

**RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY HELD ON MONDAY 30th March 2015 AT
ORCHARD CORNER**

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

1. APOLOGIES: Dave Mitchell, Kate Wilson

2. THE MINUTES of the meeting of 28th January 2015 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair (JW).

3. MATTERS ARISING:

4.1. Caravan Club site (JW) no change as no decision yet made.

4. REPORTS

4.1. CHAIR (JW): Totnes Library: DCC is hiving off the library service to an external charitable body which should make it more viable with ability to seek grants available only to charities.

The Mansion: A further open meeting is being scheduled to consider the possibility of this being transferred from DCC to a locally based community organisation but this would depend on it being put on a sound financial basis.

Great Court Farm: The request by the Town Council for the application to be called in by the Secretary of State had been refused. Negotiations continued on the s106 Agreement but otherwise the outline consent would now be issued.

Totnes and Dartmouth Ring and Ride is to have a new bus paid for out of a central Government grant which will enable it not only to enhance the service to the elderly and disabled but also bid for school contracts which will help its income.

4.2. SECRETARY (PB) Letter received from Ray Green (a former chair of Totsoc) wanting to set the record straight regarding the design of the St. Katherine's Way "internal by-pass". Totsoc had at that time strongly opposed the route proposed by DCC and proposed the alternative "dog leg" route now in place. PB responded inviting Mr Green to write an article for the next edition of "Contact".

4.3 TREASURER: (JL) The "Awards for All" grant of £10,000 has just been received, making a total fund of £11,200 for the Baltic Wharf arts project.

There has been little other activity on either costs or income in the last few months. It is hoped the forthcoming Quiz Night will raise some useful funds to help support TotSoc.

4.4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (JL): The bulk of subscriptions were paid in October and November. A few late payers have been reminded and encouraged to pay by standing order. There is nothing further to report on membership this time.

4.5. PLANNING: (PB). Planning applications in the Conservation Area: Richard Gage (SHDC Conservation Officer) and Patrick Whymer (SHDC Planning) addressed a meeting sponsored by the Town Council to discuss problems that had arisen regarding the complexities which arose in considering these applications. It was a useful meeting and Richard Gage would arrange for those at the meeting to be supplied with useful links to applicable policies.

4.6. PUBLIC ART & DESIGN SUB-GROUP: (AW) Baltic Wharf Arts Programme: The Finnish Institute will be fundraising towards the International Residency project in 2015 and if the fundraising is successful it is hoped that this will take place in 2016, Johanna Vakkari from the Institute is visiting Totnes this May. An Arts Council bid for £15k was unsuccessful but will be re-submitted.

4.7. TOTSOC FORUM: (AW) Work is being done on some local initiatives in which it is hoped members will wish to be involved. Details of this will be circulated to members shortly.

5. EXTERNAL BODIES:

Local Authorities: JW reported that she and Cllr Hannaford acting under delegated powers had approved the planning application in respect of the Extra Care Home Units situated at the lower end of the Riverside Development Bridgetown.

T& TF: PB had attended its last meeting. There had been an informative talk by a bus operator in Torquay. PB had updated the meeting on the Neighbourhood Plan. There was support for the "rainbow" crossing and discussion on the High Court Ruling relating to the Traffic Order with consensus that Shared Space proposals should be taken further. Full minutes available on the Forum website.

6. JOINT MEETINGS WITH THE IMAGE BANK (JK): The proposed joint meeting had to be postponed because Barry Weekes has not been well.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS (Dartington and Totnes): No report from Dartington in the absence of KW.

Totnes NP: PB stated that the Co-ordinator had now nearly completed her strategic communications plan which was shortly to be unveiled.

8. AGM arrangements: This will be held on 15th October with the venue to be decided; it would probably be either the United Free Church or possibly the

Seven Stars ballroom. It was suggested that the joint meeting with the Image Bank might be postponed to the AGM and JK would discuss this with Barry Weekes. **ACTION JW**

9. CONTACT. The Spring edition has now been printed and is in course of being distributed/posted. Several members have agreed to receive the email version only to save cost. DM was congratulated and thanked for his work and the new format appeared to be well received.

10. Community Right to Bid. (PB). The note on this is attached to these minutes. The meeting was supportive that this should be pursued and that PB should add this to the local initiatives being proposed by AW. **ACTION PB/AW**

11. REQUEST FROM MEMBER: Following his email to members of 13 March in which he forwarded a press release from DCC regarding the Traffic Order PB had received an email from a member requesting that this member's email should be circulated to all members. After careful consideration the Committee decided unanimously not to accede to this request.

12. A.O.B. JK raised the issue of fly-posting which he believes is out of control and is adversely affecting the visual amenity of the town. This view was shared by the meeting and it was agreed that he should produce a note as to how the problem might be ameliorated. **ACTION JK**

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 1 June 2pm at ORCHARD CORNER

Sue Bennett

7.4.2015