

## TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Development and Localism Committee held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 7.00pm in the Council Committee Room, 4, York Road, Torpoint.

**PRESENT:** - Councillor G J Davis (Chairman), E H Andrews (as substitute for the Town Mayor), Mrs C E Goodman, B Hobbs, Mrs A I Johnson and Mrs R A Southworth (as substitute for Councillor Mrs J M Martin) plus the Town Clerk.

### **35- 15DL Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Town Mayor (Councillor M N Pearn), Councillors L E Keise, Mrs J M Martin and J Tivnan.

### **36- 15DL Declarations of Interest relating to items on the Agenda**

None.

### **37- 15DL Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **38- 15DL Matters Arising from the Minutes**

a) Planning Applications:-

Pursuant to minute 30-15DL Councillor Mrs R A Southworth informed the meeting that the proposed helipad and forward operating base at Bull Point has evoked considerable opposition in Devonport.

### **39- 15DL Localism**

a) Coastal Community Team:-

The Chairman introduced this item by commenting on the recently successful meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015. The Clerk made some suggestions on the proposed terms of reference. The Clerk suggested that as the Town Council had confirmed Advisory Committee status group with no delegated responsibilities (other than possible organisational consolidated support for constituent organisations) all business would have to be referred to the Town Council for formal approval other than which has been delegated to officers within financial regulations and the Best Value Statement. The Chairman understood that Torpoint Community College wished to become involved with the Coastal Community Team although Councillor E H Andrews was of the opinion that the core group should be as tight as possible. It was noted that any new organisation would have to be invited to join by the Town Council. Councillor Mrs R A Southworth enquired as to the role of Saltash Town Council on the group as a member had been listed attending. The Chairman confirmed that Saltash Town Council had not been invited to join the group but a representative had been invited to attend a meeting as a means of exchanging ideas or information.

b) Parish Lengthsman Scheme:-

Receipt was reported of a copy email from Cornwall Council suggesting that a management arrangement might be entered into with the Town Council by Cornwall Council to undertake an eradication scheme to eliminate Japanese Knotweed from Thanckes Park. The management arrangement could be used as a possible pilot scheme. It could also be used as one of the building blocks of a proposed Lengthsman Scheme between this Council and Cornwall Council. Councillor Mrs R A Southworth sought to understand if Cornwall Council would contribute toward the scheme. It was suggested that the arrangement would be on a contribution or payment from Cornwall Council. This Council could then use the budget that has been proposed for the 2016-17

financial year to either enhance or expand the operation. Following further discussion it is **recommended** that this Council should pursue the possibility of a management arrangement with Cornwall Council to undertake the eradication programme of Japanese Knotweed in Thanckes Park. It is also suggested that the Council should also pursue the possibility of a Parish Lengthsman scheme with Cornwall Council but on condition of support from the Asset Management and Operations Committee who should also consider this matter. The matter was referred to the Asset Management and Operations Committee for further consideration.

#### **40- 15DL Town Council Development Plan**

##### a) Library Service:-

Receipt was reported of an email from Cornwall Council welcoming the expression of interest and offering preliminary dialogue with the Council. However the email confirmed that the cost of operating the Library and "One Stop Shop" in the town would not be fully known for a while. Councillor Brian Hobbs spoke of a "convoluted" process and suggested that any example of operating the library with volunteers might not be viable in the circumstances given that expertise that existed with the paid staff. It was also unclear as to the extent of the future operation. Councillor Mrs A I Johnson voiced the opinion that we need a cost base and suggested that a good example of a diverse library operation was that at Plymstock. Councillor B Hobbs also suggested widening the customer appeal by absorbing other services into library. Councillor Mrs C E Goodman suggested that the Council could benchmark against library services in other similar towns with Councillor E H Andrews further suggesting that this could be a nationwide comparison. Members conceded that the Council must understand what is on offer, the expectations of both Cornwall and Torpoint Town Council's and most importantly the costs involved and how much is being offered by Cornwall Council. Without this information it would be difficult to pursue this matter further. Following further discussion it is **recommended** that dialogue is maintained until the full costs and expectations of the future service is disclosed when the council can consider the proposals further.

##### b) Town Centre Manager:-

Members considered the proposed budget that was placed in the Development Plan but conceded that it might be a little early to identify a defined role without a completed Neighbourhood Plan and additionally how this Council wished to see the role expanded. Councillor Mrs R A Southworth was of the opinion that residents must see how this role will benefit the town. Councillor E H Andrews concurred suggesting that the Council would be wise to review how other towns similar in size and profile to Torpoint approached this matter. It is therefore **recommended** that this project is "parked" until further exploratory investigations are undertaken.

##### c) Town Festival:-

Members considered how this could be explored further with an annual event designed to bring in tourists and non-residents to the event. It was proposed that the Torpoint Town Partnership (TTP) should take the lead on this type of event. A suggestion for 2016 is the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Other ideas for a festival were discussed and it is **recommended** that this could be referred to the TTP for further consideration.

##### d) Town Council Maintenance Vehicle:-

Members generally concurred that obtaining this vehicle is a matter of urgency and cited some of the areas and activities to which it could be used. It was also generally conceded that the Asset Management and Operations Committee were probably best placed to review this matter further and it was therefore referred to that Committee for further consideration.

##### e) Park in Rowe Street:-

It was confirmed that this Council has expressed an interest in this park. Members also suggested that this Council could undertake it with the caveat and condition that the park is improved to an acceptable and appropriate standard prior to this Council considering taking it over. It was also noted that there could be health and safety issues with the current condition of the paving slabs and also there might be problems with the tree. It is **recommended** that the Council awaits further information from Cornwall Council prior to considering this matter further.

**41- 15DL Planning Applications:-**

None.

**42- 15DL Correspondence**

None

**43- 15DL Accounts for payment**

PAYEE	REASON	GROSS	VAT	NET
Viking Direct	Calculator	8.39	1.40	6.99
Ian Baard (Waterwise)	Plumbing Materials	11.70	1.95	9.75
Cornwall Compliance Ltd	Heating Consultant	860.70	0.00	860.70
ITEC	Photocopies (inc NDP copies)	159.74	26.62	133.12
Print Options	NDP Leaflets	164.00	4.00	160.00
Viking Direct	NDP Stationery	199.20	33.20	166.00
British Gas	Gas Invoice	141.63	6.74	134.89

**44- 15DL Date of the Next meeting**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**45- 15DL Any Business that has been disclosed to the Chairman and members prior to the meeting**

None.

Meeting closed at 8.27 pm .....Chairman