

TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday 29 March 2017 at 2:15pm

Place: Orchard Corner, Kingsbridge Hill, Totnes

Present:

Paul Bennett (Chair)	P	Jeremy Logie	A
Sue Bennett	P	Dave Mitchell	P
Jim Carfrae	A	Anne Ward	P
Tom King	P	Judy Westacott (President)	P
John Keleher	P	Kate Wilson	P

P = Present. A=Apologies

1. Apologies – see above
2. Minutes
 - a. Previous minutes - the minutes of the meeting on 23 January 2017 were approved.
 - b. Matters arising
 - i. 6(c) JK working with Laurance Green is collecting material on war memorials and will prepare a piece for a future edition of Contact. They have found some very good examples of civic involvement.
 - ii. 8(c) KW/DM have met to discuss website. It is now up to date but when time allows they will consider an upgrade to WordPress software that allows for easier editing.
3. Reports:
 - a. Chair

PB had been invited to renew the subscription to Historic Towns Forum at a cost of £50. He will find out what this now offers before a final decision. The Committee agreed that this be delegated to PB, TK and JL.
 - b. Secretary - Nothing to report
 - c. Treasurer - Nothing to report
 - d. Membership Secretary – Nothing to report
 - e. Planning Officer

Planning Application: Bowden Reservoir, Fishchowters Lane, Totnes - PB reported that the SHDC planners had considered the

points raised by Totsoc and had taken the view that because of technical points contained in a central government planning order of 2015 they would be recommending that the Application be refused.

f. PA&DF

Baltic Wharf Public Space – AW reported that the proposed seating would be located in the green area beyond Phase I of the development. This was not the location preferred by Bloor Homes however Steve Mittler/TQ9 Partnership has agreed to meet the additional costs of siting in this location.

g. Totsoc Forum – Nothing to report

4. Reports:

a. External Bodies - Joint Local Plan (PB)

PB reported that the three local authorities had agreed that the draft Joint Local Plan should go forward without further amendment and was now out for Pre-submission Regulation 19 consultation until 26 April after which it would go to public examination by an inspector. Any submissions from the public must be made to the Inspector and can be made only on the grounds of “soundness” or “legality”

The poor quality of information provided and the short notice for public meetings that were not well attended was highlighted.

There were issues over the development boundaries and the existing parish boundaries that could create a mismatch between the cash benefits of development (Council Tax) and the cost burden.

There were particular issues about site allocation within Dartington village and on the Dartington Estate with SHDC allocating Broom Park despite opposition from Dartington Hall Trust.

The Totsoc Planning Group will meet to prepare representations that will include comment on the poor consultation process.

b. Local Authorities

i. Totnes Town Council (JW)

1. The mayor (Eleanor Cohen) remains on sick leave and Rosie Adams (Deputy Mayor) is standing in for her. The resignation of the town clerk has resulted in a number of internal appointments within the council.
2. The Town Museum is to offer free admission with a special ‘Wonder Wool’ exhibition starting on 4 April. Other special exhibitions are to follow.

3. Wakefield Studios, Station Road – The Wakefield Trust intends to convert these former artists’ studios into almshouses.
 - ii. SHDC - JW reported that the council is looking to ‘commercialise’ some of its assets.
 - c. Traffic and Transport Forum (T&TF) – Nothing to report.
5. Neighbourhood Plans
 - a. Totnes NP: PB reported that Harberton had proposed an 80 home development adjacent to Follaton that would conflict with the Totnes plan and was, he understood, not favoured by SHDC. Funding had been given to commission reports on possible options for development at KEVICC and Steamer Quay and the Consultants had now issued their final Reports on both sites. These Reports would be put forward for public consultation as part of the overall consultation on the draft NP where the first draft had now been produced JW noted that there was an area of land adjacent to the Riverside/Camomile Lawn development that if not developed within 5 years for employment purposes should be transferred to SHDC.
 - b. Dartington NP: KW reported that the emerging draft had now been published for consultation and refinement. Its themes were communities, innovation and the environment. There will be a separate section for Dartington Hall Trust that is still to be drafted.
 6. Matters raised by members

Underground Heritage at St. Mary’s - the Committee noted the draft document provided by Michael Heather. St. Mary’s Partnership is promoting the project and Totsoc is represented on SMP by JW. It was agreed that PB/TK would contact Mr. Heather to follow up on his interest in Totsoc.
 7. Contact

DM confirmed that the deadline for submissions was 12 April. A total of 16 pages needed to be filled. Contributions confirmed from JW, JK and PB. KW agreed to provide a piece on Dartington and the JLP and AW would chase Suzanne Heath for the contribution that she had promised.
 8. AOB

The committee had received a request for advice on repairs and improvements to a building in Castle Street (Listed Grade 2). It was agreed that Totsoc could not provide the conservation advice sought and TK would respond suggesting that SHDC Conservation Officer or a conservation architect/surveyor should be able to assist.
 9. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 31 May 2017 at 14:15 at Orchard Corner.