



**Summary of a meeting of the Economic Development Working Group held on  
Wednesday 12 February 2020 at 4:00pm at the Walronds**

**Present:** Cllr Martin Smith (in the chair) and Cllr Janet Johns and Jenny Radford (Farmers Market).

Mrs Judy Morris: Clerk (Minute taker)

Lou Maddocks: Special Projects Officer

Also in attendance: John Chard, Roy Gould, Ashley Hellier, Debbie Lochhead, Judy Smith and Neil Williamson

1. **APOLOGIES:** Received from: Cllrs: James Buczkowski, Justin Lochhead and Russ Murch, plus Debbie Murch, Steve Eastland and Alex Eastland.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:** None.
3. **MINUTES:** The Minutes of previous meetings held on 5 February 2020 were approved and signed.
4. **19 HIGH STREET: To receive feedback report on open day held on 8 February and agree way forward:**
  - 77 people attended, plus those involved in the open day, more than 100 people overall.
  - Lots of very positive feedback.
  - No much feedback on alternative ideas, everyone appeared to be attracted to the current proposals.
  - Overwhelming support for contemporary design.
  - Request for community kitchen that can be used by various groups and individuals in the community.
  - Presentations during the day, well received and encouraged discussion.
  - Having the door to the site open for people to view worked well.
  - Will need a lift if the site is to be a two storey development.
5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS RELATING TO 19 HIGH STREET:**
  - (i) **Business Plan:** To be submitted to the Town Council at its meeting on 27 February, include details of consultation in the narrative.
  - (ii) **Bid for purchase of site** to be submitted to the agent. Need to take account that MDDC has invested £65k in improving the site and there is also an outstanding mortgage of approx £25k which needs to be cleared.
  - (iii) **Toilet Facilities:** Town Clerk reported that conditions of sale of public toilet in Station Road

includes a commitment to either provide a new toilet facility or pay a sum of money to the Seller (MDDC). It may be possible to provide the replacement toilet facility on the 19 High Street site rather than the current site.

- (iv) **Contacting educational establishments:** RG reported that he has contacted PETROC and Tiverton High School who are both happy to receive more information about the project. MS offered to contact Cullompton Community College.
- (v) **Support for start-up units:** Good to know that there is support for start-up units.
- (vi) **Office space:** Suggestion that the development could provide office space, it was agreed that this option will be explored.
- (vii) **Funding:** Development costs are being worked on. Simplest mechanism would be for Town Council to purchase the site and lease to a Social Enterprise or some form of Community Interest Group.

Different funding opportunities are being explored, including the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund and the National Lottery Lottery Power to Change Fund. Other suggestions for funding include: 'Buy a Brick' and crowdfunding.

**6. DATE & TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING:** Monday 24 February at 6pm at the Hayridge.

*With no further business, the Chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting.*

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It is certified these Minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Signed: .....

Name: .....

Date: ...../...../.....