

**Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Present:**

**Chairman: Cllr. D Ledger**

**Councillors: K Beer, J Russell, C Wood, E Bowman, D Haggerty & M Hartnell**

**In attendance: Town Clerk**

**22. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Singh. Cllr Hartnell advised that he would be joining the meeting a little late, due to work commitments.

**23. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Ledger declared a personal interest as an East Devon District Councillor (EDDC)

**24. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting, held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.  
(moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Haggerty)

**25. Public Question Time**

No members of the public were present.

**26. Payments, receipts & unpaid invoices**

Members received a report of payments, income and unpaid invoices as at 30 September 2020 and **RESOLVED** to:

- ratify the schedule of payments up to 30 September 2020, already approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegations
- note the receipts up to 30 September 2020
- note there were no outstanding unpaid invoices as at 30 September 2020  
(moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Russell)

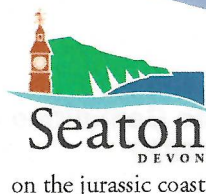
**27. Bank Reconciliation**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation to 30 September 2020, to be signed by Cllr Ledger when he next met with the Town Clerk  
(moved Cllr Ledger, seconded Cllr Haggerty)

**28. Petty Cash Reconciliation**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the petty cash reconciliation to 30 September 2020, to be signed by Cllr Ledger when he next met with the Town Clerk  
(moved Cllr Haggerty, seconded Cllr Russell)

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**29. Support for Seaton Jurassic**

Members considered a request from Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) for financial support towards the proposed extension to Seaton Jurassic. This request had originally been made to the meeting of Council on 5 October 2020 when DWT explained that they had approached several organisations to seek match funding for a bid they were making for European funds. The total amount sought was £37,600. The matter was deferred to be considered by this committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that this item of business be moved to the confidential part of the meeting for further consideration. (moved Cllr Ledger, seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

**30. Review of earmarked reserves**

Members reviewed the Council’s earmarked reserves and **RESOLVED** to approve the following adjustments:

EMR	Detail	Action	Amount
320	Beachfront Management Plan	Transfer from EMR to general reserves and close EMR	£10,000
330	Town Hall Maintenance Fund	Transfer from EMR to general reserves to cover works at Town Hall	£3,148
335	Seaton Down Car Park	Transfer from EMR to general reserves and close EMR	£5,000

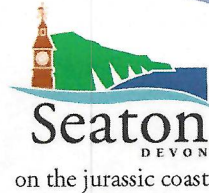
(moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Haggerty)

**31. Budget and Precept 2021/22**

Members considered the initial draft budget (spreadsheet 19 October 2020 v.1) for 2021/22 and agreed that the following budget lines and earmarked reserves should be added to the calculations:

- following the positive response to the resurfacing of the car park at Seaton Down during 2020, a budget of £2,000 should be allocated to further improve the area, including the provision of additional benches. The possibility of electric car charging points could also be looked into (moved Cllr Hartnell, seconded Cllr Ledger)
- after considering the Council’s current financial position, Members estimated that, after allowing for the retention of the existing earmarked reserves and general reserves equivalent to 6 months expenditure, the likely underspend at year end would be in the region of £17,000,. It was agreed that this amount should be notionally allocated to the following earmarked reserves for 2021/22:
  - Town Hall Maintenance Fund - £3,500
  - Marshlands Maintenance Fund - £3,500

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- a new earmarked reserve should be established for future replacement of play equipment in the Council's two play parks - £10,000

(moved Cllr Ledger, seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

These would be added to the draft budget, along with other outstanding figures still awaited and any other proposals from Members, and brought back to this committee at the November meeting, with a view to making a recommendation to council in December 2020

### Confidential Items

The Chairman moved and the Committee **RESOLVED** that in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 1 (d) press and public would be excluded from the meeting during the discussions of item 11 & 12 on this agenda as there was likely to be disclosure of potentially commercially sensitive information.

### 32. Marshlands

Members noted the response from Devon County Council regarding the overage provisions binding Marshlands. It was agreed that the short and longer term future and use of the building had be considered and, as part of that consideration, the Council needed to ensure best value for the taxpayer was being achieved in terms of income streams and the running costs of the building.

The Town Clerk advised that the running costs of the building were already being investigated and Members would be kept updated as appropriate. As regards income streams, Members agreed that it would be prudent to seek an updated appraisal of the building's potential, in terms of both the current value of the site and the rental income that could be derived from it.

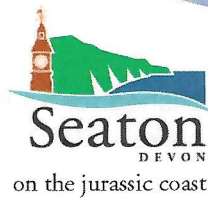
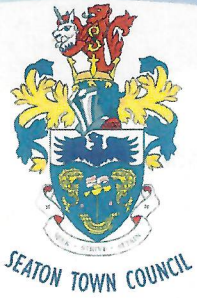
Members **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Clerk to arrange appraisal of the site in the terms stated above and report back when this was available.  
(moved Cllr Hartnell, seconded Cllr Haggerty)

### 33. Shop Front Grants Scheme

Members considered the powers available to them and agreed that the grants made under this scheme could quite properly be made by virtue of Local Government Act 1972 ss 111 and 144 (moved Cllr Hartnell, seconded Cllr Ledger)

### 34. Support for Seaton Jurassic

Members considered the request and whether they had power to provide such support.



Concerns were raised as to whether providing substantial support to one of the attractions in the town could lead to an expectation by other attractions that equivalent assistance be provided. After discussion, Members noted that there was an underspend on the Tourist Information Centre budget, due to the closure of Seaton Jurassic between April and mid-July as a result of the pandemic and agreed that a grant of £1,000 could be made from this budget.

The Town Clerk would write to Seaton Jurassic and confirm the decision.

(moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Hartnell)

Meeting closed at 6.35pm

Chairman: 

Date: 16.11.2020