



DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 24TH MARCH 2025 IN THE GUILDHALL

Present: Councillors J Cummings (Chair), L Auletta, C Beavis, J Chinnock, A Presswell, N Roberts and T Robshaw.

Apologies: Cllrs Collinson and Price.

Not Present: Cllr Peters (apologies received at 6.55pm)

In Attendance: 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 accepted.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 27th January 2025 and update on any matters arising.

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

Item 3a – Cistern Street/Bypass. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council writes to Devon County Council and South Hams District Council as detailed.

Item 4 - Great British Spring Clean and Great Big School Clean 2025. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council takes a role of awareness and promotion by providing publicity of the initiatives as detailed.

3. STRATEGY DELIVERY GROUP AND WORKING GROUPS

To consider the notes and any recommendations from the following:

a. Community Working Group, 11th February 2025.

Noted. The Committee discussed updates on the following items: the community co-ordinator role, and asked that this item is included on a future working group agenda; Caring Town; the Pavilions leisure centre; and the Kingsbridge Inn.

b. Economy Working Group, 12th February 2025.

Noted. The Committee discussed updates on the following items: the REconomy Centre; the CROP project in Dartington; Totnes Castle – had a response been received from English Heritage and a request for a Town and District Councillor meeting with English Heritage; festivals proposed for the town over the summer; the 'locals card'; and any update on the Civic Square paving sets.

c. Environment and Public Realm Working Group, 29th January 2025.

Noted. The Committee discussed updates on the following items: the Bridgetown Alive request to use the town's bus shelters for maps; permissions for the installation of the mosaic panels and the Council process for agreeing the final placement of the works; Castle Meadow use; and extra-large bins.

4. DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST – BOWDEN PILLARS FARM PROJECT

To consider:

a. the inclusion of the Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) Atlantic rainforest project at Bowden Pillars Farm for inclusion in the Open Spaces, Sports, Recreation and Wellbeing Plan;

The Committee **AGREED** that although the project is some way from permitting public access whilst planting is completed and trees given time to establish, it will be a valuable addition to natural spaces in the town in the future.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that the Atlantic Rainforest project at Bowden Pillars Farm is added to the Open Space, Sports, Recreation and Wellbeing Plan as an accessible natural space.

b. in principle support for any signage about the project which DWT may wish to erect in the future.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it supports in principle any future request from Devon Wildlife Trust to erect specific signage on Kingsbridge Hill about the Atlantic Rainforest Project, and that accessible features should be considered (for example an audio description, raised images, braille description).

5. OPEN SPACE, SPORTS, RECREATION AND WELLBEING PLAN UPDATE

To update on any general matters linked to the Open Space, Sports, Recreation and Wellbeing Plan (standing item).

Cllr Auletta apologised that the mapping work was not yet completed and hoped to bring the map to the next meeting.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 23rd June 2025 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)*

7. COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME

To consider the nominations for the Community Award scheme individual and group categories, and the Judy Westacott award and make a recommendation to Full Council (personal information).

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

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Sara Halliday
Governance and Projects Manager