen to support and has offered her personal help should we need it. Whilst she appeared to have some sympathy for our views on the adverse impact of the National Planning Policy Framework on areas like the South Hams, particularly the vulnerability to developers so easily being able to override community wishes, there seems no chance of the government taking any steps to mitigate this.

8. (1) TOLL HOUSE WESTERN BYPASS CYCLE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME. (2) GAY PRIDE PROPOSED RAINBOW CROSSING (AW). These issues were discussed with a general view that the Toll House scheme was a misuse of public funds. Decisions and outcomes awaited.

9. CONTACT (DM). Deadline for copy is 1st March. Contributions expected from PB, KW on Neighbourhood Plans and/or Planning, Isabel Carlisle on the Community Charter, Lawrence Green (via JK) and AW. Richard Davies (former Totnes Times reporter) will also contribute. Decision made to change the format to A5 which converts to approx. 300 words per page.

9. A.O.B. DM – the Leechwells have now received Schedule Monument Consent. There is Town Council and Totnes Trust money for this and Totsoc has agreed to contribute towards the cost of the new plaque. Three tenders are being asked for. KW – A Future Homes conference is taking place at Dartington Hall on 6th and 7th February. All welcome but places have to be booked.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 23rd March 2pm at ORCHARD CORNER was agreed. **PLEASE NOTE THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED TO 30th MARCH – SAME TIME AND VENUE.**