

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCILFULL COUNCIL MEETINGCaddstown Business Support Centre - BidefordMonday, 13 June 2022 - 6.30 pm

PRESENT Councillor D Bushby (Chair)
 Councillor P Christie (Vice-Chair)
 Councillors R Boughton, D Brenton, C Bright, M Brown, R Clarke,
 R Craigie, A Dart, L Ford, J Gubb, P Hames, S Harding,
 C Hawkins, K Hepple, R Hicks, C Hodson, D Hurley, J Hutchings,
 T Inch, K James, D Jones, S Langford, N Laws, C Leather,
 R Lock, D McGeough, J McKenzie, S Newton, P Pennington and
 R Wiseman

ALSO PRESENT S Hearse - Chief Executive
 S Dorey - Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring
 Officer)
 D Heyes - Finance Manager (Section 151 Officer)
 A Redwood - Major Projects & Estates Manager
 J Williams - Public Health & Housing Manager
 T Vanstone - Senior Electoral & Democratic Services
 Officer
 K Brown - Democratic Services Officer
 S Cawsey - Democratic Services Officer

Tim Steer, Director of Bideford Railway Heritage Centre.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: C Cottle-Hunkin, P Hackett, P Watson and C Woodhouse.

2. COUNCIL MINUTES

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

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

(Vote: For - 25, Against - 0, Abstentions - 3)

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

Resolved: That the minutes of the Annual General meeting held on 16th May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

(Vote: For - 25, Against - 0, Abstentions - 3)

3. ACTION LIST

The action list was noted.

Councillor Ford left at 6.36pm and Councillor Jones arrived.

4. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

There were no public contributions.

5. 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.

6. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

There were no Part II items.

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

The Chair advised Members that it had been suggested to move meetings back to the Town Hall for smaller sub-committee meetings. Work was ongoing to ascertain the practicalities of this and a report would be presented to Leadership in due course.

8. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE A9

There were no questions submitted under Procedural Rule A9.

9. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

10. LEVELLING UP FUND SUBMISSION FOR TORRIDGE

The Major Projects Manager and Economic Development Officer presented the report, the purpose of which was to outline the proposals for Torridge District Council's final submission for the Levelling Up Fund 2 to the Ministry of Housing Community Local Government for the redevelopment of Middle Dock.

A slide presentation was delivered detailing the salient points of the project.

Members were invited to ask questions.

In response to query from Councillor Laws, the Chair clarified the Shipyard's land boundaries.

The Major Projects Manager confirmed that three alternative entrances had been investigated, however, it was concluded that widening the existing entrance would cost less and have less impact on the overall footprint of the site.

The Economic Development Officer advised, following a question from Councillor Lock that he was very confident Exeter University would sign up to the proposal however if they did not it was not a high-level risk.

The Major Projects Manager reassured Members that the current Quay Wall was still adequate and would not need any enhancement, however, the works scheduled consider flood risks for the next 100 years.

It was confirmed that the value of the site was approximately £280,000 and additional borrowing would be required from the Public Works Loan Board to fund the project. A full report with costings would be brought to the Extraordinary Full Council meeting on 4th July 2022.

Following a query from Councillor Newton, it was advised that there was no room on this site for expansion however there is room on the adjacent Harland & Woolf site. The next generation of the Local Plan would need to identify growth space.

The Economic Development Officer advised that throughout the planning of this project he had liaised closely with Harland & Woolf to ensure Middle Dock would not be heavily industrialised.

As a Councillor for Appledore and the Climate Change Lead, Councillor Hames congratulated all Officers involved in this project.

The Leader also expressed his thanks to all involved. He advised of a presentation he had attended at Petroc and was astonished at the amount of interest that was building for this project. He hoped the Council would support this opportunity.

In response to a query from Councillor Pennington, it was advised that the Fishdock had not been factored into the project at this stage however would be considered in the future.

11. CARBON, ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN FOR TORRIDGE - 2022 UPDATE

The Public Health & Housing Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was to put forward for approval by Full Council the 2022 update of the Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan for Torrridge.

Following a query from Councillor Leather, the Public Health & Housing Manager advised that the floods maps within the report are a worst-case scenario with no flood prevention in place.

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

Resolved: That the 2022 update of the Carbon, Environment and Biodiversity Plan for Torridge be approved.

(Vote: For - 25, Against - 2, Abstentions - 1)

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Written Notice of Motion from Councillor Christie

That TDC, following on from the presentation made at the last Full council meeting, do support the extension of the railway line from Barnstaple to Bideford and that this aspiration is embedded in the new Joint Local Plan.

Councillor Christie presented his Motion.

It was seconded by Councillor McKenzie with a suggested amendment that the extension of the railway line from Barnstaple to Bideford also be embedded in the Economic Development Business Plan.

Councillor Christie agreed to this amendment.

(Vote: For 26, Against 1, Abstention 1)

The Motion was carried.

(b) Written Notice of Motion from Councillor Hames

This Council is very concerned that the Minor Injuries Unit at Bideford Hospital has been closed for about two years. As it was promised that the Unit would be re-opened, I propose that this Council writes to the NHS expressing its concern and asking when re-opening will take place.

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

Resolved: That Councillor Hames' Notice of Motion be agreed and that Sir Geoffrey Cox be copied in.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.20 pm