

**TOTNES & DISTRICT SOCIETY
(‘TOTSOC’)**

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting

Monday 13 January 2025 at the REconomy Centre, Totnes.

1 **Members and Apologies**

Paul Bennett	P	Tom King	P
Jim Carfrae (chair)	A	Jeremy Logie	P
Rod Hewett	P	Kate Wilson	P

P = Present. A=Apologies

2 **Minutes** - The minutes of the meeting of 18 November 2024 were approved.

3 **Discussed**

Matters arising from previous minutes (not covered below) – None

a. **CONTACT**

It was agreed that there should be a spring edition and RH confirmed that the production date should be early April. Contributions will therefore be required by the end of March. The following contributions were confirmed:

KW Report of findings of a 1950's archaeological dig at Totnes Castle
TK A note on the recent planning applications considered by Totsoc
JC A report on the Transition Homes (Aster) project at Puddavine
RH A report on the work of a Ukraine support group by Neil Millward (a contact of RH)

The last item was discussed as the subject matter does not relate to Totsoc's objects. It was agreed in principle that a 'guest' contribution would be beneficial.

RH also mentioned that he expected to get a contribution on the Totnes Cinema project but that it would not be ready until the autumn.

b. *Planning Officer/Neighbourhood Plans*

No update on either Dartington or Totnes Neighbourhood Plans

c. *Committee Reports*

The was no report from the Chair.

The Secretary noted that there were about 14 members for whom we did not have email addresses. It was agreed that at the time CONTACT is sent out in April, the Secretary will provide individually addressed letters for these

members asking them to provide email address as all future notices (not necessarily CONTACT) would be sent by email. If any member had a problem, they would be asked to contact the Secretary to discuss alternative arrangements.

The Membership secretary reported that he had received an application form for a new member and was waiting to receive the membership fee.

d. *Major projects*

There was nothing to report on the proposals at any of the major project sites.

4 Issues raised by members/others

Bowden Pillars Farm (Woodland Trust) The committee considered a message from a member regarding The Woodland Trust's proposal at this location. It was agreed that the provision on a footpath in this rural location was not something that Totosc could take a position on but several of the committee members (who are also supporters of The Woodland Trust) expressed their personal concern and may make personal representation on this matter. It was agreed that TK should respond to the member.

5 AOB

- a. ***Totnes Pulse article*** - TK reported that Totnes Pulse would be pleased to run a piece on Totsoc, its objects, activity and history. It was agreed that JC would be best placed to write this.
- b. ***Dairy Crest site*** – whilst there has been no news on the future of the site, it was agreed that its appearance, particularly the burnt-out car adjacent to the station forecourt was a very poor advertisement for Totnes. It was agreed that Totsoc should write to SHDC urging it to consider what powers it might have to improve the appearance of the site pending its redevelopment. To be discussed with JC.
- c. ***Reform of local government*** – It was suggested that the committee should canvass members for their view on the proposed reorganisation of local government. TK to draft an email to go to all members.

6 Next meeting in the absence of The Chair no date was set for the next meeting. But one will be confirmed as soon as possible.