



Minutes of the Seaton Town Council Meeting on Monday 3 February 2020

Present:

Chair: Cllr K Beer

Councillors: J Rowland, D Ledger, D Haggerty, A Antoniou, H Sanham,
M Shaw and A Singh

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: Two members of the public

191. Apologies for absence

The Council received and accepted apologies from Cllr Andrew Gwyn Davies and from EDDC Cllrs. Geoff Pook & Marcus Hartnell

192. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Ledger & Rowland declared a personal interest as a Councillor with East Devon District Council (EDDC)

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

193. Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 20th January 2020

194. Chairman's Report

Members noted the Chairman's Report
(moved Cllr Beer)

195. Public Question Time

There were no public questions

196. Police Report

The Police report was circulated at the meeting. Cllr. Beer also informed Members that the murder squad had had cause to visit Seaton in the course of their enquiries regarding a knife used in an incident. Nothing untoward was found. Members **RESOLVED** to note the report.

197. County Councillor Report

Cllr Shaw presented his reports for January & February 2020 and, additionally, updated Members on:



- Seaton Wetlands – DCC had agreed to allocate £104,000 in the budget to carry out works to the cycle route and negotiations were ongoing with the landowner to progress this work
- Harbour Road Crossing – at Cllr Shaw's request, Highways had carried out a survey in September and concluded that the volume of traffic was insufficient to justify a crossing. It would therefore be difficult to get agreement for funds for said crossing as Highways would state that the evidence did not support it. There had previously been a crossing funded as part of the Tesco development but, unfortunately, this had been put in the wrong place. In any event, Members decided that the Council should write a letter to Highways to ask them to consider taking this forward.

Members **RESOLVED** to note Cllr Shaw's reports and further that the Town Council should write a letter to Highways asking them to consider taking forward the installation of a crossing.

198. District Councillor Reports

Cllr. Rowland outlined his written report to Members highlighting:

- EDDC's recent cabinet decision regarding Seaton Hospital on 8 January which was further detailed in his later report. Cabinet refused the proposal and asked that it be referred to DCC. DCC declined to get involved and, in light of this, a statement was expected from EDDC's Leader outlining what help might be available.
- Recent decisions by EDDC regarding car parking and budget as detailed in his report

Cllr. Ledger explained the proposal he had made regarding a housing company that had been set up by EDDC in 2017 to build new social housing and tackle the deficit. The company had been dormant since inception. Cllr. Ledger had proposed that a Working Group be set up to get it working. He added that Seaton currently needed 286 social houses according to the housing register. Cllr. Rowland added that the proposal had the full support of the District Council and congratulated Cllr. Ledger on his work on this. He further stated that the cost to EDDC of provision for homeless individuals had risen hugely from £17,000 to £200,000 in the last 2 years.

Members noted both District Councillors' reports

199. Reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies

There was a comprehensive report from Cllr. Rowland on Seaton Health Matters, including circulation of the business plan. He added that he was positive that something would be done and added that his personal view was that if assurance was received from the NHS that they could utilise the remainder of the space, then how the building was held was not so important.

Discussions were also ongoing with third parties, including a dementia care company about the possibility of taking up space. He added that there had been conflicting



messages from NHS Property Services who were set up to maximise income and the Health Secretary who implied that community hospitals were safe. The possibility of the Town Council applying for a Public Works Loan was mooted.

Cllr. Shaw added that at least half the monies for the hospital came from the community of Seaton via the Seaton Hospital League of Friends. He had contacted the DCC leader but received negative response. However, going forward he would have a better overview of health issues in the County as he would be sitting on the relevant Scrutiny Group.

Members noted the report.

200. Town Clerk Report including, where appropriate, recommendations:

- Update on Council's 2019/20 priorities
 - Progress on Seafront Enhancement Scheme
Cllr Sanham confirmed there was no specific progress to report as the DCC safety audit had been awaited which had now been carried out
 - Painting of lamp posts
This had been considered by the C&OS Committee on Monday, 27 January 2020 and deferred to the next meeting pending further discussions with EDDC who were making arrangements to paint some of the Town's lamp posts
 - Maintenance contracts for Town Hall and Marshlands Centre
A report on Marshlands would be brought to Members at the March Council meeting by Cllr. Rowland. on Preparing schedules of proposed works for the Council's premises is work in progress and will be reported to Members in due course.
 - The Clerk is unaware as to whether the Town Hall Working Group has had the opportunity to meet since the last full Council meeting but any update can be brought by Members of that Group.
 - To increase the number of hirers of facilities and office space at Marshlands
A third inspection has been carried out and a quotation was awaited from a third contractor in respect of the clearance of debris at Marshlands. This had been delayed due to the recent increase in fees for the deposit of waste. The office was still having difficulties in obtaining quotations from plumbers to dismantle the existing pipework, but enquiries are ongoing.
 - Ensure staffing levels are adequate to deliver the service expected and that Council websites and social media outlets are kept up to date
The Clerk was in the process of preparing a report and proposals for an appropriate staffing structure would be brought forward shortly for Members' consideration.



- Review the SLA with Devon Wildlife Trust for the TIC service
The Clerk confirmed that the detail of this SLA had now been agreed and she was awaiting a signed copy from Richard Drysdale. Members agreed that this priority could therefore be removed from future agendas.

