

**RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st MAY 2014 AT
ORCHARD CORNER**

Present: Judy Westacott, Sue & Paul Bennett, John Keleher, Jeremy Logie, Dave Mitchell, Anne Ward, Kate Wilson

1. APOLOGIES: Jim Carfrae,

2. THE MINUTES of the meeting of 24th March 2014 were accepted as a true record and signed by JW.

3. MATTERS ARISING: 4.4. Carry forward note re seeking new members. **ACTION JL/JW.** 7. Repairing the Leechwell. No further action required by Totsoc pending the outcome of the application for Scheduled Monument Consent. 8. Image Bank. JL yet to meet with Barry Weekes. **ACTION JL.** Regarding future presentations AW to take this forward with KW who offered to contact Martin Walker from KEVICCs. **ACTION AW, JW.** 9. AGM: Date now fixed for 9 October at United Free Church with Professor Balch as speaker.

4. REPORTS

4.1. CHAIR (JW): Further meeting with Linden Homes on various aspects of the development but nothing tangible to report other than the reserved matters planning application had now been submitted by Linden but not yet registered.

4.2. SECRETARY (PB): ASHTAV magazine circulated. Reported on meeting arranged by the Town Clerk for 17 June to discuss management arrangements for heritage buildings owned or under the control of the Town Council.

4.3 TREASURER (JL): JL distributed an Accounts Forecast setting out the current position regarding Totsoc finances which shows an increase in funds from £2,681.45 as at 01.07.2013 to £2,753.66 as at 18.05.2014.

4.4. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (JL): see Matters Arising above. Progress is being made with persuading members to sign the Gift Aid forms.

4.5. PLANNING: (KW): Ashburton Road: Full planning consent for this site (now owned by Bloor Homes) has been granted for 50 houses of which 15 will be affordable. There are 31 three bedroom units, 12 two bedroom and 7 four bedroom. The area allocated as employment land will not be developed at this stage and KW's view is that in the Local Plan this should be re-allocated to further residential use as speculative development of light industrial units is not viable. There will be a contribution to fund educational facilities and KW expects

this to be used to improve sports facilities at KEVICC. Overall the development is a satisfactory one.

Great Court Farm: KW has been asked by Frances Northrop to provide her with a note of cogent planning grounds for refusing a planning application for residential development on this site. She believes that there is a groundswell of public opinion opposing the loss of farming and the business of tourist accommodation on the site provided by the tenant farmer whose family have been in occupation for nearly one hundred years. KW/PB waiting to hear further from the Duke's planning advisors following the public consultations.

PB reported on the further Baltic Wharf Stakeholder Workshop held by TQ9 and facilitated by Jeff Bishop. This was well organized and an example of consultation properly undertaken.

PB raised the issue of Totnes town now having no representation on the SHDC planning committee. This stemmed largely from the reduction in numbers of that committee coupled with selection to it being dealt with on a party political basis. It was agreed that PB should draft a letter of concern to SHDC and circulate to the committee for approval. **ACTION PB.**

4.6. PUBLIC ART & DESIGN SUB-GROUP: (AW): The proposed Arts Strategy had been widely circulated (including to all Totsoc members). The response had been favourable although some concern expressed as to whether its aspirations could realistically be achieved. The application for an Arts Council grant would be submitted shortly.

4.7, TOTSOC FORUM: KW had decided not to have a meeting on the Neighbourhood Plan as this had been the topic for the Town Meeting but instead hold a more general meeting covering wider topics sometime in June. **ACTION KW.**

5. EXTERNAL BODIES:

PB reported on the last Traffic & Transport Forum meeting which had been attended by Bruce Thompson (DCC Head of Transport Co-ordination Service) and Robert Williams of Stagecoach S.W. The drastic reduction in central government transport grant almost certainly will result in further cuts to bus services. A specific point was raised regarding the 111 service (Dartmouth – Torquay via Torbay hospital) lost in 2011 and replaced by a greatly reduced subsidized service from Totnes. Apparently the use of the 111 service for people visiting Torbay hospital had been substantially overestimated by the general public: the fact being that only 2.5% of the revenue earned on this route was from those visiting the hospital.

6. Neighbourhood Plan: Totsoc had been asked to comment on the current position and its lack of contribution to the project group. KW adhered to the same view which she took and put to a meeting arranged by the Town Council last year when she suggested that the plan should concentrate on "bite size" areas such as the Civic Hall/Market Square area which it would be easier for the community to understand and relate to. She feels that by proceeding on a

broader front little substantive progress has been made since March 2012 when we learned that we had been allocated £20,000 under the Government's NP front runner scheme and that the root cause of this stems from trying to do too much with insufficient resources. Totsoc would become involved once preparation of the plan itself was started. The committee supported this view and that this should be communicated to the Town Council. **ACTION KW/PB.**

7. CONTACT (DM): Copy needed by late August/early September in time for the next edition of Contact.

8. AOB: None.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

WEDNESDAY 30th July 2014 2pm ORCHARD CORNER. ***Please note earlier start time.***

SUE BENNETT
28.05.2014