

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council Meeting
on Wednesday 5 August 2020**

Present:

Chair: Cllr K Beer

Councillors: D Ledger, D Haggerty, A Singh, M Hartnell, J Russell and E Bowman

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: 5 members of the public

Note: All attendees accessed the meeting remotely and could be either seen and/or heard

32. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received FROM Cllr. Rowland in his capacity as EDDC Councillor

33. Election of Vice Chairman/Deputy Mayor

Cllr Ledger was unanimously elected Vice Chairman/Deputy Mayor.
(proposed Cllr. Haggerty; seconded Cllr. Singh)

34. Declarations of Interest

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

35. Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Council meeting held remotely on Wednesday 1st July 2020.
(proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Russell)

35. Public Question Time

Members heard from a member of the public who was one of the volunteers who had established the SAVE Food Hub in March 2020. She thanked the Council for the use of Marshlands in taking forward this initiative and explained how the project had grown over the months and that since its inception over 4,000 items of food had been distributed. They now distributed food on 3 days a week and hoped to increase this. The Chairman commended them on the good work that was being done.

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The Chairman then noted that Cllrs Rowland and Shaw had resigned due to their increasing commitments at EDDC and DCC and thanked them for all they had done for the town whilst on the Town Council. He added that he looked forward to working with them in their capacity as District and County Councillors respectively.

36. Police Report

Members noted that no monthly report had been received from the police, but had read the figures crime figures that had been circulated with the agenda, taken from the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary website and expressed concern at the continued reports of anti-social behaviour.

35. County Councillor Report

Cllr Shaw introduced his report and emphasized that the locality budget was open for bids and must be used within the 2020/21 financial year. He noted that he had had several complaints from residents regarding the parking of mobile homes on the seafront. Parking enforcement officers at EDDC had investigated and concluded that all were parked lawfully. He also provided a brief update on the cycle route – the main issue being the missing Wetlands section. This was currently the subject of discussions between DCC and the landowner.

Members noted this report.

36. District Councillor Reports

Members noted the report from Cllr Rowland. Cllr Ledger provided verbal updates on:

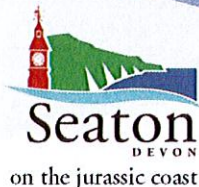
- the position regarding GESP and confirmed that a meeting of EDDC was pending to ratify the decision not to go ahead with this
- the anti-social behaviour at the Underfleet. He was speaking to EDDC about this and had today received an email from the police to advise that the neighbourhood team were out in force policing this

Members noted these reports.

37. Approval of Council's Insurance Provider 2020/21

Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the Council's insurance provision for 2020-21 with Zurich Municipal to 21 April 2021 at a cost of £3,605.03 plus and additional premium of £302.44 to cover the Council's vehicle insurance for the same period (proposed Cllr. Bowman; seconded Cllr. Ledger)

38. Town Clerk's report and update on 2020/21 priorities, including recommendations as to budgetary and other decisions as appropriate



Members received a report from the Clerk on the Council's work and priorities for 2020/21 and **RESOLVED** to:

1. note the report
2. agree to the submission of a request to Devon County Council seeking their views on the overage provisions binding Marshlands
3. authorise the Clerk to engage a contractor within agreed budgets to repair the wall on roundabout, once quotations are received
4. to extend the deadline for co-option applications to Friday 14 August 2020

(proposed Cllr Bowman; seconded Cllr Haggerty)

39. Terms of Reference – Finance & General Purposes Committee

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the updated terms of reference for the Finance & General Purposes Committee (July 2020)

(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

40. Promoting Seaton & Town Guide 2021

Cllr Haggerty outlined his updates and proposals regarding the following items:

