

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community & Resources Committee

Committee Room, Riverbank House, Bideford

26 October 2015 – 10am

PRESENT:

Councillor J Whittaker (Chair)

Councillors: D Hurley, D Brenton, P Christie, J Himan, A Inch, R Lock, J Morrish, S Robinson, C Simmons and R Julian (arrived 10.40am)

ALSO PRESENT:

J Wallace - Head of Paid Service

J Hollis – Senior Solicitor

S Hearse – Strategic Manager (Resources)

V Green – Strategic Manager (Services)

D Green – Development Manager (for item 7)

A Waite – Property Manager (for item 9)

D Ainscough – Regulatory Services Manager (for item 12)

S Squire - Democratic Services Officer

Councillors: J Langton-Lockton and B Boundy

Mr Harper – Non-elected Member

5 Members of the Public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence

41. MINUTES

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2015 be signed as a correct record.

(Vote: For 9, Abstentions 1)

Matters Arising:

## Minute 27 – Springfield Centre

Cllr Morrish provided an update and advised that he had met with Cllr Dezart, Cllr Julian and the Headteacher at Springfield. Nine students had already started at Springfield with the numbers set to rise over a 3 year period to 20 – 30 students. It was noted that Springfield was a temporary accommodation solution and there was an intention to find an alternative site within 3 years. Cllr Morrish added that the students were from within the Torrridge and North Devon area.

## Minute 33 – East the Water Wharfs

In answer to a question, the Head of Paid Service reported that amended plans had been received for East the Water Wharfs and that the Development Manager would provide an update later in the meeting.

## ACTION LIST

## Public Conveniences

It was reported that there was public concern regarding closure of public conveniences and in particular the toilets on the Torrington Commons. It was suggested the Leader/Head of Paid Service give consideration to a press release, providing an update on the current closures situation.

The Action List was noted.

## 42. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr Nick Hopkins from Pearce Homes, addressed the meeting regarding an item on the Agenda – Street Naming and Numbering, New Development Greenbank, Torrington.

He referred to the reasons why Pearce Homes had put forward the name 'Merrivale' and that it was the name of the original company located at the site. Merrivale had provided local employment in the town. Mr Hopkins also stated that it was company policy not to use names associated with wars although he stressed there was no intention to show any disrespect. It was noted that the Town Council and Pearce Homes were unable to come to a mutual agreement regarding the developments name.

The Chair thanked Mr Hopkins for his contribution.

## 43. FORWARD PLAN

It was agreed that due to the large number of items listed for the next meeting these would be reviewed by the Head of Paid Service.

A discussion followed on the discontinuation of the Member Asset Management Working Group. The Chair advised that a decision had been made to combine the Officers and Members Asset Groups to avoid duplication and save Officer and Members' time. She added that there was an intention to have openness and transparency and to trial the combined meeting.

The Forward Plan was noted.

#### 44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were made when the specific agenda items to which they related were under discussion.

#### 45. AGREEMENT BETWEEN PARTS I AND PART II

Resolved: That the Agenda as circulated be agreed.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

#### 46. URGENT MATTERS OF INFORMATION BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Chair informed Members that the Development Manager had been invited to attend to provide an update regarding Brunswick Wharf.

The Development Manager reported that amended plans had been received and that as standard procedure there was a need to take the amended plans to a Steering Group. The Development Manager asked that the Steering Group be reinstated. It was agreed that Members of the Steering Group would comprise:

The Head of Paid Service  
Commercial & Leisure Services Manager  
Development Manager  
Property Manager  
Councillor J Himan  
Councillor J Whittaker

After a brief discussion it was agreed to contact Bideford Town Council and ask that they nominate a Town/District Councillor to sit on the Steering Group. A representative from the Bideford Chamber of Commerce was also to be included within the Steering Group.

There was concern expressed that the process may take too long and it was asked that this be treated with urgency. The Development Manager explained the process and that there should be no anticipated delays.

#### 47. VIABILITY OF CRANE AND HARBOUR INCOME

The Strategic Manager (Services) presented this report and it was noted that TDC was the Harbour Authority for the Port of Bideford and had a statutory responsibility to provide and maintain an operational Harbour and in order to do that a crane was required for commercial harbour activities.

It was noted that the crane was purchased in 2008 for use with loading and dredging at a cost of £225k and had an estimated resale value of £75k - £100k. Enquiries had been made into hiring a crane and it was reported that the cost would be approximately £39k a year.

