

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council Meeting
on Monday, 26 April 2021**

Present:

Chair: Cllr. K. Beer

Town

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

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: Four members of the public were present

Note: All attendees accessed the meeting remotely and could be either seen and/or heard

175. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received by email from Cllr Macaskill although these were not seen until after the meeting.

176. Declarations of interest

Cllrs. Hartnell and Ledger declared personal interests as East Devon District Councillors.

177. Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Seaton Town Council ('the Council') held remotely on 1 March 2021.
(proposed Cllr. Wright, seconded Cllr. Singh)

178. Chairman's Report

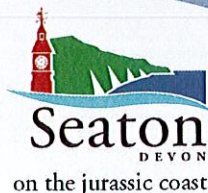
The Chairman reported that he had attended the inaugural meeting of Axe Valley Christians Against Poverty which had been established to help reduce poverty and assist individuals with debt management.

179. Public Question Time

A question was raised from a member of the public requesting an update on the Seafront Enhancement Scheme, in particular the status of the report commissioned from EDDC and whether there would be a regular update on this issue. The Clerk confirmed that a response had been sent to the member of the public advising that the report was still awaited from EDDC and that the Town Clerk's report each month contained an update on all the Council's ongoing work and projects including the Seafront Enhancement Scheme.

A representative of Christians Against Poverty gave a brief explanation of what the organisation did in support of their application for a community grant which was dealt with later on the agenda.

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180. Police Report

Members noted the police report.

181. Town Clerk's Update

Members noted the Town Clerks' update and work log.

182. Committee meeting minutes

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

- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 15 February 2021
- Planning Committee – 1 February, 1 March and 15 March 2021
(proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Singh)

183. Town Council Insurance Policy Renewal

Members noted and ratified the decision taken under delegated powers to enter into policies of insurance as follows:

- 3 year policy with Axa, arranged by Came & Company, at a cost of £3,803.97 per year (premium subject to any significant future adjustments to cover required).
- 1 year policy in respect of the Council's vehicle, arranged by Came & Company, at a cost of £597.98

(proposed Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr. Wood)

184. Town & Parish Council Asset Transfer Consultation

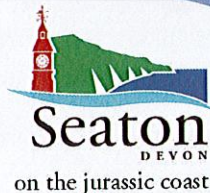
Members considered the consultation document from EDDC and the general view was that the asset transfer process was beneficial to the town as long as any such transfer of assets was balanced and those that would come with a cost to the Council in terms of maintenance should be balanced against those that had the potential to generate income. The Council would have to consider any such transfer proposal carefully to ensure such a balance. Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council stating the Council's general support for the scheme and enquiring about the likely timescales for implementation.

(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Wood)

185. Request from SAVE Food Hub

Members were overwhelmingly in support of the work that SAVE Food Hub did for the town and **RESOLVED** to approve their request to continue using Marshlands on Friday and Saturday evenings post lockdown, subject to an alternative venue being found by SAVE Food Hub on any dates where the Council had bookings from paying groups.

(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Briggs)



186. Community & Shop Front Grants

Members considered applications for community and shop front grants and **RESOLVED** to approve the following:

- South Western Ambulance Charity - £220
(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Wood)
- Axe Valley Christians Against Poverty - £1,000
(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Singh)
- 5, Cross Street - £500
(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Wood)

187. Seaton Allotments

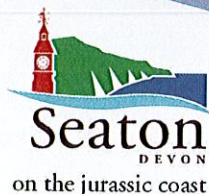
Members noted the update and statement of account for 2020/21 on Seaton Allotments and **RESOLVED** to:

- confirm the balance, to be held as an ear marked reserve for allotments, as at 1 April 2021 as £2,509.
(proposed Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr. Ledger)
- approve the purchase of a Forest Apex Shed and two picnic tables for communal use of allotment holders, to be sited as the Clerk, in consultation with the Town Maintenance Officer, considers appropriate having regard to the results of the consultation.
(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Singh)
- authorise the Clerk to enforce the Allotment Non-Statutory Rules and terminate the tenancies of the three plot holders identified as in breach of said Rules, should the breach not be rectified by the required date.
- delegate to the Clerk, going forward, the power to take such action the Clerk considers appropriate - including the power serve notice to terminate tenancies - where breaches of the Allotment Non-Statutory Rules persist
(proposed Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr. Ledger)

