

# **MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

# **MONDAY 30TH JANUARY 2023 IN THE GUILDHALL**

Present: Councillors J Cummings (Chair), G Allen and B Piper

## Apologies: Cllrs Collinson and Webberley

## In Attendance: Cllr L Smallridge, L Ferrier (Marketing and Communications Manager) 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 Cummings 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 28th November 2022 and update on any matters arising.**

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

Item 3 - Daisy and Rainbow Childcare. It was **RESOLVED** by majority that the Council writes to the local MP, South Hams District Council and Devon County Council with its concerns about the waiting list for children securing nursery places; the impact on the child’s development and mental health; the ability of parents to work and the economic development of the town. Cllr Bennett has been asked to draft a letter for the Clerk’s signature.

Item 4 – Town Decoration. It was **RESOLVED** by majority that bunting is put up in Fore and High Street at the end of April/early May for the Coronation and stays up until mid-September for summer events.

### **3. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

**To elect a Chair for the Town Matters Committee.**

Cllr Cummings was proposed and unanimously voted in as Chair. A deputy will be appointed at the next meeting, if required.

### **4. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON**

**To consider the arrangements for the Christmas Lights Switch On for 2023.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the community Christmas Lights Switch On takes place on Tuesday 28th November from 3-6pm, and that officers make the necessary arrangements to secure entertainment, refreshments and crafting activities (as set out in the note) within the budget set for financial year 2023/24.

### **5. WATER QUALITY UPDATE**

**To note an update on the water quality meetings with South West Water and the Environment Agency.**

Noted. Cllr Cummings gave an update to the information circulated with the committee papers, including a meeting being set up by the local MP, South West Water and the community. Cllr Cummings will draft a letter for the Clerk to send to fellow clerks inviting representatives from parishes along the river to meet to discuss the issues faced from increased development and river use.

It was **AGREED** to include an agenda item at the next meeting about facilities for motor homes at Longmarsh.

### **6. BRIDGETOWN ROUNDABOUT UPDATE**

### **To receive an update on ideas for improving the visual appearance of the roundabout on the A380 and A385 in Bridgetown and the latest Devon Highways policy on adopting a roundabout.**

Noted. Officers explained that the Devon Highways policy to adopt a roundabout was under review, and that a list of ideas received from members of the public for decoration of the roundabout has been sent to Devon Highways for comment on their feasibility in this space.

### **7. COST OF LIVING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**To note the minutes of the Cost of Living Partnership meeting.**

Noted. Councillors discussed where information for warm spaces (along with useful numbers) could be displayed for access by those without digital connectivity, suggesting that better use is made of The Mansion notice board which has a section for the Town Council to display information.

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

**To note the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group held on 17th January 2023 (standing item).**

Noted. It was **AGREED** to ask the Sustainability Officer for more information on the community composting idea, including details of what makes a scheme successful.

### **9. FAIRTRADE GROUP**

**To note the minutes of the Totnes Supporting Fairtrade meeting held on 4th January 2023.**

Noted.

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

### **To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 27th March 2023 at 6.30pm.**

### Noted.

Sara Halliday

Governance and Projects Manager