

**BOVEY TRACEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN'S MEETING HELD IN THE PHOENIX HALL,  
BOVEY TRACEY ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019 at 7.00pm**

**Present:**

The Town Mayor, Cllr Ms J H Blair  
The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs A J Kerswell\*

Cllr A Allen	Cllr M J Evans
Cllr U Arnold	Cllr G J Gribble**/*
Cllr R J Ashby	Cllr E Kelly
Cllr R A Bray	Cllr S P Leigh
Cllr D K Elphick	Cllr Ms C O Richardson

\*\*County Cllr  
\*District Cllr

**In attendance:**

Mr M Wells - Town Clerk  
Rev K Hooke - Chaplain to the Council  
Nominees for Young Citizen of the Year Award 2019.  
53 members of the public including representatives of various organisations.  
One member of the press  
Sgt S Saunders & PC Hollie Lynch

The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs Blair, chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**1. Apologies:**

Cllr C W Robillard (Leave)  
Cllr M Tregoning (Unwell)  
District Cllr Mrs S Morgan (Unwell)

**2. Notice Convening the 2019 Annual Town Meeting:**

The Town Clerk, Mr Wells, read the notice convening the meeting.

*(\*Copies of all reports provided for this meeting are available on request from the Town Clerk's office.)*

**3. Approval and signing of the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting dated 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018:**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of the previous year (2018) were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Town Mayor, Cllr. Ms Blair. *(\*Copies were available at the meeting)*

**4. Presentation of the Young Citizen of the Year Award 2019:**

Cllr Tony Allen congratulated the nominees for the Young Citizen of the Year Award and then read out their names and nomination briefs: Amy Horrell, Sam Russell and Amy Williams.  
Cllr Allen announced that Amy Williams had been awarded a Young Heroine Award for her brave intervention in an emergency situation and Amy Horrell and Sam Russell were joint winners of the Young Citizen Award. The Town Mayor, Cllr Ms Blair made the presentations.

Cllr Allen expressed gratitude and thanks to the House of Marbles and the Bovey Tracey Riverside Co-op who had provided prizes.

*Photographs were taken.*

*Young Citizens of the Year nominees, their families and friends then left the meeting.*

5. Town Mayor's Report:

**The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs Blair** presented her report. She noted reference to the NDP community questionnaire this time last year being delivered to households in the snow, with 1,200 being returned. A second consultation was held in November, approving draft objectives by 90% or more that responded. The Steering Group are now translating these results into policies for the Neighbourhood Plan.

*Two members of the public joined the meeting.*

She referred to the new Community Centre project and noted that some set-backs have arisen. Most of these have been resolved and it is anticipated that work will commence shortly.

The town received a Silver Gilt award in Britain in Bloom Town and City Pennant category and 4 star rating for Mill Marsh Park in Pride in Parks Award. Cllr Ms Blair extended thanks to Mr R Rance and Mr P Stanyon (Town Council staff) and also to Mr R Taylor for their efforts.

Many successful public events have taken place during the year. The third Green Man festival is taking place on 27<sup>th</sup> April. The Contemporary Craft Festival, Carnival Week, Garden Show, Nourish Festival and Christmas Fayre continue to attract residents and visitors into the town.

Attendance at civic events has been outstanding this year, in particular, the Centennial of Armistice Day and the civic Carol Service.

The Town Council continues to support established community projects such as the Youth Café, Moorland Community Care and Young Citizen Awards and to respond to initiatives such as Plastic Free Bovey and Fair Trade.

The Town Council approved a Devon Air Ambulance night landing site at the Recreation Ground. A new Town Centre noticeboard has been installed to improve communications. A Draft Traffic Management Plan is in the final stages of completion.

6. Financial Report:

**Cllr Leigh** (Chair of FR&GP Committee) presented his report outlining the present position regarding the finances of the Town Council. He advised that External Audit had raised no issues. An Interim Audit raised two key recommendations - electronic banking and setting up a separate bank account for monitoring S106 and CIL contributions. These items are being progressed.

Annual grants have been awarded to Moorland Community Care (£1500) and Bovey Tracey Youth Action (£7500).

The Town Council has successfully secured grants in excess of £100k. This includes a grant of £82,880 from the GD Leaf funding towards the creation of incubation offices at the new Community Centre building.

