

# **DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

# **MONDAY 27TH MARCH 2023 IN THE GUILDHALL**

Present: Councillors J Cummings (Chair), G Allen (joined at 19.25), S Collinson, B Piper (joined at 19.00), L Smallridge.

## Apologies: None

Not present: Cllr Webberley

## In Attendance: 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.

No apologies had been received.

*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 30th January 2023 and update on any matters arising.**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of proceedings with one amendment to show Cllr Cummings as ‘Chair’ (not Deputy Chair). Matters arising:

Item 4 – Arrangements for the Christmas Lights Switch On 2023. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by 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.

Item 5 – Water Quality. As this meeting is being held during the pre-election period the ‘facilities for motor homes at Longmarsh’ item is scheduled for discussion in June given it is a potentially controversial subject.

Item 8 – Climate Emergency Working Group – work on community composting is ongoing with the first step being securing a potential location. An update will be given at the next meeting.

### **3. SOUTH WEST WATER CONSULTATION**

**To consider the South West Water ‘Draft Water Resources Management Plan (2024)’ draft response from the Planning Committee and make any additional recommendation to Full Council [consultation closes on 9th May].**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council the following response to the South West Water Draft Water Management Plan 2024 consultation:

• The Council believes that South West Water should be a statutory consultee as part of the planning process and would support changes in planning legislation to enable this.

• The Council believes that there should be a further consultation on the South West Water Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan consulted on in 2022, and that there should be a clear link with the Draft Water Resources Management Plan.

Environmental

• Extreme Weather Events - no details given to the effects of extreme weather events and the effects on water treatment plants, how South West Water will respond, how to handle run off and slowing water flows down (for example through tree planting, attenuation ponds).

• Water Quality - no detail is given about water quality monitoring, frequency of monitoring and what is being tested for (for example, nitrates, pollutants, plastics, antibiotics) particularly in relation to bathing water areas.

• Biodiversity – no details are given on the wildlife species currently supported which therefore gives no baseline to monitor improvement or deterioration against.

• Future Modelling Tools - would like to see the use of future modelling of the impacts of river water levels – in drought and flood conditions – and the environmental and biodiversity effects.

• Catchment Management – no detail of how this strategic approach is taken into account in plans and programmes to assess and address the effects of run-off from agriculture and developed areas.

• All sewage treatment should be designed to include anaerobic digestion waste systems to support energy production, address climate change and prevent sewage discharges into rivers and the sea. (this could be combined with agricultural slurry treatment in rural areas).

Developments

• Flood Risk Modelling - The plan should include flood risk modelling for any new development and the potential effect on neighbouring areas and river catchment from surface water run-off.

• Water Treatment – South West Water needs to take into consideration the cumulative impact of various housing developments in a water catchment area in terms of: provision of potable water, capacity of water treatment plants to process the sewage and grey water generated, flood risk from non-permeable surfaces, and run-off effects into rivers.

• Water Management Infrastructure - New developments should install separate sewage and rain water systems to lessen the volume of water passing through the waste water treatment process, and natural soakaway areas within the site of any new development should be insisted upon.

• Grey Water Management – could the water companies insist on all new housing developments to be fitted with grey water harvesting for use in the home (for example toilet flushing, water butt collection) to reduce the volume of water consumption required per capita and support increased drought resilience?

• South West Water should be empowered to refuse additional developments loading onto the system where capacity for the provision of potable water and/or sewage treatment has been reached and can be demonstrated.

### **4. WATER QUALITY UPDATE**

**To note an update Of the Rivers Assembly meeting.**

Noted. Cllr Cummings updated that the Rivers Assembly had been a good meeting with opportunities to network and useful presentations. Cllr Collinson commented that more active Council participation in the Dart Harbour Community Group would be useful going forward.

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

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

Noted. The Committee noted the good works that is being carried out by this group.

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

**To note the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group held on 28th February 2023 (standing item).**

Noted.

### **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

### **To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 26th June 2023 at 6.30pm.**

### Noted.

*The 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)*

### **8. COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME**

### **To consider the nominations for the Community Award scheme individual and group categories (personal information).**

### The Committee considered the nominations received. A confidential report with the recommendations will go to Full Council for consideration.

Sara Halliday

Governance and Projects Manager