

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

**Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr D Ledger

**Town**

**Councillors:** K. Beer, E. Bowman, P. Burrows, M. Hartnell, J. Russell, A. Singh, M. Steven and D. Wright

**Officers:** Town Clerk

**Public:** Three members of the public were present, including EDDC Ward Cllr Jack Rowland.

**154. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Haggerty & Wood

**155. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Hartnell declared a personal interest as a Devon County and East Devon District Councillor. Cllr Ledger declared an interest as an East Devon District Councillor. Cllrs Burrows & Steven declared personal interests arising from their involvement with Axe Valley Heritage Association.

**156. Minutes**

Members **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, 6 December 2021 (moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Singh)

**157. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave a verbal report highlighting:

- attendance at the 'Seaton Opportunities' meeting on 20 January 2022 to meet with consultants engaged by EDDC to consider future funding possibilities for the East Devon area
- a meeting had been arranged with the Gateway to receive an update on their position
- an update on the position regarding EDDC's discussions with possible third parties regarding the town's public toilets
- the progress on the works to the new tourist information centre with a proposal that the Annual Town Meeting be held on Thursday 7 April 2022

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combined with the opening of the TIC. (moved Cllr Ledger, seconded Cllr Burrows)

**158. Public Question Time**

Questions were raised by two members of the public.

A question was raised regarding the proposed fees and terms of hire contained in the draft Land & Buildings Hire Policy and a written reply would be given.

Secondly, questions were raised as to the reasons for the increase in the Council's budget for 2022/23, including an allocation of £1,400 for an art installation on the approach to Cliff Field Gardens and the Council's social media policy. The Chairman explained that the primary increase related to the appointment of new staff, as the Council was now running the tourist information centre in-house and had acquired an increased portfolio of assets over recent years, whilst staff capacity had been reduced. The increase would address this imbalance. As regards, the art installation, a budgetary allocation had been provisionally made but any final decision would be subject to a comprehensive report to Council. Finally, as regards social media, the Council had a policy which could be viewed on the website and also a complaints policy so, should the member of the public have concerns, then this could be raised by way of a complaint.

**159. Police Report**

Members noted the report and asked that the crime figures, which were on the police website, also be circulated with future agendas.

**160. County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Hartnell gave a verbal report highlighting:

- the financial position of Devon County Council
- the capital programme, which included improvements to Seaton Primary School
- fees & charges, including the fact that on-street parking charges would not be increased
- the fact that the level of flooding in October 2021 had met the threshold to trigger a flood investigation, which was being undertaken, and was likely to recommend actions to improve resilience against future incidence of flooding
- climate change and the environment were the highest priorities in the County Council's latest plan
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#### 161. District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Rowland introduced his written report and confirmed that EDDC's proposed budget had now been approved by Cabinet and a recommendation would be taken forward to Council on the terms outlined. Cllr Rowland subsequently answered questions arising thereon.

Cllr Ledger highlighted the fact that, whilst car park fees were being increased, there would be a lower rate for town centre, as opposed to seaside car parks, to encourage visitors to town centres. Furthermore, it was hoped that the additional revenue would pay for increased services. Secondly, he confirmed that the new local plan would be out for consultation by the end of the Summer, and he was pleased to report that recruitment had taken place as part of EDDC's plan to deliver and build its first new housing stock for many years.

Cllr Hartnell highlighted the application by Jurassic Fibre for the siting of a data cabinet on Seaton Town Council's land at Elizabeth Road. He confirmed that he had recommended to officers that permission should be granted, despite their concerns as to the recreational designation of the land as he took the view that the proposed location would not adversely affect that designation.

Members noted the verbal and written reports.

#### 162. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the report and work log.

#### 163. Committee meeting minutes

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

- Planning Committee – 15 November and 6 December 2021
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 15 November 2021

(moved Cllr Beer, seconded Cllr Singh)

#### 164. Land & Buildings Hire Policy

Members considered the draft report and **RESOLVED** to approve the Land & Buildings Hire Policy, subject to inclusion of further wording relating to the use of single use plastic which would be supplied by Cllr Burrows (moved Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr Singh)

#### 165. Platinum Jubilee Event 2022

Members considered the updated proposal for the event and discussed the possibility of the event starting earlier in the afternoon. It was agreed that the



Town Clerk would discuss this with the community groups that the Council were hoping would become involved in the event to seek their views with a view to commencing earlier. It was also suggested that Ted Gosling be invited to light the beacon. Members **RESOLVED** to:

- approve the updated proposal as contained in the report
  - delegate to the Town Clerk the powers to take such action and allocate such expenditure, within the approved events budget for 2022/23, to a maximum of £8,000, as considered necessary to deliver the event in the terms proposed in the report, subject to a potential change in start time and an approach to Ted Gosling to invite him to light the beacon
- (moved Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr Russell)

*Beer Steven*

**166. Local Council Awards Scheme**

Members noted the achievement of the Foundation Award and asked that thanks to the Council's officers be recorded for their work to bringing the Council's standards of governance, financial management and community engagement to the required level to achieve such recognition.

**167. Review of Working Groups**

Members considered the report of existing and proposed new working groups and **RESOLVED** to:

- approve the proposed new working groups,
- approve the proposed purpose of each group,
- approve membership of each group,

all as detailed in the schedule attached to these minutes.

(proposed Cllr. Wright; seconded Cllr. Singh)

**168. Community Grants**

Members considered the applications for community grants and **RESOLVED** to:

- approve a grant of £200 to Axe Valley Heritage Association (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Wright)
- defer the application from Hospicecare until the next meeting, to enable a discussion with the applicant regarding the use for which the grant had been applied for (proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Singh)

**169. Review of Financial Regulations & Committee Terms of Reference**

Members **RESOLVED** to:

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- approve the reduced frequency of meetings of the Finance & General Purposes Committee as propose
- authorise the Town Clerk to make the necessary amendments to the Council's Financial Regulations and terms of reference for Finance & General Purposes Committee to give effect to this proposal.  
(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Singh)

#### 170. New Planters on Seafront

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

- note the decision made under the Council's Scheme of Delegations to purchase 4 large planters in blue from Amberol Ltd at a cost of £1,362.24 + VAT as detailed in the report accompanying the agenda
- approve a virement in that amount from the Beachfront Management budget  
(proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Singh)

#### 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.

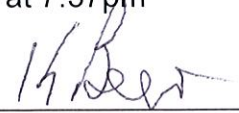
#### 171. Staffing

Members considered the report and **RESOLVED** to approve the appointment of the new Facilities & Projects Officer, on the terms proposed.  
(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Beer)

#### 172. Update on the Town Hall

Members received a verbal update on the ongoing lease negotiations with the Gateway Theatre Company regarding the town hall and **RESOLVED** to defer finalising any variation of the lease for a period of 6 months. (proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Singh)

Meeting closed at 7.37pm

Signed 

Dated 7/3/2022

