

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Meeting
on Monday, 7 March 2022**

Present:

Chair: Cllr K. Beer

Town

Councillors: E. Bowman, P. Burrows, M. Hartnell, M. Macaskill, D. Wright & C Wood

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: One member of the public was present - EDDC Ward Cllr Jack Rowland.

173. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Haggerty, Ledger, Russell, Singh & Steven

174. Declarations of Interest

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

175. Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, 7 February 2022 (moved Cllr Bowman, seconded Cllr Wright)

176. Chairman's Report

There was no report from the Chairman.

177. Public Question Time

No questions were raised.

178. Police Report

Members noted the report and crime figures.

179. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Hartnell gave a verbal report highlighting the following:

- Devon County Council (DCC) Strategic Plan to 2025 was now live on the DCC website
- Devon Pension Fund (DPR) – enquiries had been received as to the DPR's exposure to Russian investments. He stated that the DPR was

managed by the Brunel Partnership and invested in emerging markets. Some 3% of the fund was currently invested in Russian companies and options were being considered to withdraw from those investments as soon as possible. The DPR's exposure had already been reduced significantly, in response to recent events.

- Flooding – the report in response to the October storms had been circulated and work was ongoing.

Members noted the verbal report and Cllr Hartnell agreed to circulate his written report after the meeting.

180. District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Rowland gave a verbal report highlighting the following:

- East Devon District Council's (EDDC) budget for 2022-23 had been approved at a meeting of Council on 23 February 2022 with an increase of 3.92% of £5 per annum
- The increased parking charges for the town's car parks were confirmed along with the cost of residents' permits, which Cllr Rowland stated provided good value, in comparison to other districts in Devon.
- Axe Valley levelling up bid – EDDC had allocated a sum of £30,000 to fund the consultants instructed by EDDC to prepare a bid. He cautioned that for any bid to be successful, it had to fulfil several criteria including demonstrating that it would lead to job growth and showing the economic benefits. It was for that reason that, whilst he was trying hard to get the seafront included, any bid would inevitably have to include other areas of the town where small business units could be created.
- Team Devon Recovery Group – this was a DCC initiative where consultants had been appointed to consider projects across Devon. He stated that it was important that the work of the two sets of consultants, appointed respectively by EDDC and DCC, dovetailed together.
- Moridunum – FTL had now started construction works. There were a few licensing issues relating to access over EDDC land but weekly meetings were taking place between EDDC and FTL so that any issues could be resolved swiftly.
- Jurassic Centre – a marketing exercise was being carried out in advance of a formal tendering process and, as significant works need completing before any new operator took over the building, it was unlikely that such an arrangement would be reached for the coming season. However, work had been improved to make the café self-contained, in anticipation of it opening for the summer months of 2022.
- Business Grants – these had now closed due to the sheer volume of applications received.

- MH - Parking charges - concern

Members noted the verbal report and Cllr Rowland agreed to circulate a written report after the meeting.

The Chairman suspended standing orders to bring forward the following item of business:

181. OPCC Councillor Advocates Volunteers Scheme

Members received and noted a presentation from Mick Harrison – Community Engagement Worker, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

Standing orders resumed.

182. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the summary and work log.

183. Committee meeting minutes

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

- Planning Committee – 17 January and 7 February 2022
(moved Cllr Wright, seconded Cllr Macaskill)

184. Reduction in speed limits in Seaton

Members discussed the possibility of making recommendations to Devon County Council regarding the reduction of the speed limit to 20mph on certain roads and concluded, on balance, that due to a lack of supporting evidence it would not be appropriate to make any such recommendations at the current time.

185. Dates of Meetings 2022-23

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of meetings for 2022-23 as proposed. (moved Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr Macaskill)

186. Jubilee Lottery Application

Members **RESOLVED** to ratify the decision made, under the Council's Scheme of Delegations, to apply for a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund, towards the town's Platinum Jubilee Celebration and noted that £5,514 had been secured towards the cost of the event.
(proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Wright)

187. Community Grants

Members considered the deferred and updated application from Hospiscare for a community grant and **RESOLVED** to:

- approve a grant of £1,000 to Hospiscare, as requested (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Macaskill)

188. Update on 'Seaton Streetbase' Project

Members noted the update from Youth Genesis

189. Financial review and year end projections for 2021-22

Members considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- note and ratify the budget virements made during the financial year 2021-22
- note the anticipated underspend
- review existing earmarked reserves and the proposed funds earmarked to be taken forward to 2022-23, subject to any adjustments that Members consider appropriate
(proposed Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

190. Play Park Inspections

The Town Clerk updated Members on the recommended tree works and explained that difficulties had been experienced in obtaining the requisite quotations. One had been obtained and EDDC tree officers would be conducting a site visit during week commencing 22 March to provide a further quotation for the works. Members noted the play park inspections.

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.

191. Update on Jurassic Fibre

Members noted the advice from the Council's solicitors and **RESOLVED** that the Council should continue with negotiations on the originally proposed licence, as opposed to entering into a lease. (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Bowman)

192. Beach School Tender

Members considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- approve the award of the Seaton Summer Beach School 2022 programme to Contractor A at a cost of £3234.70

- authorise the Town Clerk to take such action as necessary to extend the programme, subject to demand, to include 3 additional Saturday sessions at a cost of £420.00 and 4 stand-alone sessions during October half-term at a cost of £375.00
- authorise the Town Clerk to take such action as necessary to extend the programme to include specialised inclusion sessions, subject to demand, at a cost of £15.00 per hour up to a maximum cost of £500.00 (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Bowman)

193. Update on the Town Hall

Members received a verbal update on the recent meeting with the Trustees of the Gateway and noted the comments received from the Gateway's manager.

194. Staffing

Members considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- approve the increase in the Deputy Clerk's hours from 24 to 28 hours per week on a permanent basis
- note and approve the spinal column points increases, as recommended in the report, as from 1 April 2022,
- approve an increase in the rate paid to the Planning Clerk equivalent to one SCP (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Bowman)

Meeting closed at 7.32pm

Signed 

Dated 04. 04. 2022

