

# **DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

# **MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2020 – HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM**

## Present: Councillors B Piper (Chair), P Allford, A Galvin, R Hendriksen, D Matthews, P Paine, V Trow, L Webberley and G Allen (joined at 7.10pm).

## Apologies: None.

Not Present: Councillor S Skinner.

## In Attendance: Councillors Luker and C Allford (for item 3), two members of the public and S Halliday (Committee and Cemetery Administrator).

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

No apologies had been received.

*The Committee will adjourn for the following items:*

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

*The Committee reconvened.*

### **2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **To update on any matters arising from the minutes of 21st September 2020.**

The minutes of the meeting have been agreed by Full Council on 5th October 2020.

Item 5 – Details of the website requirements have not yet been received.

Item 6 – Resolved by Full Council and a response to the consultation was sent to South Hams District Council on 14th October 2020.

Item 7 – KEVICC has agreed to meet and have offered a number of dates for a meeting via Zoom which have been sent to the Chair to advise on suitability.

Item 8 – Resolved by Full Council. The Clerk wrote to the Head of Estates for the Caravan and Motorhome Club on 22nd October 2020. They replied to say that a financially viable scheme is being devised for the small number of pitches on the site at Steamer Quay.

Item 9 – The Clerk to Berry Pomeroy Parish Council has been contacted and has advised that the Council next meets on 26th November where this issue will be raised.

### **3. SHARED SPACE AND EMERGENCY COVID-19 MEASURES**

### **To review contacts between the Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, concerned traders and members of the public in regard to pursuing the ‘Shared Space’ objectives which are widely supported for the town.**

The concept for the Future Totnes Forum in relation to shared space was discussed. It was **AGREED** that having a forum that brings together a wide spectrum of representatives from across the town (for example local businesses, community groups, residents, etc) will be of benefit in working towards a shared goal of reducing traffic transiting through Fore and High Street but not stopping to shop. The Chair asked Cllr C Allford to join the meeting to clarify her link councillor role with the Chamber of Commerce, where she confirmed she is in regular contact with them.

An initial meeting between the Town Council liaison group (Cllrs Hodgson and Luker, the Town Clerk and Green Travel Co-ordinator) and Devon County Council will be held next week, and the first Future Totnes Forum is scheduled to meet on 12th January 2021. The idea of a distribution hub on the industrial estate was raised but it was acknowledged that this is a logistically and legally complex idea, and that space on the industrial estate is limited.

### **4. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

### **To note any update from the Climate Change Working Group on 27th October 2020.**

Noted. Cllr Allen gave an update that items in the action plan are currently being prioritised (reducing plastic, tree planting, working with other parishes). It is hoped that a representative from the working group will attend the Future Totnes Forum.

### **5. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY BILL**

### **To consider signing the Climate and Ecological Emergency Alliance’s campaign for a Climate and Ecological Emergency Private Members Bill.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that Totnes Town Council supports the aims to introduce a Private Members Bill for the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill; signs up to support the online campaign; and writes to the local MP asking them to support tabling the Bill.

### **6. ADOPTION OF PHONE BOXES**

### **To consider the ideas received for the re-purposing the proposed adoption of the phone boxes at Swallowfields, Plymouth Road and Whiteley Avenue (Follaton).**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it agrees to the idea of the Plymouth Road phone box being adopted as an internally lit art installation and submits an application to British Telecom for the adoption. It was **AGREED** that the Arts Working Group should take this forward.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Community Fundraiser is asked to look into grant funding opportunities for installing defibrillators in the phone boxes at Swallowfields and Whiteley Avenue, Follaton.

### **7. RURAL MARKET TOWN GROUPING**

### **To consider whether the Town Council should join the Rural Services Network’s rural/market town group (no cost until April 2021, then £130 per annum).**

### To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Town Council joins the Rural Services Network’s rural/market town group without cost until April 2021. The Town Matters Committee will review the benefits of membership in the March 2021 before deciding whether to renew membership.

### *Post-meeting note: membership of the Rural Services Network is now being offered free until July 2021 and the membership fee is £150 per annum (£100 from July 2021-March 2022).*

### **8. BEGGING AND ROUGH SLEEPING**

**To consider the impact of begging, addicts and rough sleepers on businesses in the town and promotion of the ‘Giving Back’ scheme.**

It was **AGREED** through the Community Partnership and Caring Town Homelessness meetings, to see how Totnes Town Council can best support the work of the Connection Hub in publicising the ‘Giving Back’ scheme, for example posters or links on the Town Council website.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it writes to the local MP, South Hams District Council and Devon County Council asking for more support to address the homelessness problem.

### **9. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2021**

**To consider if there are any public footpaths within Totnes which could benefit from an application for grant funding.**

### The condition of the riverside path behind the industrial estate is of concern and it is important in maintaining a riverside link between Totnes to Dartington (however this is South Hams District Council land in terms of any work to be carried out and applying for a grant).

It was **AGREED** to refer the matter to the Planning Committee to consider, as well as the Rambler’s campaign ‘Don’t Lose your Way’ to protect lost footpaths.

### **10. TOTNES PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**To note a summary of minutes from recent Totnes Partnership meetings.**

Noted.

### **11. KEEPING YOUNG TOTNES SAFE UPDATE**

### **To note the minutes of the Keeping Young Totnes Safe meeting held 29th September 2020.**

Noted.

### **12. FAIRTRADE UPDATE**

**To note the minutes of the Totnes Supporting Fairtrade Annual General Meeting on 30th September 2020 and a letter sent to the local MP.**

Noted.

### **13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

### **To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 22nd February 2021 at 5.30pm (please note the change in start time).**

### Noted. It was **AGREED** that Community Engagement will be included as an agenda item at the next Committee.

Sara Halliday, Committee and Cemetery Administrator