

# **MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

# **MONDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL**

Present: Councillors V Trow (Chair), G Allen, S Collinson, J Cummings, A Oliver, P Paine, N Stopp and L Webberley.

## Apologies: Cllr J Hannam

Not Present: Cllr S Skinner

## In Attendance: Councillor Piper, a member 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 later in the meeting from Cllr Hannam.

*The Committee will adjourn for the following items:*

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public spoke about the Arts and Events Grant and questioned why Totnes Town Council was funding events in Dartington and asked if Dartington Parish Council had been approached for funding. They were concerned that Totnes taxpayers were funding events in other parishes where the precept was much lower and where other parishioner were benefitting, when they would rather see money spent on sound equipment for the Council Chamber so that meetings could be live streamed or recorded at a higher quality. The Chair note the comments made and explained that Councillors also wanted to learn more about the applications before making a recommendation on funding.

**2. ARTS AND EVENTS GRANT**

**To consider the Link Orchestra and Earthjump grant applications.**

Councillors Allen and Collinson declared a personal interest. Representatives from Earthjump and Link Orchestra explained the activities that their grant applications would fund. The Committee asked a number of questions about who the activities would be aimed at (for example young and elderly people), whether they would be inclusive and accessible, and if they could be brought to Bridgetown.

*The Committee reconvened.*

The Committee **AGREED** that further detail is required about the section in the Link Orchestra application around the proposed collaborative work with KEVICC and a costing for this engagement.

To **RECOMMEND** that Full Council considers both applications and the award of any grant funding from the remaining £3950 available.

*The Committee reconvened.*

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

### **To approve the minutes of 22nd November 2021 and update on any matters arising.**

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

Item 5 HM The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. I Item 5 – It was **RESOLVED** by a majority of 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.

Item 6 Emergency Plan. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by Full Council that the revised emergency plan is adopted.

Item 7 Community Engagement Plan. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by Full Council that:

* meeting dates are included in the Totnes Matters pages of the Totnes Directory; and
* Councillors hold a session in the Market Square once a month between April and October to engage with the public.

Item 8 Community Charter Budget. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by Full Council that the revised budget increase of approximately £300 is approved to cover the cost of childcare activities at the consultation event, noting that this is now likely to take place in late March 2022.

*The Committee will adjourn for the following item:*

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

**To consider the format of the Community Award scheme for 2022.**

Cllr Piper outlined the scope of the scheme, with one award presented in 2022 to an individual. The Committee discussed how this scheme could evolve in future years to incorporate a group award (marked with a certificate and donation to the group) and reflect on the community efforts made with an exhibition of profiles of the recipients once the scheme had been up and running for a few years.

*The Committee reconvened.*

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

a. The following process is adopted for 2022:

• Each Councillor has the opportunity to nominate the name of an individual for the award by 21st March 2022.

• Town Matters Committee 28th March 2022 - consider the nominations in Part 2, confirms if any individual has more than one nomination (i.e. they have been put forward by more than one councillor), and shortlists the nominees to go forward to Full Council.

• Full Council 4th April 2022 – Councillors decide on who should win the award.

• Mayoral Choosing 19th May 2022 – winner presented with the award.

b. The scheme is called the ‘Totnes Community Award’.

c. The award will be in the form of a medal (mould cost approximately £50, each medal approximately £25-50).

d. The Mayoral budget will pay for the cost of the medal each year.

### **5. SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

**To consider the South Hams District Council Homelessness Strategy consultation and make a recommendation to Full Council in March with a draft Council response (consultation closes on 23rd March)**

It was **AGREED** that the officer would email the questionnaire to Committee members for their inputs by Sunday 6th March, collate the comments to go to Full Council as the proposed Council response to the consultation (this will be a paper to follow on the morning of Monday 7th March).

### **6. GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN**

**To consider any Council involvement in the Great British Spring Clean from 25th March to 10th April 2022.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that in conjunction with Totnes Against Trash that Councillors take part in two litter picks during the Great British Spring Clean:

* Saturday 26th March, 10am-12pm in the recreational areas of Bridgetown.
* Sunday 10th April, 10am-12pm in Totnes town.

### **7. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

**To note the reduction of the number of voting Councillors on this committee from 11 to 10 (in line with Standing Orders) with the resignation of Cllr Matthews.**

Noted.

### **8. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

**To note any update from the Climate Change Working Group on 25th January 2022 (standing item).**

Noted.

### **9. KEEPING YOUNG TOTNES SAFE**

**To note the minutes of the Caring Town Keeping Young Totnes Safe meeting held on 11th January 2022.**

Noted.

### **10. FAIRTRADE**

**To note the minutes of the Totnes Supporting Fairtrade meeting held on 2nd December 2021.**

Noted.

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

### **To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 28th March 2022 at 6.30pm.**

### Noted.

Sara Halliday

Governance and Projects Manager