

TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Development and Localism Committee held on Thursday 23rd June 2016 at 7.00pm in the Committee Room, 4 York Road, Torpoint.

PRESENT:- Councillors M J Crago – Town Mayor, G. Davis, Mrs. C E Goodman, B Hobbs, Mrs. C A Jackson, L E Keise, Mrs. J M Martin Miss R A Tanner BEM, J Tivnan plus the Deputy Town Clerk.

1-16 DL Election of Chairman for the Civic Year 2016-17

The Town Mayor called for nominations for the position of Chairman for the Civic Year 2016-17. Councillor Mrs J M Martin proposed that Councillor G Davis is elected Chairman for the Civic Year 2016-17. Councillor Mrs C Goodman seconded the proposition and there being no other nominations the motion was put and Councillor G Davis was duly elected Chairman for the Civic Year 2016-17.

2-16 DL Election of Vice Chairman for the Civic Year 2016-17

The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman for the Civic Year 2016-17. Councillor Mrs J M Martin proposed that Councillor Mrs C Goodman is elected Vice-Chairman for the Civic Year 2016-17. Councillor Mrs K Jackson seconded the proposition and there being no other nominations the motion was put and Councillor Mrs C Goodman was duly elected Vice-Chairman for the Civic Year 2016-17.

3-16 DL Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor J Creek.

4-16 DL Declarations of Interest relating to items on the Agenda

Registerable Interest (RI) was declared by Councillor Mrs C A Jackson – Agenda Item 6 (b) (As an employee of Cornwall Council affected by any decision).

Non-Registerable Interest was declared by Councillor J Tivnan – Agenda item 9 (b) War Memorial (As Treasurer of the Royal British Legion).

5-16 DL Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Development and Localism Committee meeting held on the Thursday 25th March 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

6-16 DL Matters arising from the minutes

a) Japanese Knotweed Control Agreement:-

Pursuant to minute 95-15 DL (a) the Deputy Town Clerk explained that the Town Clerk had not received any further proposals from Cornwall Council to pursue the matter for the possible eradication programme. Councillor B Hobbs volunteered to discuss the proposals at a forthcoming

meeting with Cornwall Council. Councillor J Tivnan again expressed disappointment that once again there has been no further progress with this issue.

b) Library/One Stop Shop:-

Pursuant to minute 95-15DL (b) the Town Mayor explained that he had attended a recent meeting with representatives from Cornwall Council and the Town Clerk to consider the TUPE arrangements that would be put in place for staff, should the transfer of the library services proceed. Cornwall Council property services were unable to attend this meeting, however, property have now indicated that for Cornwall Council to consider disposal of the library site this would have to be on a leasehold basis, as they want to avoid prejudicing future redevelopment of the site. As no other site has been identified for the library, members were dismayed that the site was now being offered on a leasehold basis, as the original discussions with Cornwall Council were on a freehold basis. Councillor B Hobbs suggested that Cornwall Council should be asked to reconsider the basis of the offer, from leasehold to freehold. The Chair commented that the residents have given feedback indicating that the library service needs to be protected in the town. Members expressed their disappointment with this change in the proposal from Cornwall Council, along with other disappointments where devolution proposals are being pursued with no agreed outcomes achieved. Members **recommended** a meeting is arranged with the Cabinet member for Localism, Cornwall Council with a small number of members from the council, plus the Town Clerk, to seek definite answers to devolution proposals, including the library, for the benefit of the town.

c) Vision for Torpoint Strategy:-

The Chair explained the Vision for Torpoint document, produced by Clifton Emery Design Ltd., has been adopted by the council.

The Chair reminded members of the town council strategy working group which met on 3rd February 2016 and identified the following for consideration:

Mission Statement: Our mission is to ensure a sustainable prosperous town economy and environment, which embraces the whole community and recognises the town’s unique design and location as a gateway to Cornwall and the Rame Peninsula.

Vision:

Governance	Community	Development	People
To be a leading council operating within best practice and standards as recognised by the town community, members, partners and peers.	To be recognised by the community and partners as demonstrating best practice community engagement.	To ensure the provision of assets and services to enable the community to grow and flourish.	To ensure that all members and staff contribute to and support the ethos of the council.

Members **recommended** that the mission statement and vision are adopted by the council, with a further strategy meeting planned for Monday 4th July to propose key objectives for adoption by the council.

d) Town Council Maintenance Vehicle: -

The Deputy Town Clerk explained the situation had still not changed since the last discussion and although the acquisition of a maintenance vehicle for the Town Council for this financial year 2016/17 has been included in the development plan and budget but considered that it could not currently be justified. Members **recommend** the maintenance vehicle is no longer proceeded with.

e) Environment Service Standards: -

Following receipt of the service standards documentation received from Cornwall Council, members sought dates for Councillors to undertake a walk around the town. The following dates were agreed: Wednesday 6th July and Tuesday 12th July, start 6.00pm, the Deputy Town Clerk will forward more details in advance of the walk arounds.

7-16 DL Items Referred to this Committee

a) Neighbourhood Development Plan quorum.

The Chair explained the Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group is currently made up of several Councillors plus local residents, with the current meeting quorum being one half of members. The Chair continued that as this is not a committee of the council there have been occasions when the group has struggled to reach quorum. It is therefore **recommended** for the meeting quorum on the Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group be reduced from one half to one third of members.

8-16 DL Policies Referred to this Committee

a) None.

