

223. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

224. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

Councillor Ford addressed the committee.

The Chair suggested that the meeting move into Part II due the sensitivity of Councillor Ford's issue.

225. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Manley and -

Resolved:

That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because of the likely disclosure of exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 and Paragraph 10 of Part 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

(Vote: For 25, Against 3, Abstention 3)

226. PART II - CLOSED SESSION

A brief discussion took place with advice given from the Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) that Councillor Ford put any grievance in writing.

It was proposed by Councillor Inch, seconded by Councillor Watson and -

Resolved:

That the press and public be readmitted.

(Vote: For 30, Against 0, Abstention 1)

Councillor Ford left the meeting at 6:40pm.

227. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

It was proposed by Councillor Bushby, seconded by Councillor Newton and -

Resolved: That the agenda be circulated as agreed.

(Vote: For 29, Abstentions 1)

228. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER BUSINESS ESPECIALLY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE CHAIR

The Chair welcomed Councillor Inch back following his absence.

229. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE A9

A question had been submitted under Procedural Rule A9 by Councillor Pennington.

In accordance with the Constitution a written answer to the question had been circulated to all Members.

Question from Councillor Pennington

The Council held a Leisure Workshop at Caddsdwn on the 31st of August. The covid virus infection rate for Torridge, at the time, was almost the highest anywhere in Europe.

What was the justification for not doing this meeting by virtual means??

Councillor P Pennington
14 September 2021

Response

The UK Government revoked England's lockdown laws on 19 July 2021. This means there are no longer any lockdown laws in force in England, although other types of coronavirus restrictions are still in force (notably self-isolation and international quarantine restrictions).

Risk Assessments have been undertaken for all Council premises and we ensure that we adhere to all recommendations in the interests of health and safety for our staff and elected members.

In the absence of Councillor Pennington, the question and response were noted.

230. CONSULTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT IN SAFE ACCOMMODATION IN DEVON 2021

The Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) presented the report, the purpose of which was to consult Members on the County Council Strategy for Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation in Devon.

Following a query from Councillor Hurley, the Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) confirmed that the scheme is operated by Devon County Council and would not impact on the Council's current housing duty and procedure. The scheme is a new initiative with funding of £1.4 million and is aimed at providing Domestic Violence victims permanent accommodation however temporary accommodation would still be used where necessary.

Councillor Jones joined the meeting at 6:50pm.

It was proposed by Councillor Bushby, seconded by Councillor Newton and -

Resolved: That the recommendations in the report be approved.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

231. SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) presented the report, the purpose of which was for approval of the revised Safeguarding Policy.

The Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) advised Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone and Data Protection should not hinder a Safeguarding issue, any queries please contact the Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer).

It was proposed by Councillor Hurley, seconded by Councillor Clarke and -

Resolved: That the revised Safeguarding Policy be adopted.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

232. ANNUAL REPORT ON TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2020-21

The Finance Manager & Section 151 Officer presented the report, the purpose of which was to report on the treasury management activity in the year and actual prudential indicators for 2020/21.

An explanation was given on the Public Loans Work Board being an historic debt. If TDC did not borrow any more money, the Public Loan Work Board debt would be cleared in four years, however further loans have been authorised for new capital projects which will be paid back over a 20-year period.

In response to a query, the Finance Manager & Section 151 Officer advised that the original debt that originated 20 years ago was possibly for capital works and loans for housing stock.

The Finance Manager & Section 151 Officer advised, following a query, that the next Devon County Council Pension employee meeting is scheduled for February 2022. If Members have any questions, comments or concerns the Finance Manager & Section 151 Officer is happy to raise them at the meeting.

The report was noted.

233. BRUNSWICK WHARF LAND RELEASE FUND

The Head of Communities & Place presented the report, the purpose of which was to inform Members of the details of the Land Release Fund award to Torridge District Council for any quay wall works at Brunswick Wharf and to seek approval for the award sum to be added to the capital programme.

