



## Minutes of the Seaton Town Council Meeting On Monday 1st July 2019

### **Present**

**In the chair:** Cllr K Beer

**Councillors:** T Antoniou, A Davies, D Haggerty, D Ledger, S Read, J Rowland (Vice Chairman), J Russell, H Sanham, M Shaw, A Singh and D Squire

**Officers:** Admin Officer Stephanie Hidson-Jones

**Public:** Cllr Marcus Hartnell (EDDC) and 15 members of the public

### **42. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence received.

### **43. Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Rowland and Ledger declared personal interests as Councillors with East Devon District Council (EDDC)

Cllr Shaw declared a personal interest as a Councillor with Devon County Council (DCC)

### **44. Minutes**

Subject to the following amendments:

- a. The Heading on the minutes should read: Town Mayor Cllr Ken Beer, Locum Town Clerk Rob Martin
- b. Cllr Rowland had provided a report under the heading of 'Outside Bodies' and a written report concerning Seaton Area Health Matters which was not referred to in the minutes
- c. Item 29 – Change the word of **and** to **or**. The membership of the Personnel and Appeals Committee is **6** including the Chairman or Vice Chairman
- d. The minutes said that an agreement had been made during Public question Time. An agreement cannot be made during Public question Time. This needs amending to read that the council listened to the request that action should be taken to run Seaton in Bloom with sections for Allotments, Gardens and Communal Gardens
- e. Item 32 – The council did not discuss any reports

As there were more alterations required the Chairman suggested that he, Cllr Squire and the Clerk look at the minutes and bring them back for signing to the next Council meeting.

### **45. Chairman's Report**

The Council **NOTED** the Chairman's Report

### **46. Public Question Time**

Several members of the public present had come to address the Town Council concerning the agenda item on Climate Emergency



Joseph Fitzgerald spoke about Extinction Rebellion which had started a group in Seaton. 42 members of the public attended their first meeting. They hold a public meeting every fortnight. He said the public needed to adapt to the changing climate and our culture must change to meet the challenges. 82% of wetlands have been destroyed since industrial times, insects had been reduced by 75%, 7% of all forests had been lost in thirteen years and sea levels were a big issue. We needed to change the way we live so it is more sustainable. Extinction Rebellion has 3 demands which are:

1. Tell the Truth – Government must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change
2. Government must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025
3. Government must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice

Frome has set a pledge to cut their emissions to zero by 2030 and they are looking at linking different towns together so they can share their expertise and ideas. Some ideas they have come up with are: Cut carbon levels at local schools, cut carbon and methane in food, curricular activities to raise awareness in schools, a car club, electric car hire and charging points and on new developments install solar panels and decent levels of insulation and look at having no gas supply

Cllr Beer asked if Mr Fitzgerald could give details of the organisation to the Town Council so they could be circulated if necessary. Cllr Beer said the Town Council applauded what Extinction Rebellion were trying to achieve and thanked Mr Fitzgerald for coming to speak at the meeting

Sarah Nesbitt asked who on the Town Council was representing Climate Change. Cllr Beer replied that currently there was no one, but there was an item later on the agenda concerning Climate Emergency

Angela Wills spoke saying she volunteers on Seaton Wetlands and had recently joined Extinction Rebellion as she had become very concerned about what we were doing to the planet. She was aware of the constraints regarding decision making in local government. She appealed to the Council to step up to the urgent crisis that was being faced globally, even in Seaton. She said a Citizens' Assembly would have great benefits locally as it would extend the capacity of what the Town Council could do and thought the people of Seaton should act on this issue. There was so much a Town Council could do such as feeding back to the district council and asking questions about developments such as have the developers thought about building their properties with solar panelled roofs and questioning the sustainability of their developments

#### **47. Amendment in the order of business**

Cllr Ledger proposed and the Council agreed to change the order of the meeting to allow agenda item 15 to be considered next

Cllr Ledger proposed and the Council agreed to suspend Standing Orders so that agenda item 15 could be considered next

(moved Cllr Ledger, seconded Cllr Rowland)



#### 48. Climate Emergency

Cllr Shaw had proposed this motion for two reasons:

1. It was in response to the communication Councillors received from the local Extinction Rebellion group
2. This was a cause that not only the Town Council could take up, but also something members of the community could be involved in and a way needed to be found where the Town Council could work together with members of the community

