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# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL MATTERS

# MONDAY 14TH MARCH 2022 AT 6.30PM IN THE GUILDHALL

**Present:** Councillors E Price (Chair), M Adams, J Hodgson (joined at 18.50), P Paine, B Piper, N Stopp and V Trow.

## In Attendance: Cllr Cummings, C Marlton (Town Clerk) & C Bewley (Finance, HR and Lettings Manager).

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

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

The apologies were accepted.

*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.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

*The Committee reconvened.*

## 2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

**To approve the minutes of 14th February 2022 and update on any matters arising.**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of proceedings. There were no matters arising.

## 3. BUDGET MONITOR

**To consider the Budget Monitor.**

The Clerk explained that overspends are shown in red and underspends in green. It was **AGREED** by majority to accept the overspend on the Mayoral Allowance. It was unanimously **AGREED** to accept the budget monitor.

## 4. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL PENSION SCHEME

**To consider a request to Devon County Council to divest from fossil fuel investments which form part of the pension scheme for Council Officers.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Town Council formerly requests that:

a. Devon County Council’s pension scheme investments in unsustainable and environmentally damaging businesses are urgently sold and investments switched to sustainable projects such as renewable energy that will help society address and mitigate the Climate and Ecological Emergency; and

b. In addition to this request, the Devon Pension Fund Board is urged to carry out a poll of its members (pension fund holders) to seek their views on the investments made on their behalf.

## 5. MAYOR’S ENGAGEMENTS AND BUDGET

**To consider the Mayor’s engagements since December 2021 and the current budget.**

Noted.

## 6. E-BIKE TRIAL

**To consider running an e-bike trial with South Hams District Council and Co-bikes in 2022.**

It was **AGREED** by majority that the Green Travel Co-ordinator allocates time to progress this trial and funding opportunities. Once the details of the trial are determined, any match funding implications will need to come back to Committee for consideration.

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## 7. CYCLE TO WORK SCHEME

**To consider introducing a cycle to work scheme for Council officers.**

It was **AGREED** by majority to offer the scheme to Council officers.

## 8. PROTOCOL ON THE DEATH OF A SENIOR NATIONAL FIGURE

## To review the protocol on the death of a senior national figure (updated to remove references to the late Duke of Edinburgh and that the proclamation will be made from the Brutus Stone).

The revisions to the protocol were **AGREED**.

## 9. SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY CONSULTATION

## To consider the South Hams District Council Homelessness Strategy consultation and agree a response (consultation closes on 23rd March).

The draft comments below were **AGREED** as the Council’s response to the South Hams District Council consultation:

* Continue to work closely with partner agencies to enable early identification of housing issues. **Strongly Agree**. Comment: The work the homelessness team at SHDC does, is appreciated by the Council.
* Address issues of housing quality and suitability to ensure homes are fit for purpose. **Strongly Agree**
* Address issues of affordability with focussed financial advice. **Strongly Agree**
* Provide quality temporary housing to limit the impact of homelessness on health. **Strongly Agree**
* Identify and access support to address the underlying issues contributing to homelessness. **Strongly Agree**
* Work in partnership with support services and achieve high referral rates between organisations to identify and address issues impacting on home management. **Strongly Agree**. Comment: The Council notes that the number of rough sleepers according to SHDC figures has gone down and are very pleased to hear that - it would be good to hear more of an analysis as to why that might be and as to what has been successful.
* Provide focussed medium term support to rough sleepers to successfully sustain accommodation long term. **Strongly Agree.** Comment: The Council would like to see the reopening of the homelessness shelter on the industrial estate to include hot food and a place for people to socialise. We need to approach the housing crisis with as much flexibility, initiative and imagination as possible.
* Work with local private landlords to expand the number of homes rented through SeaMoor Lettings to local people at an affordable rent. **Strongly Agree**
* Expand housing management service offers to increase availability of different types of accommodation. **Strongly Agree**

## 10. FUTURE FORUM

**To note an update on the Future Forum.**

Noted. The Clerk commented that the suggestion that finding out the ownership of all listed building is a large and potentially expensive task which could soon be out of date.

## 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**To note the date of the next meeting of the Council Matters Committee – Monday 11th April 2022 at 6.30pm.**

Noted.

T*he Committee will be asked to* ***RESOLVE*** *to exclude the press and public “by reason of the confidential nature of the business” to be discussed and in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. (CONFIDENTIAL by virtue of relating to legal and/or commercial matters, staffing and/or the financial or business affairs of a person or persons other than the Council)*

**12. BANK STATEMENTS AND RECONCILIATIONS (Standing Item)**

**To consider the bank statements and reconciliations.**

These were reviewed and **AGREED** unanimously.

**13. STAFFING UPDATE (Standing Item)**

**For any general or urgent updates that required confidential sharing with Councillors.**

A verbal update was noted, no decisions were required.

**14. LEGAL CLAIM**

**To note an update on a legal claim.**

Noted, no decision needed.