

TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Development and Localism Committee held on Thursday 24th April 2014 at 7.00pm in the Council Committee Room, 4, York Road, Torpoint.

PRESENT: - Councillor G J Davis (Chairman), M N Pearn MBE (Town Mayor), Councillors E H Andrews, Mrs C E Goodman, Miss J L Kinsman, Mrs J M Martin and J Tivnan plus the Town Clerk.

1- 14DL Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J F Creek, Mrs C A Jackson and L E Keise.

2- 14DL Declarations of interest relating to items on the Agenda

None.

3- 14DL Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27th March 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

4- 14DL Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Sparrow Park:-

Pursuant to minute 34-13DL (a) the Clerk reported that annual and perennial flowers had been purchased to improve the aesthetics of Benodet Park, a replanting programme should be considered for Sparrow Park, Benodet Park and to a lesser degree Rendel Park. Members concurred with the Clerk's suggestion and a replanting scheme would be drawn up. It was also reported that this item should now defer to the Forward Planning Committee now that the licence for Sparrow Park had been submitted.

b) Weed Control:-

Pursuant to minute 34-13DL Clerk confirmed that he has compiled a proposed tender specification for grounds maintenance and weed control around the town that would be sent to interested contractors.

5- 14DL Development Plan

Nothing further to report.

6- 14DL Localism

The Clerk reminded members that a Town and Parish Council summit had been arranged at County Hall on the 13th May 2014 and urged members to book if they intended to attend.

7- 14DL Neighbourhood Plan

a) Working Party Meeting:-

The Chairman spoke to the recent working party meeting held on the 8th April and reviewed the methodology of the post it planning. The Committee then reviewed the key priorities acknowledging that the application to register the Doctors Surgery as a community asset had been submitted to Cornwall Council. The Mayor would contact the estate agents for the vendors to confirm that possible sale of the property had not moved forward. Councillor Miss J L Kinsman suggested that the Rowing Club was more of a priority than the Doctors surgery pointing to the

vast community use of the building since construction. Councillor E H Andrews suggested possibly purchasing premises might be an option and pointed to a combination of reserves/grants and the PWLB as possible options to finance the project. Councillor Andrews also pointed to the possible use of European money and it might be an option to explore if the Council was discussing a possible regeneration project involving the Fire Station, Health Centre and Library. Councillor Mrs C E Goodman spoke on the use being made of the CRCC as a possible source of grant funding opportunities and would furnish the Clerk with contact details.

Members discussed the future use of the area to the West of Benodet Park and the Skateboard Park. It was noted the future development intentions of Antony Estates was key especially the proposed development of Defiance Field, the area of the former allotments beneath Gimpson Wood for possible housing and also the possible re-use of the former HMS Fisgard playing fields for recreational and sporting use. The Council discussed the on-going use of the top of Thanckes Park as the "green lung" of the town and the importance of maintaining this area for public recreation. Members also discussed the current management of the area by Cornwall Council with Councillor J Tivnan drawing attention to inadequate control of Japanese Knotweed that has been exasperated by contractors cutting living foliage and potentially spreading the weed. After discussing the matter further it is **recommended** that this Council explores the possibility of leasing this area of Thanckes Park from Cornwall Council.

b) Neighbourhood Plan:-

It was confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan area is within the boundaries of Torpoint civil parish. Members then discussed the proposed public consultation document. It was reported that the Rame peninsula consultation document had not involved certain elements of the community. Councillor J Tivnan suggested that this Council use a document produced by a town that had completed the plan (e.g. Thame, Much Wenlock) and had therefore been approved and tailor the document for use in Torpoint. It was suggested that the "SWOT" form used at Saltash might also be useful in this situation. Other matters discussed included the design and quality control. The Chairman offered to produce the data base and analyse the results of survey. Use of previous regeneration documents that had been produced for various organisations in the town were also discussed. Receipt was reported of a letter from a J Ede seeking assurances that if Adela Road was brought up to the required standard then the same should apply to Sydney Road. The Mayor reminded members that Sydney Road is part owned by owners of the properties in the road that had previously been reluctant to make a financial contribution to the repairs and upkeep. It is therefore unlikely that Sydney Road would be included in any development scheme funded wholly by public finances.

8- 14DL Date of the Next meeting

Thursday 26th June 2014.

9- 14DL Any Business that has been disclosed to the Chairman and members prior to the meeting

None.

Meeting closed at 8:14pmChairman