Devon County Council passed a resolution earlier this year declaring a Climate Emergency, but the majority party removed the date 2030 from the motion and insisted on 2050. There was agreement that this was not urgent enough and ways needed to be looked at to accelerate this programme

Discussion took place around:

- Important that groups of people came together on a particular issue even if it was just at a local level. If this multiplied across the country it could influence things at a national level. Co-ordinated action was needed to influence Central Government to take action

Cllr Ledger asked for an amendment to be added to the motion that this was brought back to the Town Council in three months with recommendations after meeting with residents

The Council **RESOLVED** to form a working party to organise and decide the format and aims a public meeting will take. This item to be brought back to the next meeting in August.  
(moved by Cllr Shaw; seconded Cllr Rowland)

Councillors to be on the working party were Cllrs Antoniou, Haggerty, Ledger Shaw and Singh

The Council moved back into Standing Orders

#### 49. Police Report

The Council **NOTED** the Police Report  
(Moved by Cllr Beer)

#### 50. County Councillor Report

Cllr Shaw's report had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting

Cllr Shaw wanted the Town Council to express its concerns about the proposals from Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service to close of a number of fire stations, including Colyton as this was an asset that would affect Seaton. Seaton Fire Station would remain and would effectively serve Colyton and its outlying areas

Cllr Rowland declared a personal interest at this stage as his partner works for Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority. Also, as a Member of East Devon District Council's Scrutiny Committee Cllr Rowland had asked the Chairman of Scrutiny to write to the Chief Fire Officer inviting them to the next meeting



The Council **RESOLVED** to write a letter to Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service expressing its concerns over the proposed closure of Colyton Fire Station  
(moved Cllr Sanham; seconded Cllr Beer)

The Council **NOTED** the County Councillor Report  
(moved Cllr Beer)

#### 51. District Councillor Reports

It was noted that Seaton does have four district councillors because Cllr Geoff Pook represents part of Seaton. Cllr Pook has said he would like to attend meetings of Seaton Town Council. Councillors requested that Cllr Pook is informed of the date of the next Council meeting and is sent an agenda so that he can attend if he is available.

The Council **NOTED** the District Councillor Reports  
(moved Cllr Sanham)

#### 52. Town Clerk Report

No Town Clerk Report had been submitted

#### 53. Amendment in the order of business

Cllr Beer proposed and the Council agreed to change the order of the meeting to allow agenda item 14 to be considered next

Cllr Beer proposed and the Council agreed to suspend Standing Orders so that Joyce West and Sarah Nesbitt could speak on agenda item 14 Grant Applications

#### 54. Grant Applications

The Council considered the grant applications received from:

- Health and Local Food for Families
- TRIP Community Transport
- Axe Valley & West Dorset Ring & Ride Service
- Devon Voice Magazine

Joyce West and Sarah Nesbitt from Devon Voice Magazine spoke saying they had applied for a grant to produce a magazine that listed everything such as activities, clubs, meeting groups etc. which were happening in the local area for the elderly. The magazine had been produced before, but the funding had run out and they wanted to produce the magazine again

Discussions for the Devon Voice Magazine took place around:

- How are the hard to reach people going to receive the Devon Voice Magazine to hear what is happening in the area. In the past the magazine had been distributed at Drs surgeries, the Library, Tourist Information Centre and bookshop. It was hoped that this list covered areas which the hard to reach went to. People could ring up to request a copy.



- The quote received from the printers was for £675 for the magazine, but a grant of £800 was being asked for. What was the balance going to be used for? £675 was for 1,500 A5 copies, £80 for A4 copies and the balance was to cover telephone calls
- As the magazine was bi-annual was 1,500 copies enough? Probably more would be needed, but they wanted to see whether they would be successful with their grant application first
- Are these magazines distributed through Tesco? If they were more copies would be required which would cost more than the £1,00 grant from the Council. The magazine could be published online
- The previous editions only covered the elderly, but not young people. Were they looking to cover all age ranges? The magazine was for adults only to keep funding to a minimum.
- Were they incorporating the different health groups in the area such as the Stoke and Rehabilitation groups etc.? Could copies be emailed to potential users as it was more cost effective?
- Seaton Area Health Matters has been collecting details of groups working in areas of Health & Wellbeing. Knowledge could be pooled so not as to repeat work

Discussions for the rest of the grant applications took place around:

