

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

# **MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2020 – HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM**

## Present: Councillors B Piper (Chair), G Allen, P Allford (left the meeting at 7.55pm), R Hendriksen, D Matthews, P Paine, S Skinner, V Trow and L Webberley.

## Apologies: None.

Not Present: Councillor A Galvin.

## In Attendance: Councillors J Hodgson and E Price, three 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**

A member of the public introduced the idea of setting up an urban farming initiative in Totnes to help people’s emotional and financial situation through food growing as a co-operative. The produce would be shared amongst the growers with any surplus donated to the food bank or sold to local shops. They proposed that the Town Council sets up a voluntary programme with various local groups such as Incredible Edible and Totnes Allotments. The Committee **AGREED** that this idea should be passed to the Climate Change Working Group to investigate.

Two members of the public spoke about the clamp down by South Hams District Council towards campervans parking overnight in Longmarsh car park [note: the signage clearly says no overnight parking]. They explained how the presence of campervans helps deter anti-social behaviour and keep the area free of drugs. They requested that a dedicated traveller area is required in Totnes for those who choose to live in vans, and disputed the idea that rubbish and human waste is left by van owners. Cllr Hodgson said the matter of a site is a shared South Hams District Council and Devon County Council issue and a meeting is planned in the future to discuss this requirement.

*The Committee reconvened.*

### **2. SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL RECYCLING SYSTEM**

### **To receive an update from a South Hams District Council Officer about the new recycling system that will be introduced in 2021.**

### A presentation on the new recycling system being introduced in Spring 2021 was given by a South Hams District Councillor Senior Specialist (Waste). The new system will bring the South Hams into line with other areas of Devon, thereby making it easier for people to understand requirements in the different districts of the county. Most houses in Totnes will see collection days change from Thursday/Friday to Monday/Tuesday - letters are being sent out to households. It will introduce more kerbside recycling, including weekly collections of a food caddy and recycling to include a wider range of plastics, glass and clothing, and continued weekly alternate collection of household waste and garden waste (black and brown bins). The attached link gives more information about where the recycling goes for processing <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/WhereDoesRecyclingGo>

### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **To update on any matters arising from the minutes of 27th July 2020.**

The minutes of the meeting have been agreed by Full Council on 7th September 2020.

Item 3 – Resolved by Full Council and the Town Council’s comment was formally submitted as part of the consultation process on 16th September 2020.

Item 4 – The Devon Local Council Association advice is for council meetings to remain being conducted remotely where members of the public can participate.

### **4. ARTS WORKING GROUP**

### **To note any update from the Arts Working Group on 17th September 2020.**

Noted. Cllr Piper gave an update on the last Arts Working Group, including ideas for a Halloween events, a ‘Window Wonderland’, Christmas – lights switch on, and markets.

Cllr Allford left the meeting at 7.55pm (retained fire fighter call out).

### **5. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

### **To note any update from the Climate Change Working Group on 15th September 2020.**

Noted. Cllr Allen gave an update that the action plan was discussed and ideas shared with councils from across the county and beyond. There is a requirement for a dedicated web page to work through the actions in the plan and record progress. It was **AGREED** that the Climate Emergency Working Group would set out the website requirements, what information or pages need to be included and share this with Council officers so that the requirement can be discussed as part of the new own Council’s website development.

### **6. LICENSING POLICY CONSULTATION**

### **To consider the draft Licensing Policy which is being consulted on by South Hams District Council, and to make any recommendation to Full Council in how to respond before the consultation deadline of 15th October 2020.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that Totnes Town Council welcomes the strengthening of safeguards, particularly concerning the protection of young people, and the Council supports the strengthening of measures that protect residents from the anti-social behaviour problems that some licensing applications might potentially attract.

### **7. SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

### **To consider how to respond to the South Hams District Council Playing Pitch Strategy and the specific questions about the use of Borough Park and longer term aspirations.**

It was **AGREED** to seek a meeting (Council attendees to be confirmed) with KEVICC before the next Committee to understand their plans for the Elmhirst site and how it could be utilised by sports groups in the town. It was **AGREED** to bring this item back to the next meeting.

### **8. STEAMER QUAY CARAVAN SITE LONG LEASE**

### **To consider whether the Town Council would support a request to South Hams District Council for a long lease for the Steamer Quay Caravan Site.**

### To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Town Council writes to the Steamer Quay Caravan Site and Caravan Club to encourage them to negotiate a long lease with South Hams District Council which would attract investment and all year round use, which the Town Council is supportive of.

### **9. STEAMER QUAY AND LONGMARSH CAR PARK ISSUES**

### **To consider the problems of overnight camping in the Steamer Quay and Longmarsh car parks and the resultant issues of rubbish and human waste.**

The Committee was reminded that the town’s boundary ends in Longmarsh car park, not in the park land area. A number of ideas were discussed, including composting toilets. It was **AGREED** to approach Berry Pomeroy Parish Council about the issues of rubbish and human waste in Longmarsh to prevent a public health issue developing, to see if there is a common concern to take the issue jointly to South Hams District Council.

### **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

### **To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 16th November 2020 at 7.00pm.**

### Noted.

Sara Halliday, Committee and Cemetery Administrator