In accordance with Standing Order A12, the Council received a petition requesting the Council to save Torbay’s countryside by restoring funding for the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust in 2014/15 to £193,000 and in 2015/16 to £183,000 (approximately 331 e-signatures and 2,632 written signatures from residents and people who work or study in Torbay).

At the invitation of the Chairwoman, Jill Ward addressed the Council.

The Chairwoman advised that, under the Council’s Petition Scheme, as the petition had reached the 1,000 signature threshold it was subject to debate by the Council.

The Monitoring Officer outlined the options open to the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Tyerman and seconded by Councillor Amil:

(i) that the petitioners be thanked for presenting their petition to the Council;

(ii) that an increase in the payment to Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust of £32,000 for 2014/15 be identified from the Comprehensive Spending Reserve; and

(iii) that, following the decision of the Council in February 2014 to reduce the Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust budget by £50,000 for 2015/16 and in response to the petition, this decision be reversed and an additional £21,400 be allocated so that the budget for Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust in 2015/16 is set at £183,000.

On being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried (unanimous).

(Note: During consideration of Minute 90, Councillor Tyerman declared a non-pecuniary interest as he was a Trustee of Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust and a Director of Torbay Coast and Countryside Enterprises Ltd.)