- The number of users for both the Axe Valley & West Dorset Ring & Ride Service and TRIP were rather vague. The percentage of user's resident in Seaton was given as 20%, It would be helpful if they could provide accurate figures of the user's resident in Seaton
- With TRIP the demand always exceeds the number of voluntary drivers available
- Would be useful if representatives from the organisations applying for grants attended the meeting so that questions could be asked of them

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve grants for the following amounts:

- Devon Voice Magazine - £800  
(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Singh)
- Axe Valley & West Dorset Ring & Ride Service - £1,000  
(moved Cllr Antoniou; seconded Cllr Haggerty)
- TRIP Community Transport - £1,000  
(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Ledger)
- Health and Local Food for Families - £720 benefit in kind for room rental at Marshlands and £280 in grant funding  
(moved Cllr Shaw; seconded Cllr Read)

In future organisations applying for grant funding should be asked to attend the Council meeting so that they can answer any questions. Cllr Squire asked that the grant application process be reviewed before the next round of grant applications were due

The Council moved back into Standing Orders

## 55. Committee Meeting Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes for:



(see website for the minutes):

- Planning Committee 20th May, 3rd June & 17th June 2019

(moved Cllr Beer)

#### **56. Membership of Committees**

The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint the following new Councillors to Committees for the 2019/2020 Municipal Year

#### **Communities and Open Spaces Committee**

Cllr Antoniou, Cllr Davies and Cllr Haggerty

The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the membership of the Personnel Committee to 7 so that Cllr Antoniou could be on the Committee

(moved Cllr Squire; seconded Cllr Sanham)

#### **Planning Committee**

Cllr Haggerty

#### **Finance & General Purposes Committee**

Cllr Davies and Cllr Haggerty

#### **57. Town Council Arts & Culture Forum**

Cllr Sanham proposed that this item was deferred so that information about the forum and what was expected from the Town Council could be found out before a decision was made

(moved Cllr Beer)

#### **58. Dogs on Beach & Dog Bins**

Cllr Sanham proposed that this item was deferred as there was no accompanying paperwork with the agenda to indicate why this item was put on the agenda

(moved Cllr Beer)

#### **59. Emergency Plan**

Cllr Read explained that an Emergency Plan was a document which identifies local emergencies which a local area may encounter and the strategies which are in place to deal with such events. To develop a Plan for Seaton would involve forming a working party with Councillors and members of the community serving on it

Discussion took place around:

- The Council has access to people who can deal with fallen trees on roads, someone who can supply sandbags, but it was a rudimentary system
- The purpose of the working party would be to develop a strategy to deal with any type of emergency that was likely to occur in Seaton
- Set up a working party of Councillors first before inviting members of the public to join



The Council **RESOLVED** to set up a working party to look into producing an Emergency Plan for Seaton and eventually invite members of the public to join the Working Party (moved Cllr Read; seconded Cllr Squire)

Councillors to be on the working party were Cllrs Antoniou, Haggerty, Read and Squire

#### 60. Town Hall Maintenance

Cllr Read explained that East Devon District Council were no longer able to continue to provide a Service Level Agreement with the Town Council for the maintenance of the Town Hall. Cllr Read proposed that a working party be set up to have a survey done of the Town Hall by a building surveyor and then appoint a contractor to maintain the hall.

Discussion took place around:

- The current maintenance schedule for the Town Hall needed updating so a Building Surveyor could go over the building and update the schedule. The new schedule could then go out to tender
- There was a surveyors' report completed when the Town Hall was purchased by the Town Council. It would be worthwhile the working party looking at this report before getting another surveyors' report done. East Devon District Council have a list of contractors which they use and it would be worth the working party looking through that list and contacting them to get quotes before tendering for the work

The Council **RESOLVED** to set up a working party to look into the maintenance of the Town Hall (moved Cllr Read; seconded Cllr Singh)

Councillors to be on the working party were Cllrs Beer, Read and Russell

#### 61. Confidential Matters

The Chairman moved, and the Committee **RESOLVED**, that in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders 1c the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the following discussions as there was likely to be a disclosure of confidential information.

#### 62. Working Party Feedback

##### a. Marketing Working Party

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations of the working party.

##### b. Website Working Party

It was **RESOLVED** that further information on the recommendations put forward by the working party should be brought back to future meeting.

##### c. TIC Working Party

It was **RESOLVED** not to implement the recommendations of the working party and that this matter was to be brought back to the next meeting.



**63. Staffing Matters**

Cllr Squire updated Council on the situation to date regarding the recruitment of a new Clerk.

Meeting closed at 22.10pm

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_