

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Meeting
on Monday, 6 February 2023**

Present:

Chair: Cllr Singh

Town

Councillors: K. Beer, P. Burrows, D. Haggerty, M. Hartnell, J. Russell & M. Steven

Officers: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk & Facilities & Projects Officer

Public: One member of the public was in attendance

131. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. E. Bowman, D. Ledger & C. Wood. Members agreed to accept standing apologies from Cllr. Wright until he was in a position to return to his duties as a councillor, should he wish to do so, whilst recognising that the 4 -yearly election cycle would take place in May in any event (proposed Cllr. Burrows; seconded Cllr. Beer). East Devon District Councillor Rowland (EDDC) also requested that his apologies be noted as he was attending a meeting in Exmouth.

132. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Hartnell declared a personal interest as an East Devon District and Devon County Councillor (DCC).

Cllr. Beer declared a personal interest in the application by Seaton Twinning Association for a community grant, as he was treasurer to the organisation

Cllr. Burrows declared a personal interest in the application by Seaton Library for a community grant, as he was a Friend of Seaton Library

133. Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of a meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday, 9 January 2023. (proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Singh)

134. Chairman's Report

Members noted the Chairman's Report.

135. Public Question Time

A member of the public spoke on behalf of Seaton Twinning Association and requested support from the Council for their application for a community grant to assist with the



cost of hosting visitors from Thury Harcourt in France, to celebrate 40 years of friendship between the two towns.

Members **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders and bring forward item 23/COU/15 (Community Grants), as there was a member of the public present with an interest in this item of business (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Beer)

136. Community Grants

Members noted that Seaton Summer School had decided not to proceed with an application at this stage. Members considered the remaining applications and **RESOLVED** to approve the following community grants:

- £1,000 – Project Food (proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Haggerty)
- £500 - Seaton Twinning Association (proposed Cllr. Burrows; seconded Cllr. Russell)
- £549.99 – Seaton Library (proposed Cllr. Haggerty; seconded Cllr. Beer)

137. County Councillor's Report

Members noted the county councillor's report and Cllr Hartnell confirmed that the works to the A3052 were due to be completed on 7 February.

138. District Councillors' Reports

Members noted the written report by Cllr Rowland. A verbal report was received from Cllr. Hartnell, in which he highlighted:

- Seaton Jurassic Centre - EDDC's ongoing negotiations with Seaton Tramway, regarding heads of terms for the lease of the Jurassic Centre were proving more complicated than first envisaged, due to conditions restricting the use of the centre, imposed by the original funders - the National Lottery and DCC – as conditions for funding. This added complexity to discussions over the new lease.
- Levelling Up Bid – whilst it was disappointing that this had been unsuccessful, there had been significant concerns from the beginning of the process as to whether the bid was able to deliver sufficient economic benefit to meet the criteria for a successful application. However, more information would be available once feedback on the application had been received from the Government. Cllr Hartnell also confirmed that EDDC had raised the question of further weather protection to the rear wall of the derelict toilets, in addition to the work that has already been done, and that matter was being resolved by the party wall surveyor.

139. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the Town Clerk's report.



140. Committee meeting minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the following committee meetings:

- Planning Committee – 15 December 2022 & 16 January 2023
(proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Burrows)

140. Update on Tourist Information Centre

Members noted the update.

141. Investment Proposals

Members considered the report and, after reviewing the risk of investing in the fund balanced against the Council's duty to maximise assets for the benefit of the public and the likely return from the fund of £730 per month at current rates, **RESOLVED** to:

- invest the sum of £250,000 from the Council's reserves into the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund. This amount comprised the general reserves that the Council was required to hold as a matter of prudent financial governance and a specific reserve earmarked towards the future replacement of the town's play parks as and when this was required
- authorise the Town Clerk to take the necessary action to give effect to the agreed deposit, in line with the Council's Investment Policy

(proposed Cllr. Burrows; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

142. Members' Code of Conduct

The Town Clerk advised Members that it had come to her attention that, due to the complexity of the new model code, EDDC had decided to review the code with a view to possibly simplifying it. In light of this, coupled with the imminent local elections Members **RESOLVED** to defer the adoption of a new Code of Conduct for the time being.

(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Singh)

143. Safeguarding Policy

Members considered the draft Safeguarding Policy and **RESOLVED** to adopt it.

(proposed Cllr. Haggerty; seconded Cllr. Burrows)

144. Bus Shelters

Members considered the review of the town's bus shelters and **RESOLVED** to:

- note the report
- should funding be available via BSIP, to authorize the Town Clerk to:
- work in partnership with officers at Devon County Council and their suppliers to secure the maximum funding available and to arrange the replacement, improvement, installation and standardization of the town's bus shelters; and
- authorize expenditure up to £12,500, should it be required, towards the replacement of the bus stops in the town



- should funding not be available via BSIP, to authorize the Town Clerk to:
- arrange for the replacement of the three bus shelters requiring imminent replacement up to a maximum cost of £12,500, including installation costs (proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

145. Play Park Inspections

Members noted the inspection reports on the Council's play parks

Confidential Items

The Chairman moved, seconded by Cllr Beer 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 the inclusion of commercially sensitive information

146. Photocopier Contract

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

- authorize the Town Clerk to enter into a new 3-year hire agreement with existing supplier - Grenke Leasing Ltd/Copycare Office Equipment Ltd - retaining the existing machine at a reduced cost of £14.99 + VAT per month with copy costs at rates of £0.00385/£0.0385 per page, once the existing agreement expires in March 2023.

(proposed Cllr. Burrows; seconded Cllr. Singh)

147. Update on Marshlands Centre

Members considered a comprehensive update on the progress being made on works to the Marshlands Centre and noted, in particular, that:

- the Facilities & Projects Officer had carried out much of the preparatory works in readiness for the construction works to begin, which would lead to a reduction in the agreed costs of the refurbishment of the first floor
- the refurbishment of the lift would be completed by 8 February, thereby providing access to the first floor of Marshlands for all and ensuring compliance with relevant legislation
- a grant of £9,950 had been successfully bid for and received from Devon County Council, to meet 50% of the costs of the refurbishment of the lift
- an approach had been received from a potential tenant, interested in taking on a lease on part of the Marshlands complex

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- note the update in the report



- authorise the Town Clerk to investigate further the possibility of a lease on the Harbour Road-side of Marshlands and to work with the potential tenant in the preparation of a joint business case and financial model for consideration by the Council in due course
- allow the reconsideration of the resolution of 5 December 2022 approving the option A refurbishment works
- reverse the resolution to proceed with option A made on 5 December 2022 and, instead, implement the option B refurbishment works (ie to include carrying out the structural works to knock two of the first floor rooms into one larger room and associated costs, as detailed in the report dated 5 December 2022 (proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

Meeting closed at 7.02pm

Signed _____

Dated 6/3/23