The Town Council will be investing 50% of its surplus revenue in a fixed rate bond. This will provide better security for funds and a better return. This will be reviewed annually and the newly elected Council will give further consideration to a longer term investment strategy.

The Precept for 2019/20 will increase from £205,990 (2018/19) to £232,850 (2019/20) a 9% increase per Band D property. The increase is mainly due to the Council Tax Support Grant being removed by TDC

A formal application for a Public Sector Works Loan for £500,000 towards the Community Centre Development was approved.

#### **7. Report of County Councillor:**

**County Cllr Gribble** presented his report and made particular reference to the following: DCC - Comprehensive Spending Review, shows 28% cut. He highlighted the net revenue budget and reduction in government funding. £240 million additional funding to be spent on adult social care. The basic increase in Council Tax is 3.99% (limited not to generate a referendum). DCC only received £33 million from government post Brexit funding. Leader John Hart unhappy about this as it has created a reduction in income without consultation.

He noted that potholes in Devon are numerous (there are 4000 miles of road in Devon). Each pothole is investigated when reported, but prioritised based on set criteria. Climate Change is an issue that has been raised and DCC is tackling this. The Teign Estuary Trail is being progressed and Wray Valley Trail is being extended. Parking Traffic Orders are being addressed in Bovey Tracey in a number of areas.

#### **8. Reports of District Councillors:**

a) **District Cllr Gribble** reported that:

- i) Issues with travellers around the Drumbridges/Staple Hill area have now been addressed and the travellers have left the area.
- ii) The £14,760 Community Tax Support Grant (CTSG) has been removed from the Town Council's budget.
- iii) Council Tax 2019/20 will increase by 3.03%.

b) **District Cllr Mrs Kerswell:**

Advised that she had been elected Chairman of TDC. She had attended many events in different parts of the District. She noted various ceremonies, including Teignbridge Sports Awards, the parade in Newton Abbot for Armistice Day, upcycling event in Newton Abbot Library and the 50 years celebration of the Courtenay Centre. She thanked Rev Kevin Hooke for supporting the Council. Various issues have been debated at TDC including the provision of superfast broadband, power points in car parks for charging electric cars, homelessness and safe housing, Public Space Protection Orders and self-build housing sites. TDC is promoting sport and wellbeing. She referred to the Council Tax increase of 3.3%. Teignbridge District Council together with South Hams, Mid Devon and East Devon District Councils are progressing the establishment of the South West Mutual Bank. Climate Change and Clean Air discussions have been on the agenda. Residents of New Park have

been in contact with TDC Officers to discuss legislation for park home owners. Cllr Mrs Kerswell continues to be a member of the Overview & Scrutiny and Planning Committees. She noted that through her Community Fund she has supported BTAT, Tennis Club, Garden Show, Heathfield Community Centre and Garden Club.

c) **District Cllr Mrs Morgan:** Report presented by Cllr Allen in Cllr Morgan's absence. Before presenting the report Cllr Allen reminded those present of the 50<sup>th</sup> Swimming Pool anniversary event on 13<sup>th</sup> April which all are invited to attend.

District Cllr Mrs Morgan noted that she has been active in her role on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and at Full Council meetings. She has worked with fellow ward members regarding the Community Centre development and several planning matters including the proposals at Challabrook and Indio. Through her Community Fund she has supported the town flags, Nourish Festival, Swimming Pool 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Life Saving Club, Primary School Gardening and Growing Project and a joint art project between the Primary School & the Devon Guild.

**9. Report by Devon & Cornwall Constabulary:**

Sgt Seth Saunders presented the Police Report. (*Full report available on request*). A member of the public advised that graffiti is appearing around the Town. PC Hollie Lynch asked for photographs and details in order to deal with the matter. Rev. Kevin Hooke recorded thanks to Police Force for acting within limiting resources. *Sgt Saunders and PC Lynch left the meeting at 7.50pm.*

**10. Report of St. Catherine's CE Primary School:**

No report had been submitted.

**11. Report of Bovey Tracey Primary School:**

Mrs A MacDonald presented the Report on behalf of the Governors. (*Full report available on request*).

**12. Reports of Bovey Tracey Town Trust & Samuel Croker's Almshouses:**

Mr James Mann presented the Report. (*Full report available on request*).