Members noted the Clerk's Update

201. Review of Financial Regulations & Standing Orders

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- adopt the updated **Financial Regulations** attached to the agenda, drafted in line with the most recent NALC Model Regulations 2019 subject to:
 - the inclusion of a provision to review the appointment of the Council's Internal Auditor every three years
- to appoint the Town Clerk, for the purposes of paragraph 6 of the newly adopted Financial Regulations as Service Administrator, with authority to make payments by internet banking up to a maximum of £2,100, subject to those payments first being authorised in writing by two Councillors authorised as signatories
- adopt the updated **Standing Orders** attached to the agenda, drafted in line with the most recent NALC Model Standing Orders 2018 subject to:
 - the mandatory standing orders being reinstated in bold type
 - amending clause 8(b) from 14 days to 8 days

202. Committee meeting minutes

- The noting of the Community & Open Spaces Committee Minutes for 28 October 2019 and the Finance & General Purposes Committee Minutes for the 20 January 2020 were deferred to the next full Council meeting as they had not yet been approved by the respective Committees.
- Finance & General Purposes Committee Minutes of 9 December 2019 & 20 January 2020 and Planning Committee Minutes of 6 January 2020 were noted

203. Grant Applications

Grant applications were considered and Members **RESOLVED** to make the following grants:

- Seaton and District Garden Club
 - A grant of £150 along with a letter of appreciation for all the work they do in the town;
- Seaton Majorettes
 - A grant of £1000
- Free Spirit Taekwondo
 - A grant of £1000 along with a request that they tell Councillors how the money is spent



(Proposed Cllr Sanham; seconded Martin Shaw)

204. Website Progress

Cllrs. Singh & Ledger provided a visual and verbal update on progress to the website. In summary, whilst much of the 'back end' work had been done, it was now for the Council to provide content which he proposed that all Members got involved in. Members were anxious to get the site 'live' as soon as possible. It was hoped that this might be by the end of March 2020.

There was discussion about the budgetary provision for the website of £15,000 which included a contingency in the region of £2.5K for additional staff resource to get the copy writing work done as soon as possible.

Members **RESOLVED** to add an agenda item to the next meeting of Finance & General Purposes on 17 February 2020 in order that a decision could be made to engage the appropriate resource to get this work done, preferably by the end of March

205. Coach Friendly

Cllr. Haggerty provided a verbal update on Coach Friendly, confirming that Seaton Jurassic and Seaton Tramway were engaged, a great deal of social media had been circulated and he had recently addressed 250 coach operators. He would be speaking at a key tourism and travel show at the NEC on 22 March when the status would be finally approved. There was discussion about the need for shops to remain open, at least between 10am and 4pm and also about meet and greet teams.

Members noted the report.

206. Report from the Climate and Environmental Emergency Working Group

Cllr Shaw outlined what was in his written report and, in particular, invited Councillors' support for the seven recommendations to Council below

1. The Council should cooperate with SEA Trees group in finding sites for planting, including Town Council-owned land.
2. The Town Clerk should produce a report on the Council's energy use with proposals on how to reduce emissions.
3. The Planning Committee should consider how to its power to comment on planning applications to promote carbon-neutrality and other environmental concerns.
4. The Council should make an annual award to the local business or community group which has done most to contribute to the environment.
5. The Council should promote 20 mph limits to help people feel safer walking and cycling.
6. The Council should ask EDDC to install locking-up facilities for cycles on the seafront.



7. The Council should ask EDDC to consider a 'green rating' scheme for food establishments.

Led by Cllr Ledger, all Members expressed support for these seven recommendations and **RESOLVED** that the Council was happy to assist SEA in achieving the above aims.

207. **'Slower, Safer Seaton': Speed Limits within the Town**

Cllr. Shaw advised that the policy set out in his report was current an aspiration and time would be needed to discuss matters with Highways.

Members were fully supportive of the proposed policy and asked Cllr. Shaw to take it forward.

(Proposed Cllr. Antoniou; seconded Cllr. Singh)

208. **Working Groups**

Members considered whether to retain the Emergency Planning/Crisis Working Group which had been established in 2019 but had not yet met. It was **RESOLVED** that at this time there was no need to retain this Working Group as likely emergencies were already covered by the District and County Council emergency planning strategies.

Members went on to consider whether a South West in Bloom Working Group should be established. Cllr. Rowland outlined the issues that needed addressing for this to succeed in 2021 or 2022 which centred around proper budgetary provision and good community engagement.

Due to time pressures, no Members were able to commit to joining this Working Party at the current time. It was therefore decided that it would be revisited after the Town Council elections in late March when new Council Members may have the capacity to lead on this project.

209. **Update on Cyclefest 2020**

Members **RESOLVED** to support the Cyclefest 2020 and 2021 being run as a one day event, by KfMarketing and 1st Chard Wheelers jointly and independently from the Council, with the Town Council acting as principal sponsor for the event and making a donation not exceeding £7,500 for each of the two years 2020 and 2021.

The Council would offer additional assistance in terms of applying for road closures and liaising with DCC over parking provision for competitors

210. **Big Clean – 29 February 2020**

Members were advised by the Clerk that a member of the community – Peter Burrows -had offered his time to work with officers to arrange this



event. CLLR. Sanham confirmed that she had spoken to 'Pebbles' who had agreed that their premises could be used for registration and had kindly offered a free coffee to all taking part. Members were keen to ensure that it was made clear that this was a Town Council event run in conjunction with others such as Surfers against Sewage.

Cllr Haggerty offered to work with officers and Peter Burrows to organise the Big Clean.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm