

# **MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

# **MONDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL**

Present: Councillors V Trow (Chair), G Allen, J Cummings, P Paine, B Piper, and Cllr S Collinson

## Apologies: Cllr A Oliver

Not Present: Cllr L Webberley

## In Attendance: L Ferrier (Marketing and Communications 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.

The apologies were received and accepted.

*The Committee will adjourn for the following items:*

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

*The Committee reconvened.*

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **To approve the minutes of 25th July 2022 and update on any matters arising.**

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

### Item 4 - Community Award process for 2023. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that:

a. Two awards are presented in 2023 – an individual and community group award – with the timings as follows:

• February 2023 - nominations will be invited from the public through the Totnes Directory, Town Council Website and Social Media with a closing date of mid-March;

• March 2023 - Town Matters Committee will consider the nominations received;

• April 2023 - Full Council considers Town Matters Committee recommendation.

b. Depending on the number of nominations received, the top three nominees in each category (as determined by Full Council) will be invited to attend the Annual Town Meeting in May 2023 where the award will be presented.

c. A new medal is cast based on the Town Council logo (see below) which will cost £100 for the moulding from which pewter medals can then be struck (unit cost £3-5 plus engraving for ‘Community Award 2023’, type of award and the name of the recipient on the reverse).

### **3. AIR AND WATER QUALITY CONCERNS**

**To consider concerns about air and water quality levels in the town and make any recommendations to Full Council.**

It was **AGREED** that the Town Council need to facilitate action to highlight community concerns regarding water quality in the River Dart. Many issues associated with poor water quality cross over with causes of poor air quality, so this is an opportunity to highlight both concerns.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that a meeting is held for local stakeholders including representatives from river user groups, community groups and monitoring authorities. Invitees to include: Rowing Club, Canoe Club, SHDC planning, SHDC environmental health, South West Water, Westcountry Rivers, Dynamic Adventures, Dart Harbour Authority, Surfers Against Sewage, DCC Highways, DCC Public Health, Buckfastleigh TC, Staverton PC, Berry Pomeroy PC, Anthony Mangnall, and the local media.

The meeting will comprise of those groups invited but will be recorded and shared publicly via the website and on social media.

Cllr Cummings will consult with Cllr Hodgson for a joined-up approach and will draft a letter/invitation. This will outline:

* the reason for calling the meeting (at community request)
* that contents will be shared publicly
* matters to be discussed
* desired outcomes.

### **4. COST OF LIVING MEETING**

**To consider any actions from the community Cost of Living Crisis meeting and make any recommendations to Full Council.**

It was **AGREED** that support should be given to enable the partnership meetings to continue and a joined-up town response to the cost of living crisis.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that in lieu of the currently vacant TTC community coordinator role, alternative co-ordination support provision is investigated to empower and facilitate a joined-up community response. This could be funding a part-time post within one of the community organisations. Also, that the Paige Adams Trust will be asked if the Civic Hall can be made available, if needed, to provide one venue that can be used by multiple community support projects one day a week to reduce individual costs.

### **5. COUNCIL CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

**To note a verbal update on (no documents):**

**a. Christmas Lights Switch-On; and**

**b. Christmas Festival evenings.**

Noted. The officer updated that preparations for both events are progressing well with a focus on local businesses and community and creating a fabulous festive atmosphere for the whole family. Entertainment was discussed and agreed that as well as the on-street performances, the markets and late nights could work in a similar way to the Totnes Festival to co-ordinate and promote music events in venues around the town. Cllr Collinson suggested Jam Buddies should be contacted to see if they would like to get involved providing entertainment for the night. The email for Jo at Miss Ivy Events was provided.

### **6. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

**To note the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group on 20th September 2022 (standing item).**

Noted.

### **7. FAIRTRADE GROUP**

**To note the minutes of the Totnes Supporting Fairtrade meeting held on 9th August 2022.**

Noted.

### **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

### Noted.

Lucy Ferrier

Marketing and Communications Manager