

**RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30th JULY 2014 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 21st May 2014 were accepted as a true record and signed by JW.

3. MATTERS ARISING: 4.4. Carry forward again note re seeking new members. **ACTION JL/JW.** 8. Image Bank. JL yet to meet with Barry Weekes. **ACTION JL.**

4. REPORTS

4.1. CHAIR (JW): None that would not be covered by other reports except that she will be undergoing eye surgery at the end of September and will therefore be unable to attend the Totsoc AGM.

4.2. SECRETARY (PB): He referred to the Chichester Society Newsletter previously circulated and the adverse report on the developer led local plan. BWAarts project: Applications for grants had been submitted to the Elmgrant and Mitchell Trusts.

4.3 TREASURER (JL): JL distributed the annual Accounts for the year to 30 June 2014. These showed a slight increase in members' subscriptions but expenditure was higher too. The net surplus of income over expenditure was £47.23 with total funds being £2728,66.

4.4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (JL):. Progress is being made with persuading members to sign the Gift Aid forms but reclaiming the tax will be very time consuming in relation to the amount likely to be recovered.

4.5. PLANNING: (KW): Riverside Bridgetown: The Totosc planning group had inspected the reserved matters application and had now registered with SHDC planners that they believed the overall design of the houses was very poor and should not be approved. The Urban Design comments from Mark Harris (SHDC) took the same view. JW (who is the SHDC Councillor for Bridgetown) does not share this view and believes the application should be approved. DCC has been asked by Totsoc to adopt the cycle/pedestrian path leading from Weston Lane towards Steamer Quay (but not connecting to it) and insist that a connection is made with Steamer Quay road. DCC will agree to adopt the path but only if it connects to Steamer Quay road. It is understood that the developer intends submitting a further application to deal with this connection, Applications have

now been submitted by the developer to meet conditions in the outline consent requiring details of the construction method to be approved also a management plan for the public open space. PB has continued to press for satisfactory arrangements to be made for the upkeep and management of the public open space. Clearly the residents themselves cannot be expected to meet the whole of this cost. As SHDC will not acquire the freehold interest in the open space itself PB has suggested that it is vested in a Community Land Trust to protect the public interest.

Totnes Weir – Hydro scheme. Totsoc had objected to approval being granted without further information on various aspects being given before the proposal was considered by SHDC planning committee. It is understood that the scheme on the far side of the river for which approval has been given might now progress as further negotiations over access are taking place.

Rear 46 Fore Street. A further application has been submitted which meets the objections raised by Totsoc to the previous proposal. The new scheme overcomes the previous objections and no further objections have been raised by Totsoc.

PB had written to SHDC regarding Totnes town having no representation on the planning committee and asking for a change in the structure to remedy this, This request was refused.

Neighbourhood Plan: KW had asked the Town Council to produce the results of the recent town wide questionnaire but no response had been received. KW believes that little will be served by Totsoc involving itself in the plan process until something concrete is produced upon which to consult.

4.6. PUBLIC ART & DESIGN SUB-GROUP: (AW): A note had been circulated regarding the design of the proposed share space scheme for the Narrows. AW's concern for the need to have proper design input into this was shared. It was agreed to wait to see what emerges from DCC before deciding how to respond to any proposals.

4.7, TOTSOC FORUM: A meeting had been held on 29 July with 25 people attending. As KW is producing a note of this which will be circulated to all members there is no report here.

5. EXTERNAL BODIES:

Local Authorities. Talks regarding the future use and management arrangements for the Mansion House are continuing. The future of the Caravan Park on Steamer Quay Road is in doubt. An offer to purchase it has been made with the intention of making further hard surfaces to enable usage of the site to be increased from the present 35% occupancy rate to 80%. An alternative use with the site being owned by SHDC might be for affordable housing.

T&TF. No report.

Totnes Trust. JL reported that the merger had been completed of the Development and Preservation Trusts and that Ian Franklin had been appointed chair with JL being Vice-Chair and Treasurer.

6. CONTACT (DM): Early September deadline for copy. Contributions offered:

JW – piece on the Skateboard Park

JK - Totnes during WW1

DM – Leechwell Gardens

AW – Suzanne Heath on Baltic Wharf artworks *

KW - planning matters and/or cartoon

PB - Richard Davies (formerly reporter on Totnes Times) volunteered an article *.

Action: All those above: AW/PB for *.

7. AOB: DM reported on the proposals for restoring the Leechwells. Plans had been finalised and a Scheduled Monument planning application submitted. DM produced the Board which is to be placed at the Leechwells and it is suggested that Totsoc contributes towards the cost of this; the actual amount to be discussed further.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

To accommodate the working hours of JC it was decided to offer him two dates: either Monday 15th September or Wednesday 17th September at 2pm at ORCHARD CORNER. The decision to be notified to the committee when received. ***Please note earlier start time.***

SUE BENNETT

15.08.2014

PLEASE NOTE: Following the meeting contact was made with JC who confirmed Monday 15th September as his preferred choice.