

# **AGENDA FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

# **MONDAY 27TH JULY 2020 – HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM**

MEETING LINK: <https://zoom.us/j/96374443764?pwd=dEtUSlcvbERkbUpLSC9iUkVkRGVLdz09>

MEETING ID: 963 7444 3764 PASSCODE: 408644

## You are hereby **SUMMONED** to attend the **Town Matters Committee**, which is to be held using remote meeting service Zoom on **Monday 27th July 2020** at **7.00pm** for the purpose of transacting the following business:

**Committee Members**: Councillors B Piper (Chair), V Trow (Deputy Chair), G Allen, P Allford, R Hendriksen, D Matthews, P Paine, S Skinner and L Webberley.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies and to confirm that any absence has the approval of the Council.

*The Committee will adjourn for the following items:*

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A period of 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Committee or other items that affect Totnes.

*The Committee will convene to consider the following items:*

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

To update on any matters arising from the minutes of 20th March 2020. (Note: already agreed through Full Council.) Document enclosed.

### **SCHOOL CONSULTATION – BIDWELL BROOK**

To consider the public consultation about pupil numbers at Bidwell Brook School (proposal to increase capacity from 110-140 day places for those aged 3-19 from September 2021) and a possible new special needs school in Devon. Document enclosed.

### **ACCESSIBILITY OF VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS**

To consider the accessibility of Council meetings held virtually under the Covid-19 emergency legislation.

### **HISTORY OF FOLLATON HOUSE**

To consider a request from a member of the public that a sign should be placed at Follaton House acknowledging its historic link to slavery. Document enclosed.

### **TOTNES SUPPORTING FAIRTRADE**

To note the minutes of the Totnes Supporting Fairtrade meeting on 16th July 2020. Document enclosed.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – **Monday 21st September 2020 at 7.00pm.**

Sara Halliday

Committee and Cemetery Administrator

### **USE OF SOUND RECORDINGS AT COUNCIL & COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The open proceedings of this Meeting will be audio and video recorded. If members of the public make are presentation, they will be deemed to have consented to being recorded. By entering the Council Chamber or Zoom meeting, attendees are also consenting to being recorded.

Televised, vision and sound recordings or live broadcastings by members of the press or public at Councillor Committee debates are permitted and anyone wishing to do so is asked to inform the Chairman of the respective Committee of their intention to record proceedings.

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### **ITEM 5 – History of Follaton House**

At the June Full Council meeting a member of the public raised the issue of Follaton House and its links to slavery. As part of the ‘Black Lives Matter’ movement a number of Councils are reviewing whether statues or buildings should remain in place or acknowledge their historic links to slavery.

An internet search on the history of Follaton House shows:

George Stanley Cary of Follaton Devonshire, son of Edward Cary (d. 1822) and Camilla Annabella Fleming, and grandson of Gilbert Fane Fleming, great grandson of Hon. Gilbert Fleming, Governor General of the Leeward Islands, awarded the compensation with his cousin Sir Wastel Brisco (q.v.) for the Shadwell and Great Westhope and Grange estates on St Kitts.

Born 1780, in a collateral branch of the Carys of Torr Abbey. George Stanley Cary's father Edward Cary, grandson of Edward Cary of Torr Abbey, bought the Follaton estate near Totness [sic]. In addition to land in Devonshire, George Stanley Cary held extensive estates in the West Indies inherited from his great-grandfather Gilbert Fleming.

George Stanley Carey [sic] of Fullerton [sic] Devonshire married Matilda Mary Bedingfield, daughter of Sir Richard Bedingfield (1767-1829). Death of George Stanley Cary registered Q1 1858 Totnes. He left £3000 in effects.

**According to local planning records and magazines, the extant house at Follaton was built for George Stanley Cary by George Stanley Repton in 1826.**

(Source: University College London ‘Legacies of British Slave Ownership’)

*Officer Advice:* Follaton House is owned by South Hams District Council, not Totnes Town Council, therefore it is not the Town Council’s property to place signage on. The Town Council could write to SHDC asking that they consider this request and erect a sign in the grounds or near the public entrance to the SHDC offices acknowledging the Cary family’s links to slavery in the West Indies.

### **ITEM 6 – Totnes Supporting Fairtrade**

**Totnes Supporting Fairtrade**

**Minutes of Zoom Meeting Thursday 16th July 2020**

**1.Present:**  Chairman: David Horsburgh, Pruw Boswell Harper, Lionel Harper, Colin Luker, Ann Arscott , Wendy Hartley, Carolyn Stilwell

**2.Matters Arising**

**Stickers**

Colin will check that one given to the Town Council is displayed.

**Funding bids**

Jo Sweett gave us £100 from SHDC grant. Jacqi has ring fenced £250 for us, from County.

**David** will put in a request to Paige Adams fund . Colin to find out when the committee meets.

David asked Joseph Rose, who will give us £250.

**Cocoa farming. Colin** to send a summary of issues based on a very long report. Information is a basis for writing a letter to M.P.

**Next Fairtrade fortnight**

Quiz is booked at The Bay Horse on second Monday, February 8th 2021

**David** has contacted Delvine Chubb who will organise a fundraising Bingo evening when that is possible. We will help with refreshments. The venue is probably Meadowbrook or the Conservative Club.

We need to provide 20 -30 draw prizes. Pruw has some. Ann can get some form Oxfam.

**Support from churches and groups in the town**

**Pruw to ask Jacqi** to please ask Dartington and Staverton Parish Councils to agree a resolution supporting Fairtrade and to serve Fairtrade products at meetings.

Carolyn confirmed St John’s Church , their community café and Toddler group all use fairtrade products, tea and coffee.

Colin – U3A use fairtrade products.

Wendy confirmed Towns women’s Guild do. Carolyn will check if W.I do.

**Pruw** wrote an article for the Totnes Times about Totnes Supporting Fairtrade, the leafets and stickers, to publicise the need for fairtrade and help keep it in people’s minds and to let people know of Nestle’s withdrawal from a fairtrade agreement to buy sugar and cocoa.. This is in today’s Totnes Times with a photo of Pruw and David with stickers and leaflets by a fairtrade town sign

**3.Treasurers Report**

We have £402.28 in the bank.

**4. Letters to Asda and John Lewis**

**Carolyn** forwarded an email to everyone from **Traidcraft** asking us to write to John Lewis and Asda re the clothing market. Sample letters are provided, you just have to put in your address and sign the letters. She had a reply from Asda.

**5.Nestle**

Nestle admit farmers will be worse off under their new plans to work with Rainforest Alliance and to buy sugar in Europe. People in Fiji have been growing sugar for Nestle for 10 years and will not have an outlet. Cocoa farmers want to continue with fairtrade for the guarantee of price, premium and power.

**We are** **all** asked to write to Nestle to ask them to change their mind and to our MP and to sign an online petition. **Wendy** has publicised on social media. **Colin** – on the labour party site and Totnes Post and will ask the Town Council to send a letter **Pruw** will ask **Jacqi** to write to the Totnes Times and Nestle in her capacity as Mayor.

**David** will send us all a prototype of a letter we can use as a basis.

**6.Action Plan for renewal of Fairtrade Town status** has been completed.

**7.Visits to the industrial estate** planned for Thursday 8th October 2 p.m. Wendy has made up packs.

**Date of next meeting: 5.30 p.m. Wednesday 30th September**

**AGM and ordinary meeting. Seven Stars or by zoom**