



## MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE

### MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 IN THE GUILDHALL

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

Apologies: Cllr Collinson.

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.

*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 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 and update on any matters arising.**

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

Item 3d – Environment and Public Realm Working Group. Mosaics. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by Full Council that the mosaics are located at public transport entry points in the town where some overhead protection is afforded.

Item 4 – Community Composting Scheme on Steamer Quay Road. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by Full Council that whilst the principle of community composting is supported, further work is required.

Item 5 – Devon County Council Pension Fund Investments. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by Full Council to write to Devon County Council seeking immediate withdrawal of its investments and pension funds in companies selling arms to Israel as these are contributing to the war in Gaza.

Item 7 - South Hams District Gambling Policy consultation. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously by Full Council that the Town Council responds to the consultation, supports the proposed policy changes and asks that it includes advertising in public places, for example on bus stops, to ensure gambling advertising is not permitted.

Item 9 – Christmas Markets and Lantern Parade. It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Town Council will take part in the lantern procession.

### **3. STRATEGY DELIVERY GROUP AND WORKING GROUPS**

**To consider the notes and any actions from:**

**a. Strategy Delivery Group, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.**

Noted.

**b. Community Working Group, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

Noted.

**c. Economy Working Group, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

Noted.

### **4. OPEN SPACE, SPORTS, RECREATION AND WELLBEING PLAN UPDATE**

**To:**

**a. consider the South Hams District Council comments on the Open Space, Sports, Recreation and Wellbeing (OSSRW) Plan (document attached); and**

Cllr Auletta explained the background to the comments and the conversation that she has had with the SHDC officer. She took the Committee through each comment requiring a decision (as oppose to correcting typos, out of date data or summarising information which it was agreed to amend) and the following amendments were **AGREED**:

- To list the section at the top of each page to aid reading of the document.
- Allotments (ref A) – Cllr Cummings will speak to the Totnes Allotment Association to determine the number of people on the waiting list to provide evidence of need.
- Accessible Natural Spaces (ref F12, F13 and F14 respectively) – retain Camomile Lawn, Baltic Wharf and Follaton Oak in this category and remove the entries from Amenity Green Space (ref B4, B6 and B7 respectively).
- Vire Island (Parks and Gardens, G3) – retain under Parks and Gardens rather than Accessible Natural Space, as it is an area that requires maintenance.
- Follaton House Formal Gardens (Parks and Gardens, ref G7) – the Committee wishes to retain this entry.
- Galleon, Steamer Quay (Play Facilities, ref H3) – remove reference to ambition to increase upper age range and costs, and amend the quantity text to remove reference to expanding the play equipment area and ‘maximise opportunities and learning experience through play on the Galleon’.
- Baltic Wharf (Play Facilities, ref H7) – move reference to Phase 2 into the quantity section and delete ‘would encourage’ and replace with ‘suggest more traditional play equipment is installed, to be included within the Phase 2 area’.
- Skate Park (Play/activity Facilities, ref H10) – removal of costs quoted as they are subject to change.
- KEVICC Elmhirst Site (Outdoor Sports Facilities, ref I4) – split the two elements into two separate line entries – one for grass pitches, the other for the all-weather pitch (in line with separately identifying the Borough Park facilities).
- Projects – include all projects identified as missed into the table.
- Vision for Borough Park (Project) – Officer requested to look for evidence from the Community Conversation for this request.
- Lack of Football Pitches (Project) – amend project description to ‘informal football pitch with goal posts’ and remove reference to 3G/4G pitches. Officer requested to look for evidence from the Community Conversation for this request.

- KEVICC Elmhirst Site All-Weather Pitch (Project) – include changing facilities and club house to the project description.
- Natural Spaces (Project) – project description is the purchase of additional land, and current description moved to ‘perceived obstacles’.
- Castle Meadow (Project) – remove ‘public’ from ‘better public use’. Further discussion of future use of this space will be through the Environment and Public Realm Working Group.

**b. update on any general matters linked to the Open Spaces, Sport Recreation and Wellbeing Plan (standing item).**

Cllr Presswell updated on recent meetings with the Tennis Club about drainage in Borough Park and potential solutions for their club house, which would also help the Skate Park and Rugby Club.

Cllr Peters updated on Dart Estuaries meeting and the salt marsh areas around Totnes.

Cllr Auletta had engaged with the Devon Wildlife Trust in relation to the Bowden Pillars project and proposed that they are invited to present their plans at a future committee meeting.

**5. VE-DAY 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS**

**To consider taking part in lighting a beacon (representing the ‘light of peace’) as part of national VE (Victory in Europe) 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it lights a beacon on Kingsbridge Hill as part of the VE-Day 80<sup>th</sup> commemorations on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

**6. BUS SHELTER ADVERTISING**

**To update on the arrangements regarding advertising on Totnes Town Council bus shelters.**

Noted. It was **AGREED** that site of the contract to determine end dates would be useful.

**7. REFORM OF BATHING WATER REGULATIONS 2013 CONSULTATION**

**To consider the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ‘Reform of Bathing Water Regulations 2013’ consultation and make any recommendations to Full Council (deadline 23rd December 2024).**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it responds to the consultation with the following, and a Councillor may provide more general text on the problem of water pollution for inclusion:

Totnes Town Council is supportive of the proposed changes in ‘Reform of Bathing Water Regulations 2013’ consultation including:

- Removal of fixed bathing water season dates (which currently runs from May to September) from the regulations to allow for a more flexible approach to monitoring, extending the dates of the bathing season to better reflect when people use bathing waters.
- Expanding the legal definition of ‘bathers’ to include participants in water sports other than swimming, including paddle boarders and surfers.
- Further considering water quality and public safety when applications for new bathing waters are assessed.
- Introducing multiple testing points at bathing water sites.
- Ending the automatic de-designation of bathing water status after 5 consecutive years of a site being rated ‘poor’, which can damage local tourism and businesses. Instead, underperforming sites will be individually reviewed by regulators, taking into account their unique circumstances.
- Changes to the designation criteria of bathing sites.
- Removing the fixed dates of the bathing season from regulations

**8. SOUTH HAMS WAY**

**To note a project to create a South Hams Way by South Hams Ramblers.**

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it supports the proposed South Hams Way footpath.

**9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6.30pm.**

Noted.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Sara Halliday

Governance and Projects Manager