9-16 DL Localism

a) Tennis Courts including CCTV coverage: -

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on behalf of Councillor M N Pearn MBE, who is negotiating with Cornwall Council, that they have given permission to remove the "To Let" sign, relating to the tennis courts. Cornwall Council are proposing for the town council to take occupation of the tennis courts and a draft Tenancy at Will document is prepared with the lease being drafted shortly thereafter. Councillor Mrs C Goodman reminded members that the existing playing surfaces are not suitable for games to be played at competition level and therefore they would need replacing and/or upgrading should the council wish for the courts to be used for matches and competitions. Members discussed the hut and considered due to its very dilapidated condition that removal of the hut and contents would be the most appropriate solution, leaving a flat concrete surface which could be used as a viewing area on which a bench/table could then be located. Members **recommended:**

1. Continue to pursue the leasehold acquisition of the tennis courts from Cornwall Council, drafting a Tenancy at Will which will then be followed by a lease document

2. Commence discussions with Cornwall Council over the taking down, removal of the hut and disposal of the building and all its contents.

A quotation for CCTV to be installed at the tennis courts has been obtained the Deputy Town Clerk and has been considered at the Asset Management and Operations Committee.

b) War Memorial:-

Councillor J Tivnan advised that discussions to move forward with a War Memorial for the town are currently on hold.

c) Road Improvement, Adela Road

Councillor J Tivnan re-iterated the option whereby residents are contacted to be asked to contribute towards the funding for the road refurbishment, asking for a financial commitment, or if necessary instructing a lien to be added to the deeds of the property. Due to the number of times this item had been discussed at previous meetings without a proposal, the Chair sought a volunteer(s) to take the lead on this subject and return with a proposal on the way forward for the council, which could be considered at the next meeting; Councillor J Tivnan and Councillor B Hobbs volunteered to progress this further.

d) Bus Shelters: -

The Deputy Town Clerk detailed two quotations received for the full installation of two bus shelters on Trevol Road at existing bus stops, one opposite the Spar and the second at the entrance to Sycamore Drive. A Cornwall Council officer from Cormac has approved these site locations; members concurred with this approval and delegated to the officers of the council to progress further with the purchase and installation of two shelters. Cornwall Council have agreed grant applications for the shelters and will reimburse costs to the council once installation is completed.

10-16 DL Correspondence

a) Friends of Thanckes Park: -

The Deputy Town Clerk detailed a letter from the Secretary of Friends of Thanckes Park, identifying the apparent condition of the four corner plots in Benodét Park, noting that it was overgrown and in an untidy state and secondly asking the council to afford the Friends of Thanckes Park the courtesy of informing them when events are planned in Thanckes Park. The Deputy Town explained that the council are now working with the probation service who were recently instructed to trim back the three corner plots in Benodét Park. The Mayor added that a member of the public had kindly volunteered to undertake some planting in the park and added that the future walk around the town would include a visit to the park where these points would be considered.

The Chair expressed disappointment that the council representative for the Friends of Thanckes Park had not raised this issue directly with council, querying the roles and responsibilities of councillors on the various committees and organisations in the town. He continued that the conduit for events organisation in the town is the Torpoint Town Partnership and he suggested that a representative from the Friends of Thanckes Park joins this group. Members **recommend** a reply to include the proposal for a member to join the Torpoint Town Partnership organisation plus to

work collaboratively with the group on projects within the Vision for Torpoint, in order that better links are created for the benefit of the town.

b) Torpoint Community College – newsletter: -

Members noted thanks to Torpoint Community College for receipt of the newsletter via the post and requested that in future it is forwarded via email.

The Mayor left the meeting at this point.

c) Professional Property Solutions: -

The Chair detailed a letter which was received and a subsequent meeting held with this organisation who are seeking to invest/purchase commercial property in the town which is then converted into accommodation to live in. A member from the Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group joined the meeting and the organisation have promised to keep the council informed if progress is made in the town.

11-16 DL Planning Applications

a) PA16/04316 – 30 Wellington Street, Torpoint, Cornwall PL11 2DF – change the 2 dormer windows to 1 flat dormer window.

Council recommend refusal on the following grounds:

1. The change to the use of the windows is not in keeping with the current street view/outlook.
2. Fire exit concerns raised around safe exit routes, multiple occupancy property, which is considered as over development of this property.
3. Concerns raised around whether this property is consistent with the current policy on building regulations.

12-16 DL Accounts for Payment

PAYEE	REASON	GROSS	(VAT)	NETT
Blue Gas Heating & Plumbing Engineers	Gas Certificate/Beacon	36.00	6.00	30.00
British Gas	Antony Road toilets/ electricity	46.79	2.22	44.57
ITEC	Photocopies	67.49	11.25	56.24
Cory Environmental	Waste Removal	101.66	16.94	84.72

13-16 DL Date of next meeting

Thursday 28th July 2016.

14-16 DL Any Business that has been disclosed to the Chairman and members prior to the meeting

a) Coastal Community Team:-

The Chair explained that the Torpoint and the Rame Coastal Communities Team has been contacted by the following organisations in the local area who have requested letters to support their funding applications:

- i) South West Coast Path National Trail – their application is to help to deliver their vision to ‘ensure the South West Coast Path remains the UK’s favourite walk, ranked as one world’s greatest walks and make the coast of the South-west the UK’s best year-round walking destination’, which supports Economic Plan reference EN1.
- ii) Millbrook Work Units project, which supports Economic Plan reference J03.
- iii) The Lynher Sail River Transport & SW HUB Project, which links to four out of the five key objectives.

Members **resolved** approval for the letters to be sent, as the grant application deadline is 30th June. The Chair explained that unfortunately other projects within the existing Economic Plan do not fit the current criteria for this round of funding applications.

Meeting closed 8.50pm.....Chairman