

TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a the Parish (Town) meeting held on Thursday 26th May 2016 at 6.00pm in the Committee Room of the Council Chambers, York Road, Torpoint.

PRESENT: - Councillor M J Crago (Town Mayor - Chairman), plus nine Town Councillors and seven members of the public, including members from the Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group. The Deputy Town Clerk minuted proceedings on behalf of the town.

Mayors Remarks

The Town Mayor thanked those members of the council and public for attending the Town Meeting and invited Councillor G J Davis from the Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group to give a presentation on the Vision for Torpoint.

1) Presentation of the Vision for Torpoint

Councillor G J Davis from the Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group thanked Mrs Andrea Johnson (in the public gallery) for all the work undertaken as Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group. Councillor G J Davis also gave thanks to the volunteers on the steering group, adding that it has been a fantastic effort by the residents of the town, who fully engaged with the consultation, which supported the production of the Vision for Torpoint. Councillor G J Davis explained how the town council had applied to the Big Lottery Fund for a £10K Awards for All grant to undertake A New Vision for Torpoint. In addition the town council successfully obtained grants from Locality for the Neighbourhood Plan. The Vision for Torpoint is accessible on the Neighbourhood Plan website and copies will be made available in the council offices and the library.

Councillor G J Davis introduced Mr Neil Emery, from the appointed planning consultants Clifton Emery Design Ltd, who presented information on the consultation events undertaken, research methods and activities which enabled the Vision for Torpoint to be compiled. Mr Neil Emery explained the background to the master plan, which is at the heart of the Vision. The plan includes a wider strategy that highlights where change might be possible across the town as a whole, alongside 50 ideas (in the form of projects) that show how the change could be conceived. The projects vary in scale and type, with some being quite easy to deliver and others more complex requiring significant amounts of funding. The objectives of the overarching Vision and issues raised by local people to be addressed are the following:

- Stimulating the town centre;
- Celebrating the waterfront;
- Strengthening the community;
- Feeling part of the Rame Peninsula.

The presentation prompted discussion from residents in the public gallery. The Head Teacher from Torpoint Community College expressed dismay about the lack of consultation with her as Head Teacher, explaining therefore that information within the Vision about the College land usage and its surrounding area may not be accurate.

A local resident drew attention to the poor state of some of the buildings at the lower end of the town, highlighting the fire station which although it is now up for sale, the building has remained empty for many, many years and subsequently become run down, which does not give a very good first impression of the town. Councillor G J Davis explained that the lower end of town has been identified for redevelopment in the Vision, highlighting that the town council will be considering opportunities to work with the local authority for the benefit of the town and its community. Mr R White (Neighbourhood Plan steering group) supported Councillor G J Davis' comments about the Vision development opportunities, highlighting that this document does not have any legal power. Mr R White explained that it is hoped the Neighbourhood Development Plan will reach the referendum stage in the future, and then be adopted for use by Cornwall Council in future planning decisions. A resident queried the timescale for the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan. Mr N Emery responded that it will take time to draft the policies; Councillor E Andrews verified this re-iterating the importance of ensuring the draft plan is appropriate with members of the public having been able to have their say. Members of the steering group supported Councillor G J Davis' vote of thanks to Mrs A Johnson.

2) Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Town (Parish) meeting held on the Thursday 21st May 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

3) Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

4) Report from the Town Mayor covering the activities of the Town Council

The Mayor briefly made reference to his Mayoral acceptance speech, delivered at the Mayor Making ceremony one week ago, identifying the opportunities and challenges which the town is facing whilst highlighting the Vision projects giving aspiration and foresight into the future prosperity of the town. The Mayor highlighted the town council took on the running of the town public conveniences in the last three, adding that it was hoped that public conveniences council tax payments would be abolished in the future, giving savings to the town. The Mayor explained the town council is considering all options for the future of retaining the library service in the town. The Mayor thanked Councillor M N Pearn MBE and Mrs V Pearn for the excellent manner in which they undertook the roles of Town Mayor and Mayoress for the last civic year.

5) Questions from Electors of the Parish

None.

6) Any Motions from Electors of the Parish

None.

7) Date of the next meeting

Thursday 25th May 2017.

Meeting closed 6.55pm.....Chairman