189. Requests to use Cliff Field Gardens

Members discussed generally the suitability of Cliff Field Gardens for these events and of particular concern was expressed about the need to ensure adequate provision for portable WCs and receptacles for waste. A question was also raised over fees and Members felt it would be helpful to have more information about fees charged by EDDC for comparable events held on EDDC land and also to hear from the owner of Seaton Eats Boutique. Members therefore **RESOLVED** to defer this item of business to its next meeting on Tuesday 4 May when further information could be available on fees and the owner could be invited along to answer Members questions.
(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Beer)

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190. Tree Warden

Members **RESOLVED** to implement a tree warden scheme in Seaton and appoint Paulette Xavier as a volunteer tree warden.
(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Wright)

191. Labyrinth Board

Members **RESOLVED** to engage Beer Men's Shed to repair the labyrinth board in Cliff Field Gardens and make a new finger maze at a total cost of £130.
(proposed Cllr. Russell; seconded Cllr. Wood)

192. Redundant Telephone Kiosks – Sea Hill & Seaton Hole

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- agree in principle that the Seaton Hole kiosk should be used for the housing of a defibrillator and this should be researched further and a report on the cost, any grant funding available and other information be brought back to Council; and
- find out more from Andrew Gwyn Davies as to how it was proposed that the phone box at Sea Hill may be incorporated as part of the Seaton Art Trail and bring this information back to Members for a decision on adoption.

(proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Ledger)

193. Request from Seaton Museum

Members considered the request and **RESOLVED** that, to ensure fairness and consistency with other community organisations, Seaton Museum should be asked to submit an application as part of the community grants scheme.
(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Beer)

194. Update on Promote Seaton, including consideration of fees for sponsorship of floral displays

Members **RESOLVED** to agree details of the sponsorship scheme, fees and signage for the town's floral displays as detailed in the report accompanying the agenda.

(proposed Cllr. Bowman; seconded Cllr. Russell)

195. Request from Seaton Wildlife Network

Members commended the good work being done by Seaton Wildlife Network and **RESOLVED** to approve the request from Seaton Wildlife Network to support their work in improving biodiversity in Seaton and to arrange for a sign explaining why the area has been left wild.

(proposed Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr. Ledger)



196. Proposal by Youth Genesis

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the proposal by Youth Genesis for Streetbase Seaton at a cost of £5,315.50 with match funding provided by Youth Genesis of £2,712, as detailed in the proposal document, and authorised the Clerk to liaise with Youth Genesis to arrange for the implementation of this project.
(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Singh)

197. Schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2021/22

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2021/22.
(proposed Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr. Ledger)

Confidential Items

The Chairman moved that in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 1(d) press and public will be excluded from the meeting during the discussions of the following items as they may include commercially sensitive information.

198. Jurassic Fibre

Members considered a proposal from Jurassic Fibre regarding the installation of a data centre on land owned by the Council. Questions were raised over potential issues with accessibility over the proposed location and this item of business was deferred for further enquiries to be made and would be brought back to Members once the position had been clarified.
(proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Bowman)

199. Tourist Information Services

Due to the decision of Devon Wildlife Trust to withdraw from Seaton Jurassic over the coming months and the fact that only a reduced tourist information service could be provided during that period, Members took the view that, even though a reduction on the usual fee would be offered, this would not be best value for money and therefore **RESOLVED** to:

- approve payment of the invoice for TIC services to 31 March 2021
- terminate the agreement with Devon Wildlife Services as from 31 March 2021
- authorise the Clerk to liaise with Devon Wildlife Trust to arrange the return of all information leaflets and resources belonging to the Council and for the transfer of the website, if appropriate, along with the redirection of emails and telephone calls to the Council.

(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

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SEATON TOWN COUNCIL



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admin@seaton.gov.uk 01297 21388 www.seaton.gov.uk

Town Mayor Cllr Ken Beer

Town Clerk Julia Mutlow

200. **Annual Review - Marshlands**

Members considered the report and **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Clerk to take such action as required in line with the recommendations in the report accompanying this agenda item, including seeking specialist professional services and the associated costs thereof, whilst ensure such instruction was within the parameters set out in the Council's Financial Regulations.

(proposed Cllr Hartnell; seconded Cllr Ledger)

Meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed

Dated

4.5.21