

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Meeting
on Monday, 6 December 2021**

Present:

Chair: Cllr K Beer

Town

Councillors: E. Bowman, P. Burrows, A. Singh, C. Wood and D. Wright

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: EDDC Ward Cllr Jack Rowland.

129. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Haggerty, Hartnell, Ledger, Macaskill, Russell and Steven.

130. Declarations of Interest

No personal interests.

131. Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, 1 November 2021 (moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Wright)

132. Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's report.

133. Public Question Time

No questions were raised.

134. Police Report

Members noted the report.

135. County Councillor's Report

Members noted the report.

136. District Councillors' Reports

Members noted the written report of Cllr Rowland who answered questions arising.

137. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the report and asked that the work relating to the volunteer strategy be updated to confirm that Members had responded to the Town Clerk to confirm that a more ad hoc approach to volunteering was envisaged and they understood that the matter was being discussed with the Council's insurers as to their requirements. Furthermore, officers were thanked for their hard work, alongside the Carnival Committee and other community groups, in staging a successful Christmas lights event.

138. Committee meeting minutes

Members received and noted the minutes of the following committee meetings:

- Planning Committee – 18 October, 1 and 15 November 2021
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 18 October 2021

(moved Cllr Wright, seconded Cllr Singh)

Standing Orders were suspended to hear a member of the public speak on the following item of business (moved Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr Wright)

139. Seaton disability champion – Cllrs Hartnell & Ledger

Members heard a short statement from Ms. Nicky Dack regarding her offer to become a 'voice' to speak on behalf of those with disabilities in the town and **RESOLVED** to appoint her as a disability champion who would advise the Council informally on how – where possible - accessibility and other services may be improved (moved Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr Wood)

140. West Walk Public Conveniences – New Door

Members considered the proposal and **RESOLVED** that, should the purchase and installation of a new door and/or mechanism for West Walk to improve disabled access not be funded by EDDC then said works, to a maximum of £3,000, would be funded from the disability improvements budget agreed for 2022-23 (moved Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr Bowman)

141. Budget & Precept 2022/23

Members **RESOLVED** to:

1. approve the Council's budget for 2022/23, as recommended by the Finance & General Purposes (15.11.2021) plus an additional £1,400 to be added to the art trail budget, with gross expenditure estimated at £414,063, offset by predicted income of £14,876 and a transfer from general reserves of £10,000.

2. approve the precept for 2022/23 at £389,187 – a rise of £10.85 per year/20p per week on a Band D property - increasing the total annual payment from £110.47 to £121.32 on a Band D property.
(proposed Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr. Singh)

142. Investment Policy

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the Investment Policy.
(proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Wright)

143. Gazebos

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- approve the disposal of up to ten gazebos (if available) to Seaton Tramway
- approve the disposal of any remaining gazebos, not required by the Council, on a 'first come first served basis', to any other community group or organisation that expressed an interest
- approve the disposal of any remaining gazebos that have reached the end of their useful life
- authorise the Town Clerk to give notice of termination of the storage licence
(proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Bowman)

144. Resurfacing of Queen Street, Seaton

Members **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Clerk to draft a formal response to Devon County Council, in its capacity as highways authority, highlighting:

- the need for an effective solution to the longstanding drainage issues that blighted that part of the town, not only on Queen Street, which had resulted from years of disrepair
- the need to carry out proper repairs to prevent issues with sewerage pipes that had arisen
- the preference would be for the cobbles to be retained but, if this were not possible then a surface should be used that clearly showed that it was a pedestrianized area

(proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Wright)

145. Innovation and Resilience Fund – Cllr Ledger

Members **RESOLVED** that, whilst they would defer further discussions on the Council's interest in the collaborative bid to the Innovation and Resilience Fund, led by Sidmouth Town Council Seaton Town Council, Cllr Wright offered to lead on this and report back to Council. (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Russell)

146. Review of Working Groups

Due to the fact that several Members had had to send apologies, Members **RESOLVED** to defer the review of working groups until the next meeting (proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Wright)

147. Committee Membership

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the following appointments to Committees:

1. Planning Committee – Cllr Burrows
 2. Personnel Committee – Cllr Bowman
- (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Wright)

148. Platinum Jubilee 2022

Members considered the proposal for this event and concluded that it would not provide value for money and, rather than one large event, they would prefer to mark the Jubilee in a smaller way and arrange several smaller events throughout the year. Members agreed that they would be responsible for bringing forward proposals for events for consideration by Council, after liaison with officers to ensure all financial, practical and safety issues, had been considered. Members **RESOLVED** to approve a small event to commemorate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 to be held on Thursday 2 June 2022, the nature of which Members would work on and bring forward a report and proposal to Council, after consultation with the Town Clerk, in due course (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Bowman)

149. Request from Seaton Primary School

Members considered a request from Seaton Primary School regarding the temporary closure of Elizabeth Road Play Park to carry out works to replace a boundary and **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Clerk:

- to take such action and request such information as she considers necessary to ensure that the Council's assets are safeguarded and that any works are carried out safely
- to seek such indemnity from Seaton Primary School, as she considers appropriate, to ensure compliance with the Council's insurance requirements and to provide recourse to mitigate any subsequent issues which may arise upon completion of the proposed works

(proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Singh)

150. Civic Awards Event

Due to the fact that the Chairman was not able to be present, Members
RESOLVED to defer this matter until the next meeting (proposed Cllr. Wright;
seconded Cllr. Singh)

151. Community Grants

No applications had been received therefore this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Confidential Items

The Chairman moved that in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 1(d) press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item due to their commercially sensitive information and information that could identify an individual.

152. Beach School Tender

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- approve the draft tender document
- authorise the Town Clerk to take such action as necessary to instigate the tender process
(proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Wright)

153. Staffing

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- approve the job descriptions and salary scales for the two new posts, as set out in the report
- authorise the Town Clerk to make the necessary arrangements to advertise said posts and arrange the recruitment process.
(proposed Cllr. Burrows; seconded Cllr. Wood)

Meeting closed at 7.26pm

Signed 

Dated 07. 02. 2022

