

# **MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

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

Present: Councillors J Cummings (Chair), G Allen, J Chinnock, S Collinson, B Piper, E Price, N Roberts, and L Smallridge.

## In Attendance: Cllrs Auletta, Beavis, Hodgson and Presswell, 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.

There were no apologies.

*The Committee will adjourn for the following items:*

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Cllr Hodgson updated on a letter from a member of the public seeking Council support for a letter that is being drafted to the Dartington Trust trustees. She will invite the individual to Full Council’s public question time.

*The Committee reconvened.*

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **To approve the minutes of 25th September 2023 and update on any matters arising.**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of proceedings. Matters arising: the recommendations made to Full Council under items 4 (Community Award Policy), 5 (Skate Park Consultation), 6 (Climate and Ecological Emergency Forum), 7 (KEVICC Engagement) and 9 (RNLI Request) were all resolved by Full Council on 2nd October. Item 8 – D-Day 80th Anniversary Commemorations, will be discussed under item 4.

*It was* ***RESOLVED*** *to suspend Standing Orders to enable wider Councillor discussion under Items 3 and 4.*

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

**To review the following sections of the Council’s Open Spaces, Sport Recreation and Wellbeing Plan (documents attached):**

**a. Allotments** It was **AGREED** that:

* Cllr Hodgson is asked for her views as the Council representative with the Totnes Allotment Association; and
* The officer will contact the Totnes Allotment Association for information about number of plots, number of vacant plots (if any), waiting list numbers.

**b. Civic Spaces** There was discussion about: whether Steamer Quay should be in the Civic Spaces section; and each of the areas identified. There was a consensus that the Civic Square is a priority for improvements to be made.

**c. Accessible Natural Spaces** This section was not discussed in Committee due to time constraints.

It was **AGREED** that the officer would update the table based on discussions under a and b, the document would be placed in the Councillors shared drive so that individual councillors can make comments on the document direct and review the comments made by colleagues.

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

**To consider ideas to commemorate the D-Day 80th anniversary on 6th June 2024, including taking part in lighting a beacon (representing the ‘light of peace’).**

Cllr Presswell outlined some ideas including choirs, engaging with schools and shops to dress up, a map of locations in Totnes that played a role in the build up to D-Day.

*The Committee reconvened.*

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

1. A small Task and Finish Group is formed of interested Councillors and representatives from Totnes Museum, Totnes Image Bank, Totnes Fashion and Textile Museum, local schools, and army and air cadets to see what is possible.
2. A beacon is lit on Kingsbridge Hill as part of the national commemoration.

### **5. EMERGENCY PLAN REVIEW**

**To review the Emergency Plan.**

It was **AGREED** that the plan would be amended to include sections on communication and community preparedness and be brought back to the January 2024 meeting.

### **6. SHADY GARDEN USE**

### **To consider writing to South Hams District Council about the use of Shady Garden and enforcing its use by those who have booked the space.**

### Cllr Allen updated that South Hams District Council have been made aware of the issue and are dealing with it.

### **7. SKATE PARK CONSULTATION**

### **To note the outcome of the recent consultation on the location of the Skate Park in Borough Park and next steps.**

Noted. Cllr Allen updated that the new skatepark will need crowdfunding to take the proposed build forward and that the groups who have long been involved in scoping the new skate park design are working together on this.

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

### **To note the minutes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Forum held on 17th October.**

Noted.

### **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

### **To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 29th January 2024 at 6.30pm.**

### Noted.

Sara Halliday

Governance and Projects Manager