An explanation was given that the grant had no effect on the consented scheme. Red Earth's intention was to develop the scheme, the Land Release Fund had recognised the scheme did not meet the viability threshold therefore to expedite the delivery and delivery of houses the Land Release Fund were prepared to invest in the scheme with the grant.

Confirmation was given that a profit was allowable within the viability assessment.

It was proposed by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Newton and -

Resolved: That the sum of £797,000 be added to the Council's Capital Programme to Quay Wall works at Brunswick Wharf in accordance with the LRF funding criteria and an agreed specification of work with Red Earth be approved.

(Vote: For 25, Against 4, Abstention 4)

234. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR TO LOCAL AUTHORITY TRADING COMPANY BOARD

The purpose of this report was to approve the appointment of one Councillor to the Leisure Local Authority Trading Company Board.

Councillor Hodson proposed Councillor Langford be nominated for the position as her skill set and dedication to recreation and sport would be beneficial to the board.

Councillor Jones proposed Councillor Hutchings be nominated for the position due to his business knowledge and approach.

A short discussion took place with comments and views from Members as follows:

- a hard business approach is required;
- keep costs down;
- diversity of talent is needed on the LATC board;
- costs are important however TDC are still providing a service;
- the Non-executive Director will play a key role;
- manage a balance between cost and providing a service;
- need to promote the new service to get people to use the facilities

A vote was taken and –

Resolved: That the Member appointed to serve on the LATC board be Councillor Langford.

(Vote: For 29, Against 2)

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Newton and -

Resolved:

That Councillor Hutchings for Holsworthy, Councillor Hodson for Northam and Councillor Bright for Torrington be appointed to serve on the Shadow Board.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

235. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

236. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were two notices of motion.

(a) Written Notice of Motion from Councillor Hames

In the light of the drastic decline in UK wildlife and this Council's consequent commitment to conserve and promote biodiversity I propose that an ecologist is employed by TDC to provide independent advice and assessment of matters relating to biodiversity, including those arising from planning applications. Whether the person would be employed full time, part time, shared with another local authority or on some other basis would remain to be decided.

Councillor Hames presented his Notice of Motion with a further statement detailing why there is the need for a Biodiversity and Ecologist Officer.

Following a short discussion, it was confirmed and agreed that it is the responsibility of the Chief Executive to appoint staff.

It was proposed by Councillor Hames, seconded by Councillor Christie and -

Resolved: That the Notice of Motion be referred to the Chief Executive for consideration at a future date.

(Vote: For 8, Against 23)

Motion lost.

(b) Written Notice of Motion from Councillor Leather

This Council is concerned regarding pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media and other channels. We are concerned for the welfare of those animals that are being given as prizes and recognise that many incidents of animals being given as prizes may go unreported each year. I ask this council to support a ban on the giving of live animals, in any form, on Torridge District Council land. That we write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.

Councillor Leather presented his Notice of Motion giving additional information on a National Campaign being run by the RSPCA to ban live animals as prizes.

It was proposed by Councillor Leather, seconded by Councillor Clarke and -

Resolved: That the Notice of Motion be referred to Community & Resources Committee for the approval of banning live animals as prizes on Torridge District land.

(Vote: For 27, Against 2, Abstention 2)

237. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Bushby and -

Resolved:

That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because of the likely disclosure of exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 and Paragraph 10 of Part 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

(Vote: For 30, Abstention 1)

Councillor Hames left the meeting at 7.51pm.

238. PART II - (CLOSED SESSION)239. STANDARDS HEARING - 4TH AUGUST 2021

The Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) introduced the item, giving a summary of the report.

The Independent Investigator introduced himself and gave details of his work background.

Councillor Cottle-Hunkin left the meeting at 7:55pm.

Councillor Laws being the Chair of the Standards Committee commented on the work of the Standards Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Laws, seconded by Councillor Lock and -

Resolved: That the recommendations in the report be approved.

(Vote: For 24, Abstentions 5)

It was proposed by Councillor Newton, seconded by Councillor Jones and -

Resolved:

That the press and public be readmitted.

(Vote: For – unanimous)

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.25 pm

Chair:

Date: