

TEIGNBRIDGE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (TALC)

Secretary: Dudley Swain 01392 833353 email: dudley@the-swains.co.uk

Minutes

of the meeting held Thursday 26th January 2017 at Forde House

Present:

Ashburton	John Nutley	Ideford	Anthony French; Ashley Lamb
Ashton	John Ponti	Ilsington	Reg Winsor
Bishopsteignton	Elaine Cawthraw;	Kenn & Kennford	Andy Chislett; Bridgette Williams
	Keith Lambert	Kingsteignton	Chris Meathrel
Bovey Tracey	Steven Leigh	Newton Abbot	David Howe (Chairman)
Chudleigh	Michael McCormich		Carol Bunday; Mike Hocking
Buckfastleigh	Fanny Jackson; Janet Jones	North Bovey	Peter Keesom
Denbury & Torbryan ...	Tony Brownhill	Ogwell	Richard Broome; Rita Hannaford
Dunchideock	Dudley Swain	Tedburn St Mary	Pat Moody
Exminster	Derek Madge	TDC	Douglas Hellier-Laing;
Haccombe-with-Combe	Anna Taylor		Gary Powell

Apologies:

Abbotskerswell (Kevin Farrelly); Ashburton (Alan Hitchcock); Bishopsteignton (Hazel Stuckey); Bovey Tracey (Tony Allen); Ide (Rose Saunders); Ipplepen (Roger Carnell); Shillingford St George (John Parrott); Tedburn (Colin Plamer); Teignmouth (Tracey Higgs); TDC (Phil Bullivant ; Mike Haines)

1 TDC Budget Proposals 2017/18 - Lesley Tucker, Chief Finance Officer, Martin Flitcroft TDC & Cllr Stuart Barker

The Council tax proposed increase is the maximum £5 (£160.17 per annum) permitted without precipitating a referendum. However Teignbridge council tax is still below the Devon district average. Concerns were highlighted regarding the loss to TDC from new homes bonus arrangements, leading to a £28k reduction in income for 2017/18 followed by greater deductions in later years. The 17/18 reduction is equivalent to 4% of council tax – thus very significant. Whilst there may be transitional grants available, total government funding is nevertheless reducing by around £1m (13%) in each of the next three years. Reserves will be used to address some of the shortfall, along with other savings. External pressures include the 4.2% increase to national living wage and a 1% national pay award.

A 2% increase is proposed for fees and charges, with car parking going up 3%, primarily to cover the extra cost of the new rates charges being introduced. Rural aid (£40k), Dartmoor grant (£25k), housing, neighbourhood planning and business will continue to be supported with infrastructure plans being assisted by S106 and external grants, etc. An overall picture is presented in the Budget Forecast diagram in Appendix A.

TDC development of Newton Abbot town centre is generating valuable rental income. Further such schemes have included Teignmouth business units and Heathfield industrial park. Other development/investment projects are planned. The LEP will be key to other major economic developments currently under discussion.

There is nothing in the budget to compensate councils for the additional costs they bear as a consequence of the IT changes to planning applications.

The feedback from this meeting, being the main direct consultation forum for councils, and other responses can lead to adjustments to the budget proposals. Consultation period ends 3/2/17, with the budget going to Council on 21/2/17

2 Tony Cook – Chair, Christow Community Land Trust (CCLT)

The housing scheme and CCLT arose from the Parish Plan 2005 and the need that was identified for homes for locals. It was a project that had the opportunity of TDC land, local and Teign Housing support to bring “Stafford Close” to fruition. This consists of 14 homes for rent, 4 for sale at 80% of market price (to support the 14) all of Passivhaus design. These are very low energy buildings that require almost no heating or cooling to ensure low energy bills (£50 to £100 per year) combined with a comfortable living environment. Rainwater harvesting and solar panels feature in the development.

TDC sold to the land to CCLT for £1; Teign Housing worked well to secure funding from the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA); very significant community involvement; DNP support. All these things made the scheme possible and highly successful. All 14 rentable homes are now occupied (some now have full disabled provision) and a sales campaign is progressing for the discounted homes. Teign Housing pays ground rent to CCLT enabling them to fund local community organisations.

The site is spacious with the land in the middle forming a village green with tree planting now enhancing this environment. Other villages could repeat this project although the low cost land and the HCA grants were unique to Christow and possibly not now repeatable. If you would like the phone or email of Tony Cook (he’s happy to discuss things with other councils), please contact the Secretary.

3 Minutes of the meeting 24th November 2016 – These were approved

4 Secretary’s Report The bank balance is £155.52; Members agreed to pay for the Secretary’s travel expenses of £81 for 2016 along with the additional meetings incidentals costs of £9. The Secretary pointed out he doesn’t ask for the support costs that a Clerk working from home would have.

5 TDC Use of IT for Planning Applications. A lively discussion took place about the experiences of the several councils progress to date. It was apparent that common matters of time, cost and broadband speeds are problematic. It may be possible that the developer might provide paperwork in some future situations. Perhaps TDC could set out specific file types/sizes for applicants planning submissions to ensure quality and function. It was agreed to ask TC speakers come to TALC in March to resolve such matters. Clerks would be most welcome to come along.

It was mentioned that the local broadband provider is changing from BT to Gigaclear. Communities/LC’s could also make use of the Voucher Scheme (£500 per household) to fund better broadband. (post meeting note from Gary: LC’s might find www.biglotteryfund.org uk and its Awards for All as an additional means of funding the necessary IT kit.)

6 March 30th 2017 Meeting. Members agreed to hear about cyber crime (following the recent DCT meeting) and also invite TDC representatives to discuss the IT aspects of presenting Planning Applications at meetings

7 Matters brought forward by Members. Concern was raised about the intrusive spying from drones; a topic to review in coming months

8 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 30th March 2017 at 7.00pm at Forde House.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

APPENDIX A – Budget Forecast Diagram for 2017/18

