

# **MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

# **MONDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2021 IN THE GUILDHALL**

Present: Councillors V Trow (Chair), G Allen, S Collinson, D Matthews, A Oliver, P Paine and N Stopp.

## Apologies: Councillor L Webberley.

Not Present: Councillor S Skinner.

## In Attendance: Councillors Cummings, Hannam, Hendriksen and Hodgson, District Councillors Birch and McKay, representatives from TQ9 and Acorn Developments Ltd, members of the public and S Halliday (Governance and Projects Manager).

### **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

Cllr Trow read out a statement about how the meeting would be conducted and recorded.

Apologies were received from Cllr Webberley and were accepted.

*The Committee will adjourn for the following items:*

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public spoke about expanding the current garden trail (Leechwell, Heaths and the Lamb gardens) to incorporate an art/sculpture trail, suggesting that the Town Council could assist in funding and funding applications, the choice of artwork, and protection of the areas by CCTV. It was **AGREED** that this idea and the details should be discussed by the Arts Working Group and return to this committee.

**2. BALTIC WHARF**

**To update on the latest proposals and public consultation for the Baltic Wharf site from the developers TQ9 and Acorn.**

Representatives from TQ9 and Acorn Development Ltd outlined the latest proposals for phase 2 of the Baltic Wharf development which sees three main changes since the outline planning application was approved in 2010:

* the removal of the proposed retirement village due to no interest from operators and other initiatives that had received approval in the town;
* changes to environmental standards and flood risks – residents require a dry exit from properties in the event of a flood which has prompted the design of a raised deck over car parking; and
* the boat yard storage area is smaller than originally planned.

Councillors asked a number of questions including how the plans met the Joint Local Plan policy, what was South Hams District Council’s reaction, concerns about the potential loss of skilled employment in the boat yard, water management and flooding (including potential pollution from the flooding of the car deck), affordable housing, the bat fly way, the pontoon and deep-water access, and the demand for care home places.

The Chair thanked TQ9 and Acorn for the update as the next phase of development at Baltic Wharf is an important matter for the town in terms of employment and housing.

*The Committee reconvened.*

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

### **To approve the minutes of 27th September 2021 and update on any matters arising.**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of proceedings. Matters arising:

Item 3 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV). It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Council: supports the installation of CCTV at anti-social behaviour trouble spots in the town through grant funding when the opportunity arises; requests an urgent meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner and local MP with regards to this matter; lobby’s local businesses to install CCTV on their premises; and reviews this project in a year’s time.

Item 4 Minor Injuries Unit. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Council writes to the NHS commissioning group and the local MP requesting that the Minor Injuries Unit is re-opened as a matter of priority. Cllr Matthews will provide the draft letter.

Item 5 Gambling Policy Consultation. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Council responds to the consultation that it is supportive of the revised policy.

Item 6 Virtual Twinning. It was **RESOLVED** by a majority that Totnes Town Council supports a virtual twinning between Totnes and Salfit and that Councillors participate in a Zoom meeting each year. Councillors wished to note the positive benefits of a cultural exchange of this nature but it was agreed that this would not constitute a formal arrangement with resource implications.

Item 7 Seagull Problems. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Council: invites the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to speak at an open meeting on the subject; and requests that South Hams District Council provide wheelie bins on markets days for the secure placement of rubbish arising from food vendors.

Item 9 Climate Emergency Working Group. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Council writes to South West Water requesting where and when sewage has been discharged into the River Dart.

### **4. COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME**

**To consider the idea of an annual Community Award scheme, what it could include and how it would be administered.**

It was **AGREED** that interested Councillors set up a steering group to determine the scope of such a scheme which will report back to Committee in January 2022.

### **5. HM THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

**To consider the various national events to mark HM The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 (beacon lighting, the Big Lunch, the Queen’s Green Canopy) and determine any Town Council involvement in events.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

* it organises a beacon lighting for the town as part of the national event on 2nd June;
* it promotes ‘The Big Lunch’ initiative with community organisations and through the Totnes Matters pages in the Totnes Directory; and
* the Trees for Totnes Group looks at areas where trees could be planted (industrial estate, schools) as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy project.

### **6. EMERGENCY PLAN**

**To review the Emergency Plan.**

The Emergency Plan has updated the guidance for snow and pandemic incidents based on recent experience. To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the revised emergency plan is adopted.

### **7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**To consider the Council’s community engagement plan for 2022 and make a recommendation to Full Council.**

The Committee discussed the reach that Zoom meetings provided during lockdown and the need to make in person meeting dates more widely known (for example through the Totnes Times, Totnes Directory). There was discussion of whether the electronic information board could be installed before the Market Square improvements were completed as it could be used to display meeting dates and other events (which officers will explore).

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

* meeting dates are included in the Totnes Matters pages of the Totnes Directory;
* Councillors consider holding a monthly evening virtual public session outside of the Full Council date; and
* Councillors hold a session in the Market Square once a month between April and October to engage with the public.

### **8. COMMUNITY CHARTER**

### **To consider the latest budget requirement for the community charter and make a recommendation to Full Council.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the revised budget increase of approximately £300 is approved to cover the cost of childcare activities at the consultation event in February 2021.

### **9. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

**To note any update from the Climate Change Working Group on 16th November 2021 (standing item).**

Noted. COPNes 26 had been a very busy couple of weeks.

### **10. COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE**

**To note a report from the Community Co-ordinator.**

Noted.

### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

### **To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 31st January 2021 at 6.30pm.**

### Noted.

Sara Halliday

Governance and Projects Manager