- as Chair of 'Promote Seaton' he planned resume meetings via Zoom towards the end of the month and, in order to ensure the widest possible engagement would ensure that a meeting was held at a time of day that would make it easier for those running businesses during usual working hours to attend. Details of the meeting and an agenda would be circulated to the Promote Seaton Group and also via social media. Cllr Haggerty stressed that he was seeking ideas from across the town and aim was to ensure cohesive working to make things happen. Cllr Bowman raised the possibility of an air show in the future. The Clerk advised that a comprehensively researched and costed report would need to be brought to Members for consideration at a future meeting, which was likely to take some time to prepare, before any application was made to the RAF. Cllr Haggerty agreed that this would be progressed and the Clerk would be kept informed
- the question was raised as to whether the Council should produce a Town Guide for 2021, or an alternative such as a town map. The general consensus was that the Town Guide in its existing form was somewhat dated and that the Council could build on the success of its new website as a digital platform for information and possible a simple leaflet map/could be produced with details of the Council's website and TIC services and this would better serve the town and cost less. Furthermore a simple leaflet containing details of Seaton's TIC and the Council's website could be produced to hand out at the Travel in Tourism Show in march 2021
- sponsorship of flowerbeds in the town for 2021 was discussed and Cllr Haggerty suggested that this be taken forward by Promote Seaton



Cllr Haggerty's updates were noted and Members would be advised at the next meeting of the outcome of the re-established Promote Seaton meetings.

41. Community Consultation

Cllr Ledger asked Members to consider preparing a community consultation document that would inform the Council's future plans and enable local people to get involved in the work of the Council. He added that in his view, as councillors, such information would be invaluable to take the town forward. Cllr Singh added that the community should also be asked what they could do or would be prepared to do to assist in this. The Clerk asked that Members feedback by email any questions they would like included in the draft document which would then be presented to Council at a future meeting along with costings for production and distribution.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

1. carry out a community consultation to understand the priorities of local residents
2. authorised the Clerk to prepare a draft consultation document and the cost of distribution for approval by Council
(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr Singh)

42. Future events

Members considered a recent proposal for an open-air cinema event in Cliff Field Gardens over two evenings – one for the Coronavirus volunteers and one for the town generally. They considered a proposal and associated costings prepared by Andrew Gwyn Davies who had worked on the proposal with Gary Millar and both were prepared to work on the event to bring it to fruition. The maximum cost would be £2,145. However, this may be offset by the donations received from businesses for the VE Day celebrations that could not take place due to the pandemic. Cllr Ledger highlighted the various underspends due to the pandemic and, in particular, the monies available in the Christmas budget.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

1. agree to the event and action the proposal in the terms set out by Andrew Gwyn Davies
2. approve a budget of up to £2,145 for the event to be vired from the Christmas budget

(proposed Cllr. Ledger; Seconded Cllr. Singh)



43. Consideration of Grants Applications

Members considered the following 8 applications for grants under the Community Grants and Shop Fronts Grants Schemes. They agreed that the following grants should be approved subject, where appropriate, to further photographs and additional quotations being provided:

- Ragini £500.00
- Overington Care £500.00
- Simple Home Improvements £194.50
- Baker Browns £500.00
- PB Home Solutions £249.50
- (whilst £500 has been sought, please see my comments)
- Coastal Craft Creative £ 77.00
- Amber House of Colour £18.16

As an exception to policy, two of the Shop Front Grants were approved retrospectively. This was agreed as the repainting to those two premises had been carried out directly prior to the Scheme being announced specifically to attract customers when they were permitted to open again, so Members took the view that it would be reasonable to approve these. In line with the policy on this, grants would be paid out when the works had been completed and 'after' photographs and receipts were provided. The Clerk would action this.

One application had been received under the Community Grants Scheme for £1,000 from Axe Valley Ring & Ride. This was approved.

(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr Russell).

44. Request from Seaton Jurassic

The request from Seaton Jurassic seeking the Council's support for an impending planning application for a proposed extension to Seaton Jurassic and for financial support for the works had been withdrawn after the agenda had been published as the plans were currently on hold.

Members noted the position.

45. Update on Covid-19 in Seaton

There was no specific update on the current situation.



46. Any other business

The Chairman advised that it was the 100th birthday of one of Seaton's residents imminently and he would be visiting that person and invited any other Councillors who may wish to, to join him.

Meeting closed at 18.55pm

Signed 

Dated 3 September 2020