

## SEATON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

### Minutes of Seaton Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

#### **Present**

**Chair:** Cllr D Ledger

#### **Town**

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

#### **Other**

**Councillors:** J. Rowland (EDDC)

**Officers:** Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk

**In attendance:** 5 members of the public

#### **1. Introduction**

The meeting was opened by the newly elected Mayor/Chairman, Cllr D Ledger who introduced the report of the outgoing Mayor.

#### **2. Report from the outgoing Mayor/Chairman**

Cllr. Ken Beer, the outgoing Mayor referred those present to his written report for 2020-21 and invited any questions. He then went on to thank the Town Clerk for her work during the year.

#### **3. Minutes of Seaton Town Meeting 2019**

The minutes of the annual town meeting held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were agreed. The Chairman noted that there had been no annual town meeting in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### **4. County Councillor's Report**

The report of the outgoing Devon County Councillor - Cllr Martin Shaw – was published with the agenda for the town meeting and noted.

#### **5. District Councillors' Reports**

The reports of EDDC Councillors Hartnell and Rowland were published with the agenda for the town meeting and questions were invited by the public.

## 6. Public Forum: Question and Answer Session

Three written questions were received from members of the public and read out by the Town Clerk.

**Q:** 'Has STC resubmitted planning permission to EDDC for the seafront enhancement scheme? And if not, why not?'

Considering this plan will take some years to implement, what plans are in place to improve the appearance of the seafront in the meantime?'

**Q:** 'As Cllr Rowland's report to the Council reinforces, it will be necessary to have in place a planning permission for the Seafront Enhancement Project before any funds can be applied for.'

When is the Council going to apply for permission to reinstate the one which was allowed to lapse in August?'

**Q:** 'Very pleased to hear during your AGM on 4/5/21 that the Seaton Seafront Enhancement Scheme is on your priority list, item no 2.'

Looking back in May 2020 - This scheme was on your priority list, item no 1, unfortunately as we all know just 7 months later in December 2020 the scheme was scrapped!

What reassurance can you give the people of Seaton that a mirrored planning application will be submitted, as this is a prerequisite for requesting funding. Let's not forget nearly £50,000 has been spent on this project. The seafront really is Seaton's best asset which is currently in a dire condition and really lets the town down. May I thank STC for reviewing this scheme?'

**A:** The Chairman responded to all questions collectively, stating that due diligence was being carried out and Seaton Town Council was working with East Devon District Council to consider what was feasible. Ward members had met with officers at EDDC two weeks earlier. He confirmed that the first round of the Government's 'levelling up funding' available later this year would be directed to Exmouth, so the next opportunity for funding would be next year and any bid would require approval from the local MP. In the meantime the Council were carrying out improvements to the seafront by rebuilding the substantial brick planter that had been damaged by storms and repainting lampposts albeit that these were not the Town Council's responsibilities and also repainting the railings.

**Q.** Another member of the public raised the issue of dog fouling which was becoming an increasing problem in the town and he was disappointed that the town did not currently have a dog warden, as he had previously been instrumental in appointing a warden when he had been a councillor.

**A.** The Chairman acknowledged the problem and said that unfortunately dog warden had no real powers other than their presence possibly acting as a deterrent and providing an educational role. He added that EDDC had, however, approved more signage which would be installed from the following week.



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Town Mayor: Cllr Dan Ledger  
Town Clerk: Julia Mutlow

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The meeting ended at 7.12pm

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

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