



DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE

MONDAY 28TH JULY 2025 IN THE GUILDHALL

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

Apologies: Cllrs Chinnock, Collinson and Peters.

Not Present: Cllr Robshaw

In Attendance: Cllr Price 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 Roberts 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 DEPUTY CHAIR

To confirm the election a deputy chair for the Committee.

It was **AGREED** to appoint Cllr Collinson as Deputy Chair.

Cllr Price asked to become a member of the Committee and this request will go to Full Council for consideration in September.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of 23rd June 2025 and update on any matters arising.

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

Item 4 – Strategy Working Group Environment and Public Realm. Water Meadow: it was **RESOLVED** that the Council supports the idea in principle subject to further detail and information. However, the Working Group does have some concern about the salinity of the site and the proximity to the main road for the area's safety for use as a forest garden for school children/young people.

Item 6. Delivery Plan: PRD2.C Longmarsh, PRD2.E Seagull Survey, PRD2.G Entry to Fore Street Sign and PRD2.H Castle Street Bollard – it was **RESOLVED** that these items are removed from the delivery plan as they are complete/no longer to be pursued.

4. STRATEGY DELIVERY GROUP AND WORKING GROUP

To consider any recommendations and note the minutes from the following (documents attached):

a. Community Working Group, 15th July 2025, item 6 – Community Mapping Brief.

It was **AGREED** to set up a Task and Finish Group to oversee the revision of the Community Mapping brief, incorporating feedback and aligning with strategic priorities (including potential multi-year funding and support models).

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

To consider updates:

a. to sections 4.I – Outdoor Sports Facilities and 6 – Improved or New Facilities (Projects); and The additional text to sections 4I and 6 (removal of the footbridge, galleon and parkour facilities and update the main entries accordingly, along with including facilities in neighbouring parishes (Dartington Paddle Court)) was **AGREED**.

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

Cllr Auletta presented the draft OSSRW map and proposed that a separate map showing greenways and paths is created to make sure both maps are clear in their display of information – it is too much information to place on one map. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Auletta and the Governance and Projects Manager will meet to go through the plan and map to update.

6. UNIVERSAL TOILETS

To consider the matter of universal toilets.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it writes to South Hams District Council requesting that it considers extending the provision of RADAR keys to transgender people on request.

7. CAMPING ON LONGMARSH

To consider the problem of camping on Longmarsh.

Cllr Presswell updated that she has asked South Hams District Council to place 'no camping' signage at Longmarsh and to have a protocol of what steps to take once illegal campers are reported as being present on South Hams District Council land.

It was **AGREED** to follow up on a reply to letters sent earlier in the year to South Hams District Council and Devon County Council about provision for travellers in the district and county.

8. TRANSITION TOWN TOTNES LETTER OF SUPPORT

To consider a request for a letter of support for Transition Town Totnes.

Cllr Roberts declared a personal interest.

To **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it sends the letter of support as drafted to Transition Town Totnes, see below.

Totnes Town Council is pleased to provide this letter of support for Transition Town Totnes (TTT), a long-established and valued community partner which continues to contribute significantly to the vitality, resilience, and sustainability of our town.

Since its inception, Transition Town Totnes has helped establish Totnes as a beacon of community-led environmental action. Its work reflects the shared values of collaboration, sustainability and local empowerment that our Council is proud to promote. TTT's initiatives have delivered tangible local benefits and national recognition, rooted in Totnes's historic identity while preparing us for a more resilient and connected future.

Some notable TTT projects that have benefitted the town include:

- The Climate Hub – an education and community space which helps the community engage with issues, solutions and possibilities
- Incredible Edible Totnes – edible planting around town, free to all
- 30 x 30 – inspired by the global commitment to protect and conserve 30% of the Earth for nature by 2030
- The Reconomy Centre & Local Entrepreneur Forum – An incubator space for local entrepreneurs and flagship event supporting community investment in local enterprises.
- Transition Streets – bringing neighbours together to work on practical changes they can make in their lives to live more sustainably
- Community Resilience Forums on topics such as ‘Climate Change & Mental Health’
- A bi-annual Energy Wise Show & Open Eco Homes

These and other projects have consistently demonstrated the value of bottom-up community action and the importance of long-term, place-based work. TTT’s approach encourages civic engagement, strengthens our local economy, and supports climate and ecological goals that align with the Town Council’s declared Climate Emergency.

We understand that TTT is in the process of registering as an environmental partner with the 1% for the Planet network. We are confident that they will be a valuable and credible addition to that community. Totnes Town Council considers Transition Town Totnes to be a key stakeholder in the town, and we regularly engage with the organisation in various forums and through project-based collaboration.

We offer our full support for TTT’s application and commend their ongoing efforts to strengthen our community’s resilience, inclusivity and environmental responsibility.

9. LINK COUNCILLOR REPORTS

To consider link councillor reports from Committee members.

Cllr Cummings updated on his engagement with the South Devon Catchment Partnership which provides a useful forum for groups interested in river health, including community groups and the Environment Agency, South West Water and Dart Harbour Authority. It was **AGREED** that officers will contact the Dart Harbour Authority to see what funding from ship visit fees could be made available to community groups in Totnes, for example the Sea Scouts or to fund swimming lessons.

Cllr Auletta gave a progress report on the Skate Park where work is going well and the options for a launch event in September.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting of the Town Matters Committee – Monday 22nd September 2025 at 6.30pm.

Noted.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Sara Halliday
Governance and Projects Manager