



TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish (Town) meeting of Torpoint held on Thursday 25th May 2023 at 8.03pm in the Council Committee Room, 4, York Road, Torpoint.

PRESENT: - Town Mayor (Councillor G J Davis - Chairman), eleven Town Councillors, one member of the public and the Town Clerk. Town Clerk took the minutes of the proceedings on behalf of the town.

1. Minutes of the last Parish meeting.

It was resolved the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26th May 2022 are received and signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

2. Matters arising from the minutes.

None.

3. Report from the Town Mayor covering the activities of the Town Council.

Our mission is to be open and fair, delivering a sustainable prosperous town economy that protects the environment, embraces the whole community and recognises Torpoint's unique design and location as a gateway to Cornwall and the Rame Peninsula.

- **Community**

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy which led to the formation of the Torpoint Diverse Advisory Panel, who have quickly set about understanding the accessibility of the council assets and has produced an action plan to improve the area. The panel is chasing opportunities for accessibility guides and videos to be produced to make available for people exploring the town. Other opportunities include improving the access at the tennis courts following funding provided by Friends of Thanckes Park of £1,900 which promises to deliver in the coming year.

In October we finally attained Plastic Free Community status for the town, a long journey extended due to Covid, but a worthwhile activity that has demonstrated the support of schools, businesses and community organisations in the town. Torpoint Environmental Action (TEA) continued to support with weekly litter picking around the town.

- **Community Governance**

This year has seen Rob Newcombe leave the council, he decided to resign to maintain a healthy work / family / life balance, in his place following an election we welcomed Councillor Mrs. Jacqui Reeves, returning us back to a full complement of 16 Members.

We have recently had to say good-bye to our youngest councillor, who could not provide the commitment he wanted, whilst balancing the role with University that he is attending daily in Exeter. We will be co-opting a new councillor in the coming weeks.

We have continued to connect and engage the community through our quarterly newsletter, Facebook page, Library and Community Hub. Our community hub has continued to be a thriving facility and has successfully got over £40k in funding to support some of our more vulnerable community with a warm space, company, food and a cuppa. It has extended opening hours to include market Sunday's, these openings have included 'Sustainable Sundays' with Café Abundance 'pay as you feel' meals from surplus food, as well as TEA hosting repair cafés, initially with sewing support, but promises to grow as volunteers with extended skills come forward

In September the council signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge, which builds upon our Code of Conduct.

- **Community Infrastructure and Sustainable Development**

The Climate Change Emergency Action Plan, adopted in August 2022, which includes a number of opportunities, noticeable at the moment is 'No Mow May', and will see reduced weed-spraying in the town as well as other opportunities progressed over the next year.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has progressed completing the Heritage Assessment and incorporated it into the plan. It is currently going through the required Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), these assessments are held as the overall plan is being updated to incorporate changes required to the Northern Fringe policy, due to the Rugby Club relocation, no longer looking likely. The NDP is looking likely to go to referendum in the summer 2024.

Update on the Town Team Project Board - £600k of Brownfield funding for the police relocation and demolition of the Police station has been awarded to Cornwall Council, to prepare the site for a multi-million pound redevelopment due to commence by 2026.

Bids for £200k have been submitted, which will fund the required planning up to RIBA2 standard, we await the announcement of whether this has been successful. This will open up applications for the multi-million pound bid for levelling up funding from the government in the next 12 months.

£76K in grant funding has been offered and is currently in the final stages of acceptance, to develop the implementation studies for electric bike hubs across Torpoint and the Peninsula.

4. Electors Questions.

There were no questions from electors.

5. Any Motions from Electors.

None.

6. Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 9th May 2024 – this will be a celebration of 50 years of Torpoint Town Council.

Town Meeting closed at 8.17pm.....Town Mayor (Chairman)