

# **MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE**

# **MONDAY 30TH MAY 2022 IN THE GUILDHALL**

Present: Councillors V Trow (Chair), J Cummings, J Hannam and P Paine.

## Apologies: Cllrs T Bennett, A Oliver and L Webberley.

Not Present: Cllrs G Allen, S Collinson and B Piper.

## In Attendance: Two members of the public, Cllr E Price, 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 Trow 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**

A member of the public reported that: the Steamer Quay Caravan Park is open again for the season and that the Caravan Club are applying for a long lease with an update expected at the end of the summer; residential food waste collections are not being made; and they requested that additional toilet facilities are provided on a permanent basis at Longmarsh as there are public health issues with wild campers on the green space and insufficient portaloos being brought in for events using the car park. The Committee asked officers to email South Hams District Council Environmental Health with the sanitation concerns in the car park and green space and copy in Berry Pomeroy Parish Council (as Longmarsh falls within their parish boundary).

A member of the public spoke in support of buskers being able to amplify their music in the town, item 4 on the agenda.

*The Committee reconvened.*

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY**

**To elect a Chair and deputy for the committee.**

It was **AGREED** to postpone discussion of this item until the July meeting given attendance numbers. Cllr Trow would like to stand as Chair again and Cllrs Cummings, Hannam and Webberley are proposing to stand for the deputy chair position.

### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

### **To approve the minutes of 28th March 2022 and update on any matters arising.**

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

Item 2 – Citizens Advice. Resolved by Full Council. Citizens Advice will be contacted to suggest dates for a meeting with Councillors and District Councillors to discuss the energy and housing issues faced in the town.

Item 4 – Proportional Representation Electoral System. Resolved by Full Council. Responses from neighbouring town councils have not been supportive as their Councils are apolitical and they view the letter as being political in its content.

Item 7 – Commemorative Bench on Coronation Road. Resolved by Full Council that its land on Coronation Road can be used by Totnes Gardens to install a commemorative bench at their own cost.

### **4. BUSKERS CODE OF PRACTICE**

**To review the buskers code of practice to no longer permit amplification in the town, that the playing of loud music is included in future Public Space Protection Orders for the town, and to consider a request to South Hams District Council to erect ‘no amplification’ signs in the Shady Garden.**

Cllr Paine suggested that a decibel monitor could be used by the Town Maintenance Officer when complaints were received. It was explained that including busking in the Public Space Protection Orders could give some powers to address those buskers behaving in an anti-social manner – like with drinking alcohol, it doesn’t ban the activity in the town centre but helps the police and authorities address those causing a problem. To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that:

a. Part 1 of the ‘Buskers’ Code of Practice’ is amended as follows (new text underlined): ‘Music or voice shall not be at a level or be so loud, that it can be heard at a distance of 50 metres. ~~No~~ Considerate amplification - ~~mains or generator powered~~ - is permitted but we ask that you are considerate of residents and local businesses. Busking must not be intrusive or a nuisance in nearby premises (commercial or residential), or affect the use of the public telephones. If asked by a shop trader to stop busking in front of their premises, entertainers should do so.’

b. It writes to South Hams District Council to request that signage is put up in the Shady Garden that says ‘no amplification from Sunday-Thursday’ and to ask when the next Public Space Protection Order review is due.

### **5. OPEN SPACES, SPORTS AND RECREATION AND S106 MONIES**

**To review the list of Open Spaces, Sports and Recreation facilities in Totnes and consider how unallocated S106 monies could be used to enhance these areas.**

It was **AGREED** to invite the Rugby Club to a meeting to discuss their Borough Park lease and the idea of a gym/trim trail around the perimeter of the park with equipment spaced at intervals.

### **6. A-BOARDS ON FORE STREET AND HIGH STREET**

**To consider the recommendation of the Council Assets and Public Realm Working Group that the Council requests a meeting with Devon County Council for them to visit and walk round with Cllrs Adams and Price to address problem areas.**

Cllr Paine suggested a format for a board which would use less pavement space by businesses. To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it requests a meeting with Devon County Council (DCC) and that a DCC officer visits and meets with Cllrs Adams and Price and Inclusive Totnes to address the problem areas.

### **7. BROWN BIN COLLECTION**

**To consider writing to South Hams District Council about the brown bin collection service in the town.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it writes to South Hams District Council to express its and residents’ frustrations with the new refuse collection system, particularly brown garden waste bins.

### **8. RURAL SERVICES NETWORK**

### **To consider the renewal of the Council’s membership of the Rural Services Network (annual fee of £135).**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it renews its membership for the coming year.

### **9. CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

**To note the minutes of the Climate Change Working Group held on 19th April and 17th May 2022 (standing item).**

Noted.

### **10. SKATE PARK**

**To note an update on the Skate Park project.**

Noted. The project has been retendered and a public consultation about the design is currently ongoing. It is hoped that the final design will be shared at a public event in July and that a planning application will be submitted in late summer. Once planning permission is granted then fundraising for the skate park build will be required.

### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

### **To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 25th July 2022 at 6.30pm.**

### Noted.

Sara Halliday

Governance and Projects Manager