

# **MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

# **MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2023 IN THE GUILDHALL**

Present: Councillors J Cummings (Chair), G Allen and L Smallridge.

## Apologies: Cllrs Chinnock, Collinson, Piper, Price and Roberts.

## In Attendance: Cllrs Auletta and Beavis, 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**

In her role as a link councillor, Cllr Auletta wished to speak to item 3.

Cllr Beavis asked about the road surface under Eastgate, and had questions under items 3 and 7.

*The Committee reconvened.*

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **To approve the minutes of 26th June 2023 and update on any matters arising.**

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

Item 4. Community Conversation – It was **RESOLVED** by Full Council that: the timeline, branding and planned communications are accepted; the table in the survey for print purposes will display the monthly precept figures, with the table showing monthly and annual figures to be placed on the website; and the wording of the survey was accepted subject to a minor amendment.

Item 5. Motor Home Facilities at Longmarsh – It was **RESOLVED** by Full Council that it writes to District Councillors, and South Hams District Council’s Environmental Health and Localities teams to register the town’s concerns.

Item 6. Neighbourhood Watch Community Safety Charter – It was **RESOLVED** by Full Council that it signs up to the Community Safety Charter, which has now taken place.

*It was* ***RESOLVED*** *to suspend Standing Orders to enable wider Councillor discussion under Item 3.*

### **3. OPEN SPACE, SPORTS, RECREATION AND WELLBEING POLICY REVIEW**

**To consider a phased review and update of the Council’s Open Spaces, Sport Recreation and Wellbeing Policy (OSSRW) including projects for future section 106 investment.**

Cllr Auletta explained that a review and update of the OSSRW would help to capture some geographical areas and provisions in the town not covered by the Neighbourhood Plan, and suggested that the inclusion of a vision, implementation plan, and map would be helpful additions.

*The Committee reconvened.*

It was **AGREED** that:

* Link councillors and councillor representatives on outside bodies are welcome to join future meetings to input their knowledge and thoughts on the relevant categories to be reviewed.
* The South Hams District Council OSSR format would be adopted as it is an easier to use template than the existing policy, with the officer to transfer the data across (including headings for a vision and map) and that this would be circulated to Committee members and link councillors in advance of the next meeting for comment.
* A timetable for the review of categories at future meetings would be produced and circulated to Committee members for comment, to start at the next meeting.
* The Council Assets and Public Realm Working Group is asked to review the ‘Churchyard and Cemetery’ category, and that the Traffic and Transport Steering Group is asked to review the ‘Greenways’ category.

### **4. COMMUNITY AWARD POLICY**

**To consider the draft Community Award Policy.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the policy is adopted, subject to an amendment clarifying who will be invited to attend.

### **5. SKATE PARK CONSULTATION**

**To consider the South Hams District Council consultation on the skate park and make any recommendation to Full Council.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

* It supports the requirement and need for a skate park;
* The safety of skaters should be borne in mind in deciding on the location; and
* The Council will support the outcome of the consultation process.

### **6. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY FORUM**

### **To note the minutes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Forum held on 18th July and to consider the recommendation under item 4 that the Council formally support the Friends of the Dart request.**

Noted. To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

* It supports the Friends of the Dart Bathing Water Designation application by signing the letter of support [see end of minutes]; and
* It helps to share information about the Friends of the Dart’s community designated river health project.

### **7. KEVICC ENGAGEMENT**

### **To consider a request from KEVICC for Council engagement with its student enrichment activities and how the Council might support.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

* It engages with KEVICC on this student scheme and that TOPS and the two primary schools in Totnes are offered similar levels of engagement; and
* Councillors are asked to put themselves forward for this role as representatives to outside bodies.

### **8. D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS**

**To consider taking part in lighting a beacon (representing the ‘light of peace’) as part of national D-Day 80th anniversary commemorations.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it organises a beacon lighting for the town on Kingsbridge Hill as part of the national event on Thursday 6th June at 9.15pm.

### **9. RNLI REQUEST**

**To consider a request from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) for Council support.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it:

* Supports this request to speak with a member of the RNLI with the caveat that any funding will need to be part of any wider grant process; and
* Seeks a Cllr volunteer to hold this meeting with the RNLI representative.

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

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

### Noted.

Sara Halliday

Governance and Projects Manager

ITEM 6 DRAFT LETTER TO FRIENDS OF THE DART

Dear Friends of the Dart,

**Bathing water designation applications and Community Designated River Health for the River Dart, Devon.**

I am writing in my role as a Town Clerk for Totnes Town Council, with the Council’s support of your application for Designated Bathing Water Status for the River Dart at the following locations and Community Designated River Health (designed by our community to meet the needs of the river and community river long and for areas of our river with sensitive ecology).

These are the applications that Totnes Town Council wish to support:

Totnes Steamer Quay

Stoke Gabriel

Dittisham

Dartmouth

Totnes Town Council believes that the River Dart has been used for generations for recreational purposes, our communities rely on the health of the river and the river ecology. For our local businesses, tourism and our local communities, the river is an integral and important central focus. Locations that are being submitted for bathing water status are areas that have easy access to the water with the infrastructure close by to support that access and where the riverbank will not be compromised by users. These locations are used by a whole range of people including boaters, swimmers, paddlers, canoeists, rowers, sailors, fishermen etc. The Town Council’s role is to represent these community members.

Totnes Town Council also agree with Friends of the Dart that the entire river deserves to be sewage-free to preserve the delicate ecology and re-establish a balance of the natural environment. Therefore, the Council also support the Community Designated River Health project.

Totnes Town Council support Friends of the Dart in its efforts to gain Bathing Water Status and Community Designated River Health, and the Council are committed to protecting the river for current and future users. As such I strongly support this application.