



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

Present:

Chair: Cllr. K. Beer

Town

Councillors: D. Ledger, D. Haggerty, M. Hartnell, A. Singh, J. Russell, E. Bowman,
C. Wood, D. Wright, K. Briggs and M. Macaskill

Other

Councillors: Cllr. Shaw (DCC), Cllr. Rowland (EDDC)

Officers: Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk

Public: One member of the public was present

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

72. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

73. Declarations of interest

Cllrs. Hartnell and Ledger declared personal interests as East Devon District Councillors

74. Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Seaton Town Council ('the Council') held remotely on 9th September 2020 (proposed Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr. Ledger)

75. Chairman's Report

The Chairman highlighted the success of the outdoor cinema event, held at Cliff Field Gardens, which had been arranged to thank volunteers of the Seaton Coronavirus Support Group.

Members noted the Chairman's report.

76. Public Question Time

Cllr. Rowland provided some background to the damaged wall at Fisherman's Gap. When it had been damaged by storms on a previous occasion, the Council had agreed to repair it, even though it was the responsibility of Devon County Council (DCC). When it was damaged subsequently, DCC stated that as the Council had carried out the earlier repairs, DCC were no longer responsible.

Cllr. Rowland asked that he be permitted to speak on items 12, 13 and 15 also.

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77. Police Report

No police report was available. The Chairman referred to the recent LAGS meeting and asked Cllr. Rowland if anything of note was discussed. Cllr. Rowland stated that the ongoing anti-social behaviour issues, prevalent across East Devon, had been discussed and the police would take action if incidents were witnessed by their officers. He would circulate the minutes when available.

78. County Councillor Report

Cllr. Shaw presented his report and added that DCC were in discussion with the Government regarding the impact of Brexit. Currently, due to the uncertainty over whether a deal would be reached, there were concerns over possible disruption to the supply of food and medicines.

Cllr. Shaw also highlighted the question of the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in parts of the town. DCC had requested that each town and parish council wishing to be considered for such restrictions, should write to DCC expressing an interest. When DCC's policy changed, they would consider these requests.

Members received and noted the report.

79. District Councillor Report

Cllr. Rowland presented his report and added that delays in progressing the development at Seaton Heights had arisen due to investment being withdrawn at different stages.

Cllr. Rowland also highlighted a new Government scheme to assist those on low incomes and asked that the Council help publicise this.

Members received and noted the report.

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

Members received an update on the Council's work and priorities for the 2020/21 municipal year and noted the spreadsheet that had been produced outlining all of the Council's work and projects, who was responsible and how each matter was progressing.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

1. note the Clerk's report
2. authorise the Clerk to write to Cllr. Shaw, as Chair of the Seaton & Colyton Traffic Group and raise the issue of repairs to the wall at Fisherman's Gap
3. approve a print run of 3000 postcards depicting the new Marshlands Art Boards at a cost of £160 and authorise the Clerk to negotiate with artists/sellers the arrangements for sale as necessary

(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Bowman)



81. Request by Devon Wildlife Trust - Seaton Jurassic

Richard Drysdale of Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) outlined details and reasons for the proposed extension of Seaton Jurassic which he stated would create an important link to Seaton Wetlands and encourage visitors to stay longer in the town. It would also enable both residents and visitors to engage with nature. He confirmed that at the same time as the planning application, DWT were applying for funding from RDPE. If successful, match funding of £37,600 would need to be identified. The application for funding had to be submitted to RDPE by 31 October 2020 and any funding agreed would be payable between April and December 2021. DWT had made approaches to various bodies and their request to the Council was twofold:

- support for the planning application
- a letter of support confirming an indicative sum that the Council would be prepared to fund

Cllr. Ledger asked whether provision for such a project could legally be made from the Council's grants scheme and whether any such grant could exceed £1,000. The Town Clerk agreed to check the position and report back to Members. Members agreed that the request should be considered further by the Finance & General Purposes Committee (F&GPC) who would begin the 2021/22 budget planning at their next meeting. Cllr. Hartnell stated that it would be difficult to meet the 31 October deadline and the proposal should be considered with caution. If funding was agreed, the Council should be clear about its reasons for supporting this over and above other organisations in the town. Cllr. Hartnell added that if the F&GPC agreed, in principle, that funding should be made available the final decision should be made by Council and an extraordinary meeting may be required.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

1. support the planning application
2. consider the request for funding further at a meeting of F&GPC on 19 October and, if it was considered appropriate to offer financial support, a recommendation would be made to Council for a final decision to be made.

(proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Ledger)

82. Creation of a sensory garden

Cllr. Briggs introduced a report which outlined her ideas for the creation of a sensory garden in one of the town's parks, possibly Seafeld Gardens, in the area where the outdoor gym had previously been situated. With the assistance of volunteers and assistance in kind from local suppliers, she expressed the view that this project could be achieved on a small budget. Cllr. Hartnell stated that such a garden could be of great benefit to young people in the town and he liked the fact that the idea was a little different. He added that it may be easier to locate such a garden in one



of the Council's own parks, rather than Seafield Gardens which was owned by EDDC.

Members **RESOLVED** that:

1. an allocation of funding for the project should be considered as part of the Council's budget setting process for 2021/22
2. Cllr. Briggs could approach the community to gauge support for the project

(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Ledger)

83. Seaton Museum

Cllr. Beer expressed his concerns about the future of the town's museum, as he would not like to see it lost. Seaton Museum faced many challenges including funding, poor accessibility, lack of profile on social media and the need for more volunteers. Cllr. Briggs had recently helped the curator by building a page on Facebook.

Members noted the concerns raised.

84. Town Guide 2021

Members discussed at length the question of whether a town guide should be produced for 2021, or an alternative considered. It was noted that a town map was already produced by a local marketing business. Cllr. Hartnell said that, in his view, the Council needed to consider its tourism and marketing spend for 2021/22 in its entirety and what the division should be between traditional print and digital content. This could be considered in more detail by the F&GPC as part of the budget process.

Members **RESOLVED** not to produce the town guide in its current form for 2021 and look at what the Council's marketing strategy and budget as a whole should be for 2021 onwards.

(proposed Cllr. Briggs; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

85. Advertising in Coach Tours UK & Ireland Magazine

Members discussed a proposal from Cllr. Haggerty to fund an article in this publication. The article would run over 5 pages in the November edition, highlighting all that Seaton had to offer. The total cost would be £1,000 + VAT, some of which may be offset by contributions from some of Seaton's attractions. Cllr. Haggerty added that the magazine had a circulation of approximately 4000 subscribers, all of whom were coach operators and tour organisers.

Members **RESOLVED** to fund the advertisement to a maximum cost of £1,000 + VAT.

(proposed Cllr. Macaskill; seconded Cllr. Singh)



86. Purchase of a speed indicator device

In his capacity as an EDDC councillor, Cllr. Ledger stated that he received many complaints regarding the speed at which vehicles were driven through the town. In response, he asked the Council to consider the possibility of purchasing a speed indicator device. This could be moved to different locations in the town, subject to the agreement of DCC Highways, and information provided to the police. Members agreed, in principle, that there would be benefits to the town of installing such a device.

Members **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Ledger collate further information and costs and bring a report back to Council in due course.
(proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Bowman)

87. Update on Promote Seaton

Cllr. Haggerty provided an update on the recent Promote Seaton meeting and the positive engagement by all those who attended. Progress was being made on a number of projects. The next meeting would be held on 28 October 2020.

Members noted the update.

88. Any other business

The Town Clerk confirmed that there were currently four working groups, the membership of each and the nature of working groups generally. Members **RESOLVED** to make the following appointments:

- Marketing Working Group
 - Cllr. Briggs
- Asset Management Working Group
 - Cllr. Wright
- Seafront Enhancement Working Group
 - Cllr. Wood
 - Martin Shaw and Jack Rowland would also be approached to establish whether they would be prepared to be part of these groups as they had been when they were town councillors
- Tourist Information Working Group
 - Cllr. Mackaskill
 - Cllr. Briggs

(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Singh)

Confidential Items

89. Outdoor Gym Equipment

Members considered the report by the Town Clerk, which included the results of the tender process conducted by EDDC on the Council's behalf. Members discussed the type of equipment and agreed that a cross trainer would be more widely used than the chin up and dip or abs press equipment. Members acknowledged that the costs detailed in the quotation may increase slightly, should the cross trainer be substituted. As regards the proposed new location for siting the equipment,



Members noted concerns raised by a local resident and weighed those against the lack of alternative locations. Members concluded that a brief consultation should be conducted via social media purely as regards the proposed location.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

1. approve the supply and installation by Produlic Ltd in line with the quotation attached to the report (2009.27108), subject to:
 - a. a resistance cross trainer being substituted for the 'chin up and dip' and 'abs press'; and
 - b. a two week consultation with residents regarding the new location of the equipment
 2. authorise the expenditure from CIL funds
 3. authorise the transfer of said funds from EMR331 CIL Funding into general reserves
- (proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Macaskill)

90. Water Refill Station

Members considered the options and costings provided by three suppliers for the supply and installation of a water refill station on the seafront.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

1. approve the purchase and supply of a floor standing water refill station from Supplier 3 at a cost of £1460 + VAT
2. approve A&S Kingdon as contractor to install the water refill station at a cost of £452 + VAT.

(proposed Cllr. Macaskill; seconded Cllr. Singh)

Meeting closed at 20.34 pm

Signed _____

Dated _____