**13. Report of the Tracey Almshouse Trust:**

Mr B Huxtable presented the Report.

*A member of the public left at 8.05pm.*

**14. Report of the Churches in Bovey Tracey & Heathfield:**

Rev K Hooke presented the Report. (*Full report available on request*).

**15. Report of Bovey Community Care:**

Rev K Hooke (Treasurer) presented the report on behalf of Mr D Risdon (Chairman). *(Full report available on request).*

**16. Report of Bovey Tracey Exhibition Trust:**

Mr R Edmunds (Chairman) presented the Report. *(Full financial report available on request).*

**17. Report of Bovey Tracey Youth Action:**

Mr M Sugden presented the Report. *(Full report available on request).*

**18. Report of Bovey Tracey Heritage Trust:**

Mrs V Styles (Chairman) presented the Report. *(Full report available on request).*

**19. Report of Bovey Tracey Residents' Association:**

Mr P Beecher (Chairman) presented the Report. *(Full report available on request).*

**20. Bovey Tracey Neighbourhood Watch Forum:**

Mr L Calder presented the Report. *(Full report available on request).*

**21. Bovey Tracey Information Centre Trust:**

Ms E Steer presented the Report. *(Full report available on request).*

**22. Bovey Futures:**

Mr T Wilson presented the Report. *(Full report available on request).*

**23. Public Participation Session:**

**Mr D McGilvrey** referred to the revised traffic flow plan for the Town Centre and requested an update. Cllr Arnold confirmed that the revised plan is being finalised and this will be considered by the Full Council. Following that it will go forward to DCC for consideration.

**Mr M Watson** enquired if the Wray Valley Trail will be extended. DCC Cllr Gribble confirmed that it will extend on to the A382 north of Lustleigh, however this will be on the lanes. This will then provide a walking/cycling link between Bovey Tracey and Moretonhampstead.

**Mr J Mann** noted that a planning application has been submitted for a property near the Wray Valley Trail (see above) and he mentioned that it may be possible to divert the Trail via this area. Cllr Gribble stated that he was not aware of any planning application.

**Mr J Mann** referred to Accomodation Lane and enquired if it would be possible to arrange for a road sweeper to go through to clear the lane on an annual basis. Cllr Gribble agreed to follow-up.

Questions submitted in advance:

**Mrs M Edwards** enquired about Community Infrastructure Levy funds held by TDC and identified for educational purposes. Cllr Ms Blair (Town Mayor) advised that the funds are from a S106 contribution from the Bradley Bends development for increased education capacity and is earmarked for DCC as the education authority. DCC has confirmed the estimate for the relocation has increased to £6.5-£7m. Currently there is no funding source that would support the relocation. It was noted that the Town Council is not a statutory body for the provision of education.

**Mrs M Edwards** referred to the many potholes in East Street and enquired when these will be repaired. Cllr Ms Blair (Town Mayor) advised that these particular works do not appear on the current repair schedule (*roadworks.org* site). It is therefore likely that this work will be scheduled for the new financial year.

**Mr T Wilson** noted recent variations in the Community Centre plans and enquired if a new planning application will be necessary and if the timescale for building will be compromised. Cllr Ms Blair (Town Mayor) explained the variations and advised that a revised application will be submitted following the Full Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Following a positive decision the building work should take 40-46 weeks to complete.

**Mr L King** requested Cllr Ms Blair to share a description of her work with the school, its objectives and accomplishments to date. Cllr Ms Blair advised that in July 2017 the Town Council set-up a Review Group to formulate a plan for examining potential uses of the covenanted land. The first meeting of the Review Group in August 2017 agreed that it would be beneficial to meet with the Chair of Governors to find out their position and to contact DCC to ascertain its position. Three meetings took place in November and December 2017 and February 2018 with Primary School representatives to ascertain the current position and future plans.

**Mrs A MacDonald (Bovey Tracey Primary School Governor)** stated that the Governors feel well supported by the Town Councillors and thanked them for their assistance.

**Mrs C King** enquired on the action being taken by DCC regarding Climate Change. DCC Cllr Gribble agreed to provide further information following the meeting.

**Mr L King** referred to an example of an issue with the Town Council defining a problem, but no ownership/remedy.

**Cllr Kelly left the meeting at 8.57pm.**

**Meeting closed at 8.59pm.**

DRAFT