

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXTERNAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MEETING

Town Hall - Bridge Street, Bideford, EX39 2HS

Wednesday, 22 February 2017 - 2.00 pm

PRESENT                    Councillor S Inch (Chair)  
                                 Councillors R Darch, A Eastman, T Johns, A Whittle, A Dart and  
                                 C Simmons

ALSO PRESENT        J Hollis                    -            Senior Solicitor  
                                 S Cawsey                   -            Democratic Services Officer  
  
                                 Mr P Topham              -            Non elected Member

Dr Jenny Carey-Wood - North Devon AONB

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

52.    APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM THE MEETING

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pennington and Parker.

53.    MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Johns, seconded by Councillor Whittle and –

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2017 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

(Vote: For 7, Abstentions 2)

54.    ACTION LIST

Minutes No. 14 – 17.8.2016 - DCC Locality Officers

Following an enquiry from Councillor Eastman, the Senior Solicitor reported that, to date, the role of Locality Officer in Torrington had not been filled and Ali Boyd and David Slocombe were still covering.

Members agreed with the suggestion put forward by the Senior Solicitor that either Ali Boyd or David Slocombe be invited to attend a meeting of this Committee to explain the role they are undertaking.

55. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded that declarations of interest should be made as and when the specific agenda item to which they related was under discussion.

56. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

There were no Part II items.

57. URGENT MATTERS BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

There were no urgent matters but the Chair gave the following update:

Following interview for the appointment of an Independent Member on the Committee, the position had been offered to Mr David Mason. Formal appointment will be made at Full Council on 6 March 2017.

58. AONB

The Chair welcomed Dr Jenny Carey-Wood of the North Devon AONB.

Dr Jenny Carey-Wood gave an informative slide presentation which included the projects and priorities for the North Devon AONB. The primary purpose of an AONB designation is “to conserve and enhance natural beauty”.

Also incorporated within the presentation was information with regard to the funding, AONB Management Plan, the Sustainable Development Fund, AONB and Planning and Performance Indicators 2015-16.

During the presentation Dr Jenny Carey-Wood had referred to a project “North Devon Moving Image” with local schools being involved. Councillor Eastman requested that an update on this item be given to this Committee at the next AONB presentation.

Members recognised the importance of the AONB engaging with schools. The AONB are also looking to work with teachers to give confidence and support when taking children to the beach. Councillor Whittle asked that an official flyer, referred to in the presentation, be sent to him. He will then forward this to all Members with a request that they speak to schools within their Wards advising them of the support being offered by the AONB.

Members acknowledged the good work being carried out by the AONB..

The Chair thanked Dr Jenny Carey-Wood for attending and for giving an excellent presentation.

59. CCG

Councillor C Simmons declared a personal interest – a member of SoHS (North Devon Save our Hospital Service).

Members debated at length the letter and attached documents received from Dr Tim Burke, which was in response to a letter sent on behalf of this Committee.

A number of issues and concerns were raised, with Members referring to their own experiences and experiences within their Wards.

Mr P Topham updated Members on the information he had obtained, this included the Clinical Review Groups that are taking place within the National Health Service. Mr Topham advised that the Committee should endeavour to get involved in these Groups at an early stage. He also had concerns with the Groups undertaking the Consultations which he felt were pre-determined.

Mr Topham suggested that Angela Pedder and colleague be invited to attend a Joint meeting with ND Council to address procedural issues.

Councillor Eastman reminded Members of the Demonstration March to be held in London on Saturday 4 March 2017.

Councillor Darch emphasised the need to maintain the services in our District Hospital and also to manage the changes needed.

It was proposed by Mr P Topham, seconded by Councillor Whittle that –

A Joint meeting with ND Council be arranged and Dr Tim Burke, Angela Pedder, Lead Chief Executive for the Success Regime, together with Senior Colleagues be invited to attend.

(Vote: For 8, Abstentions 1) Councillor Simmons abstained due to interest

Venue of Joint Meeting to be arranged.

All questions for the meeting to be emailed to the Senior Solicitor.

60. SWW

Councillor Whittle introduced this item and reported as follows:

- The main problem is sewage leaking into the water course – one of the reasons for this is Victorian type of piping with water and sewage in one pipe. South West Water have no control over this and the only way to deal with this is to renew all piping.

- A field trip can be arranged for Councillors to get a better understanding of the problems.

Members raised issues within their own wards. It was agreed that an evidence based approach was needed.

Due to the problems within the area and the need for immediate intervention from South West Water, it was suggested that the Torridge MP and the North Devon MP be involved.

South West Water to be asked what they propose for the future to alleviate problems.

Councillor Dart left the meeting

#### 61. TOURIST INFORMATION GROUPS

The Senior Solicitor referred Members to the document attached to the Agenda – Monthly statistics 2016.

During the brief discussion the following comments were made:

- Tourism being a very important aspect of the local economy
- The need to invest more in tourism
- Looking at ways of getting more money into the economy

In response to a comment made regarding promoting tourism on the website, the Senior Solicitor suggested that perhaps a tourism page could be set up on the Council website.

In response to a question, the Senior Solicitor advised that ND Council was considering appointing a tourism officer separately from ND+. The Chair felt this matter should be investigated further.

#### 62. GRANT REVIEW

This matter to be brought back to a future meeting.

#### 63. HEALTH, WELLBEING & SOCIAL CARE (STANDING ITEM)

There were no updates.

#### 64. CONSIDERATION OF THE FORWARD PLAN 2016/17

The Chair asked that Mr Topham give a presentation at the next meeting on his Evaluation of Impact – Partner Survey 2016 Final Report.

Locality Officer, Torrington – Ali Boyd or David Slocombe to be invited to attend a meeting to explain their roles

North Devon AONB to be added to the Forward Plan

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and closed at 4.10 pm

Chair:

Date: