

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

**Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr K Beer

**Town**

**Councillors:** E. Bowman, D. Haggerty, M. Hartnell, J. Russell, M. Steven, C. Wood and D. Wright

**Officers:** Town Clerk

**Public:** Two members of the public were present.

**70. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Ledger, Macaskill and Singh and it was noted that Cllr Briggs had tendered her resignation as a councillor.

**71. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Hartnell declared a personal interest as a Devon County and East Devon District Councillor.

**72. Minutes**

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, 5 July 2021 (moved Cllr Wright, seconded Cllr Bowman)

**73. Chairman's Report**

As the Chairman had had to send his apologies, there was no report available.

**74. Public Question Time**

Questions were raised regarding:

- the reason for the proposed deferral of the fireworks event
- the relocation of the zebra crossing on Harbour Road
- signage regarding dogs

**75. Police Report**

Members noted the report and Cllr Hartnell advised that he had recently met with Sergeant Hutter and Inspector Grey and they had indicated that, looking forward,

it was their intention to improve engagement with councillors thereby enabling incidents to be more easily reported. It was however acknowledged that resources available were extremely limited and the ability to take action would reflect this.

**76. County Councillor's Report**

Members noted the report.

**77. District Councillors' Reports**

Members received and noted a report from Cllr. Jack Rowland. Questions were raised regarding the following matters and the responses are detailed:

- Seaton Heights – a planning application had been received and was awaiting validation
- Seaton Hospital – the prospect of having beds back at Seaton Hospital had now passed.
- Seafront Enhancements – a written report was awaited from EDDC officers regarding recent meetings with the developer of Fosseyway Court. Furthermore, the deferred Hook & Parrot application was discussed and it was confirmed that a slightly revised application to reduce the height and some of the bulk would be submitted which it was hoped would be such that it would amount to an amendment of the existing application rather than a new submission.

**78. Town Clerk Report**

Members noted the town clerk's update on the Council's work and priorities for the 2021/22 municipal year.

**79. Committee minutes**

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Planning Committee for 5 and 19 July 2021. (moved Cllr Hartnell, seconded Cllr Wright)

**80. Decisions made under the Council's Scheme of Delegations**

Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the schedule of decisions made under the Council's Scheme of Delegations. (moved Cllr Hartnell, seconded Cllr Wood)

**81. Policy updates**

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt the following new policies:

- Training & Development Policy (moved Cllr Hartnell, seconded Cllr Wright)
- Gazebo Hire Policy (moved Cllr Wood, seconded Cllr Haggerty)

Members **RESOLVED** to update the following policy:

- Non-Smoking & Non-Vaping Policy (moved Cllr Wood, seconded Cllr Haggerty)



**82. External Auditor's Report**

Members **RESOLVED** to note the completion certificate and report from the Council's external auditors, PKF Littlejohn, on the 2020/21 annual return. (moved Cllr Haggerty, seconded Cllr Wright)

**83. Local Council Award Scheme**

Members **RESOLVED** that the Council should apply for accreditation under the Local Council Award Scheme. (moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Wright)

**84. Appointments to committees**

Members **RESOLVED** to make the following appointments to the Council's committees:

1. Planning Committee – Cllr Steven
2. Personnel Committee – Cllr Steven

(moved Cllr Wood, seconded Cllr Beer)

**85. Review of working groups**

Members **RESOLVED** to defer this matter until the next meeting to enable it to take account of any proposals for changes to Promote Seaton and whether that should become a working group of the Council (moved Cllr Hartnell, seconded Cllr Haggerty)

**86. Harbour Road Bus Stop**

A request had been received from residents regarding the relocation of this bus stop due to issues of privacy and parking. Cllr Hartnell explained that he had spoken to highways officers at Devon County Council (DCC) and the general view was that it would not be practicable to move the stop closer to Premier Inn as there would be insufficient space for a crossing also. DCC officers were considering what possible solutions there may be. The issue of whether moving the bus stop would be a good use of public money was also raised. It was **RESOLVED** that a response be sent to DCC stating that the Council had considered this, and its view was that it saw no reason for the bus stop to be moved. (moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Wright)

**87. EDDC Public Toilets Consultation**

Members considered the consultation document and **RESOLVED** that Members should send comments to the Clerk by email and she would collate a response to submit to East Devon District Council on behalf of the Council (moved Cllr Wood, seconded Cllr Beer)

**88. Update on Tourist Information Services**

Members noted the update on tourist information services

**89. Christmas Lights Event**

Members **RESOLVED** that the Christmas lights switch on would take place on 27 November 2021 and that the Clerk would liaise with local stakeholders to establish the type of Christmas event that would take place this year. (moved Cllr Hartnell, seconded Cllr Beer)

**90. Fireworks Event**

Members noted the outstanding issues over location for the fireworks and **RESOLVED** that in order to allow time for further discussions to take place and obtain the necessary consents, the event should be deferred for the time being. (moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Wright)

**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 items due to their commercially sensitive information and information that could identify an individual.

**91. Staffing**

Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the decisions on staffing made under the Council's Scheme of Delegations and detailed in the report accompanying this agenda item. (moved Cllr Russell, seconded Cllr Wright)

**92. Update on Town Hall**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations in the report accompanying this agenda item. (moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Wright)

**93. Update on Marshlands Centre**

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- note the update
- approve the relocation of the Tourist Information Centre to the seafront side of Marshlands, once necessary works had been carried out
- approve the other recommendations in the report accompanying this agenda item.

(moved Cllr Hartnell, seconded Cllr Haggerty)

**94. Seawall Cleaning**

Members requested that the Clerk investigate further the approach from a second potential contractor and **RESOLVED** to:

- agree that the works are within the specialist services exception under the Financial Regulations, thereby circumventing the need for 3 quotations, if it were not possible to obtain three.
- devolve the final decision of choice of contractor to the Finance & General Purposes Committee once further information was available.  
(moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Wright)

Meeting closed at 7.48pm.

Signed



Dated

4 . 10 . 2021