

GREAT TORRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

# Environment Committee held on Wednesday 8th April 2025 at The Council Committee Room

##

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cllrs B Callaghan-Martin (Chair), P Cloke, D Maisey and J Insull

### **ALSO, PRESENT:**

Jennie Smithson (Town Clerk) and Kate Cooper (Office Administrator)

### Apologies

Cllr D Parish, K Allin and L Bright

### 10-minute period for public contributions.

None

### Correspondence and other business brought forward by the direction of the Chair

 None

### Declarations of Interest

None.

### Minutes: confirmation of the minutes of the following meeting:

Draft minutes of the Environment Committee: 17th September 2024

Cllr Cloke proposed to approve the minutes: Cllr Maisey seconded the proposal; a vote was taken – three in favour, one abstention.

### Matters Arising:

 None

### Great Torrington Town Council Environmental Policy

The existing policy accepted in 2019 was discussed and it was agreed that the minor changes be written up for approval at the next meeting.

**Action:** **JS to amend the draft policy**.

### South West Water correspondence

The Town Clerk (JS) summarised correspondence received by South West Water requesting assistance in promoting their campaigns concerning drainage systems.

It was agreed that GTTC would promote the relevant campaigns via their social media and email SWW to highlight councillors’ concerns regarding the disposal of waste water into water courses.

**Action: Office team to arrange social media posts and email SWW.**

### Torridge District Council Emergency Planning Officer

The new officer has contacted GTTC to introduce himself. Councillors would like to invite him to meet with them to discuss existing emergency plans.

**Action: JS to set up a meeting with the officer**

### Trafalgar Drive Play Park

The site has been assessed regarding installation of a zip wire which children would have liked. Unfortunately, the site is not suitable for this. It was agreed that the suggested climbing hut would be a good addition. Various other equipment options were reviewed, such as a wooden swinging bar and a wooden knight panel which could complement Torrington’s history. The panel could be made locally to save costs and use local craftsmen.

**Action: JS will refer back to two companies who have been involved with the project for further information**

### Pulse smart hubs

Cllr Cloke updated the meeting regarding feedback from the Regeneration Board members. They are supportive of the idea, as are the full council of GTTC. JS commented that another town had experienced planning problems with their installation. She will investigate any issues with planning in the first instance.

**Action: JS to contact TDC planning initially to investigate any issues.**

### Murals

Various sites for murals were discussed. Owners of a house in Well Street have already given their consent for one on the side of their house. It was noted that this house maybe situated in a conservation area.

Councillors agreed that sites need to be determined first before artists can be contacted for quotes.

The site in Well Street will be taken forward. Proposed by Cllr J Insull, seconded by D Maisey. The vote was unanimous.

**Action: JS/CK will continue with the project**

### Tarka & Friends Trail

JS played a video to members showcasing the wooden sculptures of Tarka the otter and a barn owl that have been created by a local craftsman. The project has been initiated by Cllr Isaac. The idea of a trail based on the story of Tarka the Otter has been well received by the Commons Conservators. Sites for the trail, such as Trafalgar Drive playpark and Jubilee Wood were proposed.

1. **River Torridge – flooding issues**

Cllr Isaac has reported to GTTC a complaint by a member of the public about flooding issues at Taddiport. Councillors suggested that GTTC will contact the Environment Agency on behalf of the complainant, members also suggested that the complainant raise the issue with Little Torrington Parish Council as their property is in this bordering parish.

1. **Weed spraying – issues**

The Town Council has received a complaint regarding the spraying of weedkiller.

Going forward, options include not spraying at all as the council always receives complaints (both for and against). It is not the council's responsibility to spray. Furthermore, spraying weedkiller sits uncomfortably with the environmental policy.

Cllr Cloke proposed that the council offer to clean the property concerned with the complaint to see if the residual spray can be removed. Cllr Maisey seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

1. **CCTV – Impact Assessment**

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the advantages and disadvantages of installing CCTV in certain areas of the town. JS reported back on research she has undertaken. She confirmed that TDC are prepared to work with GTTC if the project goes ahead.

Cllr Insull proposed that a meeting with TDC and the police is arranged to discuss further. Cllr Maisey seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Action: JS to arrange a meeting with TDC and the police**

1. **Future planning**

Future planning will be discussed at the next meeting.

### Date of next meeting: 16th September 2025, 7pm.

### Meeting Closed 9:00pm

Signed ………………………………………… Date ………………………..