



GREAT TORRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Motions agreed

1. February Council Meeting: 03 February 2022

Cllr Cottle-Hunkin proposed the following motion:

“Throughout the COVID pandemic over the past two years, the local community of Great Torrington has pulled together brilliantly, and the Town Council would like to thank everyone for looking after one another so well and adhering to restrictions. We empathise with local concern and anger and would like to express our disappointment over National Leadership at this time.”

Members discussed the motion, expressing their personal experiences of and difficulties during the lockdown restrictions and concurred with the motion, emphasising how distressing the period has been for all. Members thanked the Town Council's office team for the work they did setting up the support network for the community at the start of the pandemic.

Cllr Maisey seconded the motion and expressed his feelings that the community in Great Torrington is so strong that it will get through these difficulties despite the current situation with national leadership, which he feels has destroyed the public's trust in them.

Members noted in particular the good example set by Her Majesty, The Queen, throughout the pandemic, in particular in the face of the death of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, last April.

Members voted on the motion: all in favour. The motion was passed.

2. September Council Meeting: 02 September 2021

The following motion was proposed by Cllrs Clayton, Davey and Mills:
For Great Torrington Town Council to Declare a Housing Emergency.

- *To declare that we as a Town Council acknowledge and agree that Great Torrington is in a housing emergency.*
- *For Great Torrington Town Council to write to Torridge District Council and ask that they also declare a housing emergency*

- *For Great Torrington Town Council to lobby Robert Jenrick – the Housing Minister – to prioritise the building of affordable new homes for local occupancy*

Cllr Clayton spoke on the issue, outlining the lack of affordable housing in Devon and Cornwall, a rapid rise in house prices and an increase in demand for holiday properties since the pandemic. This has resulted in local residents being unable to afford property in their own areas and could result in a loss of workforce.

Cllr Mills added that rental prices have increased hugely and are now out of reach for many local residents. Cllr Davey raised concerns for those on Universal Credit and those with young families: she fully supported the motion.

Members debated the definition of affordable housing and a suggestion was put forward that it should be changed to tie it in with income in a local area. Another idea discussed would be to offer houses only to local residents first, rather than putting them on the open market.

Cllr Brown explained it is a constant battle trying to fight for affordable housing to be included in planning applications, but very often it is not included because the developers say it is not viable to include in their developments. TDC Planners are now actively challenging all viability surveys provided by developers with their own Valuation Officer.

Cllr Clayton proposed the motion as outlined above; Cllr Rose seconded the motion; a vote was taken: all in favour.

3. January Council Meeting 07.01.21

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Clayton:

‘Recognising the adverse effect on the natural environment of cheap discarded polystyrene bodyboards it is proposed that Great Torrington Town Council fully supports a local campaign mounted by Plastic Free Torridge, Plastic Free North Devon and Keep Britain Tidy’s Ocean Recovery Project to request retailers to remove these boards from sale.’

A vote was taken: all in favour.

4. December Council Meeting 03.12.20

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Clayton and seconded by Cllr Smith:

Serious problems at Torrington Creamery, Taddiport, continue. It is evident that buildings are still not secure and we are very concerned about general safety matters on this site. It appears that the owner does not seem to be taking responsibility for the property and that people – children and youths mostly - are regularly inside extremely unsafe buildings and have been known to be on the roofs as well. This has gone on for long enough. We fully support development of the area but our main concern is safety and the security of the entire premises.

We propose that areas of Torrington Creamery that can be demolished are; and/or any remaining buildings must be made completely secure so that they cannot be entered. We implore Torridge District Council to use its powers to ensure these

measures are enforced so that buildings are made secure and access to roofs removed. We also request that Torridge District Council works with relevant agents to establish a solution to safely demolish any buildings with asbestos.

Members debated the above motion and were in agreement that the condition of the site has deteriorated enormously and that action needs to be taken to address the safety and security issues at the site. The Town Clerk informed Members that Staci Dorey, Torridge District Council's solicitor, will be joining Full Council in January to discuss the legal position in regard to this site.

Members voted unanimously in favour of the motion.

5. September Council Meeting 05.09.19

The following motion was brought forward from the Environment Committee meeting on 18 July 2019:

"Great Torrington Town Council recognise the importance and the urgency of the climate crisis we are currently in and are working on solutions to the problem.

"Great Torrington Town Council would support a planning policy to make it compulsory for all new builds (for dwelling and employment use) to have sources of renewable energy (such as solar panels) fitted and ready to use on completion.

"Great Torrington Town Council also propose that Torridge District Council should lead the way on this and fit solar panels on the roof of Great Torrington's swimming pool and other Council-owned buildings across Torridge."

Members debated the above motion including the viability of putting solar panels on the roof of the swimming pool as the lease with 1610 is coming to an end soon. However, Members felt it very important for this Council to support this motion in response to the climate emergency and to move forward with setting the direction towards which the Council should aim.

Cllr Ford proposed to amend the wording of the motion to remove reference to the swimming pool due to uncertainty around future management of the pool and unknown related costs. A vote was taken on the amended motion: 2 in favour; 10 against; 2 abstentions.

Cllr Smith proposed the original wording of the motion; Cllr Bright seconded the proposal; a vote was taken: 11 in favour; 2 against; 1 abstention.

6. April Council Meeting 04 April 2019

Cllr Mrs Simmons proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr D Smith:

This Council believes:

That we in Great Torrington acknowledge the Climate Change Emergency and aim to support efforts and work with relevant bodies to make Torridge District zero net carbon by 2030.

All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of Great Torrington, Torridge District and the UK that council areas commit to carbon neutrality as quickly as possible. We would be joining an increasing group of councils across the UK (Bideford Town Council and Bristol City Council to name two).

By passing this motion, we will not only heighten awareness of the severity of this situation but with future financial commitments and decisions generally aim to help further reduce carbon emissions.

A vote was taken on the above motion: All in favour.

7. November Council Meeting 01.11.18

Cllr Mrs Davey proposed the following motion:

This Council believes:

That action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK.

That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government.

That councils have an important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.

This Council resolves:

To adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery to ensure our procurement practices don't support slavery.

Cllr Mrs M Brown seconded the motion.

Cllrs voted unanimously to support this proposal.

8. September Council Meeting 06.09.18

Cllr Miss C Cottle-Hunkin proposed "That Great Torrington Town Council supports the following motion going to Torridge District Council"

The motion going to Torridge District Council (TDC):

“Torridge recognises the need to invest in Calf St Play Area and supports the preparation of a project initiation document for consideration in the capital programme.”

Cllr Mrs M Brown seconded the motion.

Cllr's voted unanimously to support this proposal.

Members discussed the motion, including whether a specific sum of money is being requested for TDC to invest in Calf Street Play Area. Cllr Miss Cottle-Hunkin confirmed that a specific amount of money is not being requested at this stage; only that TDC officers look into investing in this area. Cllr Miss Cottle-Hunkin invited Members to attend as members of the public at the TDC Full Council Meeting scheduled for 17 September 2018.

The Town Clerk was asked to advise Torridge District Council that the Town Council supported this Motion.