

**Meeting of the 246<sup>th</sup> committee meeting of Tiverton Civic Society  
held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 at 10 Blundells Avenue**

**Action by members in bold on right**

**1 Attendance**

- 1.1 *Present:* Jeremy Salter, Frank Connock, Fern Clarke, Mary Cross, Tony Longbourne, Dennis Knowles.
- 1.2 *Apologies:* Brian Jenkins, John Rendle, Andrea Rowe.
- 1.3 Dennis Knowles was welcomed onto the committee.

**2 Minutes of the 245<sup>th</sup> committee meeting**

- 2.1 The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**3. 2016 programme**

- 3.1 A full programme for 2016 has been arranged with some departures from the usual second Tuesday evening in the month pattern. This was to accommodate available dates for speakers.
- 3.2 Some of the suggestions made at the October committee meeting have been incorporated.
- 3.3 Norman Annett will be speaking after the AGM in November.
- 3.4 Alison Gordon has arranged an outing to the Somerset Levels and Charles Noon to Fursdon House. There are also short visits to Cadeleigh Church and Cadbury Church.
- 3.5 The programme has a balance between matters of local interest and those of wider interest.
- 3.6 The Society will continue to charge non-members who wish to attend meetings £3 per meeting.

**4. Newsletter**

- 4.1 The A5 booklet size and print size will be continued in the next Newsletter.
- 4.2 Arrangements will be as for previous Newsletters - 120 copies, printed by Involve, distributed by David.
- 4.3 Fern will meet with Brian to discuss the schedule of dates for publication in early May.  
**Action: Fern and Brian**
- 4.4 This will be Brian's last Newsletter as editor and the committee expressed their grateful thanks for all his hard work on the Newsletter over many years.
- 4.5 A number of articles have already been promised and the next edition will be full.
- 4.6 Fern will contact Involve about printing dates and format.  
**Action: Fern**

**5. Merchants' Trail Leaflet**

- 5.1 The estimated cost of reprinting is £900 - £1000.
- 5.2 TCS cannot afford to fund this.
- 5.3 TAP funding was applied for and approved by Tiverton Town Council.
- 5.4 The application has gone to the county committee of the MDDC. Dennis will investigate its progress.  
**Action: Dennis**

**6. Publicity for TCS**

- 6.1 It was agreed that Jeremy and Fern would meet to update the TCS leaflet for immediate action.
- 6.2 They will ask Roy Webber if he can do a small print run to cover 2016 to enable any further updating to take place for 2017.
- 6.3 Tony asked for special consideration to be given to the wording of the annual membership cost as it was likely to rise in 2017.  
**Action 6.1 – 6.3: Jeremy and Fern**
- 6.4 Jeremy is contacting other local organisations to promote the society and its meetings, including: the Tiverton Hub; Ivan Godfrey; Les Boyce for the WEA; Richard Wevill – Gazette; Explore Tiverton – TIC / Museum; members on email.  
**Action: Jeremy**

## **7. Finance**

- 7.1 Current account balance at 31.12.15 is £1154-07.
- 7.2 Deposit account balance at 31 1 16 is £2008-14.
- 7.3 Since 1.2.16, Tony has issued cheques to the value of approximately £70 and has received some late subscriptions.
- 7.4 It was agreed that Janet Rendle should be an Honorary member as President of the TCS.
- 7.5 Paul Young has generously taken out life membership and given a donation to the society. His contribution amounts to approximately 20% of the current account balance.
- 7.6 Tony is hoping to receive a substantial sum in gift aid.
- 7.7 As the applicant for TAP funding for the Merchants' Trail leaflet, TCS is expected to make a contribution towards the cost. It was agreed that the TCS would contribute 10% of the cost.

**Action: Tony**

## **8. Membership**

- 8.1 John has produced a new membership list to take account of new members, including Hugh Allen, Anthony Bush, Mr. M. Christie and Mrs. Diane Hewitt, Peter and Fiona Marlowe (Catherine's parents), Roderick Pring, Martin and Susan Sanderson. Bill Zarrett intends to join.
- 8.2 There has been a small rate of members leaving due to death, changed circumstances or moving away from the town.
- 8.3 Membership is 94 at present.
- 8.4 Tony requested a check on life members to ensure that all were in touch and wished to receive a newsletter.

## **9. Website**

- 9.1 This is now getting an average of 7 – 10 visits per day, and this is steadily increasing.
- 9.2 The most popular page is the Historic Buildings.
- 9.3 It is being picked up by the big search engines – Google, Yahoo
- 9.4 Explore Tiverton has a link to the website.
- 9.5 It casts approximately £80 per annum to run.
- 9.6 Isabel Richardson's house, Gotham, has been upgraded from Grade II to Grade II\* listing.
- 9.7 There is a link between J.D. Salinger (author) and Tiverton – he was billeted in the town during WWII. Jeremy has put a brief note on this on the website.

## **10. Planning**

- 10.1 TCS has responded to planning applications on:
  - (i) the anaerobic digester at Hartnoll farm, to be determined on 9.3.16.
  - (ii) planning applications for the extension to Alexandra lodge, to be determined on 6.4.16.
- 10.2 Jeremy and Fern will meet on 26.2.16 to consider a response to:
  - (i) Premier Inn application. The committee felt that this was overdevelopment of the site. The massing is too great, towering over Phoenix House and what will remain of the multi-storey car park, both of which were limited in height to maintain the spectacular view from Phoenix Lane to Collipriest. It will also damage the view from the Deyman's Hill walk (Collipriest) to the town. They also considered that demolition of part of the multi-storey car park was short-sighted in view of the large increase in housing proposed for the eastern urban extension of the town. Other car parks in the town such as Beck Square are under threat and the market car park now accommodates fewer cars than it used to due to the space taken up by tree planting and layout. They felt that the application was being promoted by a small clique of councillors for short term gain without regard to the long term loss to the town. The site is in the floodplain of the river Lowman and there are issues relating to flooding for the proposed building and for nearby buildings through the loss of remaining land adjacent to Phoenix House and the car park to absorb flood water from the river Lowman

(ii) SPD on Solar PV Proposals

(iii) Proposed new war memorial on Angel Hill. Members felt that there was a risk of overcrowding on the proposed site; the proposed repositioning of the lamp post in order to accommodate the war memorial was questioned; the site would also accommodate the Burma Star memorial as the proposed redevelopment on Phoenix Lane would include an extension to the cinema with a new entrance on the site of the garden in which the memorial currently stands.

#### **11. Matters arising from the minutes of the 245<sup>th</sup> meeting**

11.1 *Minute 5.2* Anne Davies is taking members of the Exeter Civic Society on a guided walk round Tiverton.

11.2 *Minute 8.1* The gorilla has been removed from the top of Phoenix Lane.

11.3 *Minute 8.2* The sculpture trail is going ahead.

11.4 *Minute 11.1* Roy Webber has produced a new logo for the society – the town crest with Tiverton Civic Society round it. A payment has been made to Roy Webber.

#### **12. AOB**

12.1 A letter has been received from Tiverton Adventure Playground requesting financial help to keep going. It was agreed that the matter would be raised at the first meeting of the year and members asked if they would like to make donations.

12.2 A new town centre manager, Rachel Jenman has been appointed, working under Amy Dugard (MDDC appointment). Rachel wants to be involved with the Civic Society. It was agreed that Rachel should be invited to speak to the committee at the April meeting about her work and ways in which the Society might be involved, and that she might be considered as a speaker for one of the 2017 meetings of the Society.

**Action: Fern**