A discussion followed on the reason for the crane breaking down and requiring a new engine having only had light usage. The Strategic Manager (Services) stated that maintenance schedules had been followed. Councillor Morrish provided background information into the reasons that had caused the break-down these being:

- There were 4 cylinders and a hair-line crack had appeared in one
- The company the crane was purchased from had gone into receivership
- The new company had been approached but had no allegiance with TDC

The Head of Paid Service agreed to review the reasons for the crane break-down.

It was proposed by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Councillor Lock and

Resolved:

- (i) That the crane be retained in order that the Council can fulfil its obligations as Port Authority
- (ii) That the Commercial & Leisure Services Manager should investigate alternative storage arrangements for the crane
- (iii) That the Commercial & Leisure Services Manager should investigate options for income generation associated with use of the crane

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

A discussion followed and concern was expressed regarding the support and central recharges shown against the Harbour Ports and Pilotage Out-Turn reports. Also that the quayside car parking revenue should be shown against the Harbour reports. The Leader, as Chair of the Harbour Board Committee, agreed to make enquiries into this.

#### 48. STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING – NEW DEVELOPMENT GREENBANK, TORRINGTON

Councillor C Simmons declared a registrable interest being dual-hatted - member of Torrington Town Council.

The Property Manager presented this report and advised that the District Council holds a statutory responsibility under the Town Improvement Clauses Act (1847) to decide upon new street names and enforce a numbering scheme. He added that it was usual practice for TDC to consult with the developer, town council and any other interested parties; if there was disagreement regarding a name the decision was referred to the Community & Resources Committee.

The Property Manager reported that two names had been put forward for the development – Waterloo Gardens and Merrivale Way.

After a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Robinson and seconded by Councillor Brenton that the new development be named 'Waterloo Gardens'. No vote was taken.

After further discussion it was proposed by Councillor Hurley and seconded by Councillor Whittaker that the new development be named 'Merrivale Way'.

A vote was taken on the first motion –

That the street name of Waterloo Gardens be given following the 'Street Naming and Numbering Procedures' Policy

(Vote: For – 5)

A vote was taken on the second motion –

That the street name of Merrivale Way be given following the 'Street Naming and Numbering Procedures' Policy

(Vote: For – 5)

Councillor C Simmons abstained from taking part in the votes.

The Chair used her casting vote in favour of the second motion.

The second motion was therefore carried and –

Resolved:

That the street name of 'Merrivale Way' be given following the 'Street Naming and Numbering Procedures' Policy

#### 49. TRANSFORMING TORRIDGE PROGRAMME

The Head of Paid Service and the Leader provided a brief update:

- There were a number of building works occurring at Riverbank House
- Progress was being made with the plans for Locality working

- A further meeting has been arranged on 5 November with the Mayors and Town Clerks to be held at the Holsworthy Livestock Market
- The Town Hall Reception is closed due to staff sickness and absence and this had not caused the issues anticipated
- The Housing Team would move location to Bridge Buildings
- IT systems work was underway

A question was asked regarding the future of the Town Hall and Bridge Buildings and it was agreed that this would be discussed in Part II of the meeting. The Head of Paid Service advised that currently the Library was situated in the Town Hall and rooms were available for Members to use.

#### 50. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Hurley, seconded by Councillor A Inch -

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 – Unanimous)

### **PART II (CLOSED SESSION)**

#### 51. SAFER NORTH DEVON REVIEW

The Regulatory Services Manager presented this report and advised Members of the work that had been undertaken in the review of Safer North Devon. He explained the Authority's current joint working arrangements with North Devon District Council as part of the Safer North Devon partnership. It was further explained that TDC and NDDC work with other agencies under the umbrella of 'Safer North Devon', which is the joint Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), also known as the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for both North Devon and Torridge districts.

Members considered the report and following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Whittaker, seconded by Councillor A Inch and -

Resolved:

That the recommendations (i) and (ii) as detailed in the report be approved.

(Vote: For - Unanimous)

The Head of Paid Service provided a brief update on the plans for Bridge Buildings and the Town Hall and advised Members of the contents of a canvassed Surveyors report on the properties.

It was proposed, seconded and –

Resolved:

That the meeting return to Part I and that any press and public be readmitted.

(Vote: For – unanimous)

The meeting commenced at 10 am and closed at 11.40 am

Chair :

Date: