

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Meeting
on Monday, 8 April 2024**

Present:

Chair: Cllr. A. Singh

Town

Councillors: K. Beer, H. Boehm, E. Bowman, P. Burrows, N. Dyke, D. Haggerty, M. Hartnell, D. Ledger, J. Russell & C. Wood

Cllr. Dyke stated that he would be recording the meeting.

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: 6 members of the public were in attendance

171. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

172. Declarations of interest

Cllrs. Haggerty, Hartnell & Ledger declared a personal interest as East Devon District Councillors (EDDC) and Cllr. Hartnell as a Devon County Councillor (DCC).

173. Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday, 11 March 2024. (proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Haggerty).

174. County Councillor's Report

Members noted Cllr. Hartnell's report and he responded to questions on EV charging points and the introduction of electric buses to the county.

175. District Councillors' Reports

Members noted the written reports of Cllrs. Heath and Haggerty and the following additional updates from East Devon District Councillors:

- there were currently no precise timescales available as to the works and relocations of the bus shelter at Fisherman's Gap and the upgrade to the public toilets on West Walk. However, as regards the latter much of the construction was modular and would be constructed offsite so this should speed up the process
- reconfiguration of the coach park was currently being considered
- a new fund called Creative East Devon was now open

- programmes for recycling nappies and similar were being trialled in Autumn 2024 to improve levels of recycling in the district. If successful the programmes would be rolled out across the area
- £500K had been secured from the Environment Agency towards sea/cliff defences and EDDC was contributing £250K towards these works. A consultation would be undertaken in 2025.

176. Public Question Time

Four members of the public spoke during this item of business and made the following points:

- questions were raised by Mr Rowland (who asked to be named in these minutes):
 - how the earmarked reserve for CIL funding would be used
 - how the earmarked reserve for youth projects would be used
 - Whether any work had been undertaken to establish ownership of 'The Look Out'

The Town Clerk responded as follows:

- CIL funding was currently likely to be used towards the improvements at Fisherman's Gap
 - a consultation had been undertaken regarding youth provision in the town. Whilst there had been a limited response, the Council was aware of the work being undertaken by EDD Cllr. Heath and others and was supportive of this. The reserves would be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the ongoing need for each of them and the level thereof
 - the owner of 'The Look Out' had been contacted and a response received. He had indicated that he hoped that a planning application would be forthcoming in the near future and welcomed any ideas that councillors may have for the site.
- a request was made by a representative of the Seaton branch of the Royal British Legion that the flag pole be painted and grass mowed in Windsor Gardens, in readiness for the event being held there in June to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.
 - a question was raised as to why the tourist information centre was not open over Easter weekend and the Chair explained that this had not been brought forward early enough by the Volunteer Co-ordinators on this occasion, and the Council's procedures had to be followed, but it was hoped that this situation would be rectified as the matter had been listed as an item of business later on the agenda
 - a question was raised regarding the significant increase in the Council's insurance renewal premium. The Town Clerk explained the process undertaken and the reasons for the increase, as set out in the accompanying report

177. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the Town Clerk's report.

178. Appointments to Planning Committee

- Members **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs. Bowman & Boehm to the two vacancies on the Planning Committee. (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Burrows)

179. Rental of storage unit

Members **RESOLVED** that subject to officers checking the availability and cost of an alternative storage facility in the town, to:

- authorise the rental of a 6m storage container (with a 3.6 m container as an interim measure) at the cost detailed in this report;
- authorise the Town Clerk to enter into the relevant licence between Harcombe Engineering or an alternative storage provider and the Council
- approve the virement of £1,450, or lesser amount if alternative lower, from budget 165/4370 to a new budget code for storage rental.

(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

180. Report on outturn position 2023/24

Members considered the outturn position as at end of financial year 2023-24 and **RESOLVED** to adjust the earmarked reserves as follows:

- EMR322 – Playparks replacement & maintenance – increase by £23,000 to £74,000.

(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

181. Update on renewal of the Council's insurance policy, taking into account the rebuild valuations, and vehicle insurance

Members considered the report and rebuild valuations of the Council's buildings and **RESOLVED** to:

- note the increase in premium for 2024/25
- noted that, by entering into a 1-year, that the annual premium quoted in the report for a 3-year policy may increase
- delegate authority to the Town Clerk to renew the Council's insurance cover for 2024/25 on a 1-year basis with the insurer procured by Gallagher at a renewal premium of £16,693.75 (or such greater amount as may be quoted by virtue of entering into a policy for one year, rather than three years)
- meet the shortfall over the agreed 2024-25 budget from general reserves
- note the endorsements on the insurance policy detailed in the report
- authorise officers to seek a further opinion from Clear Council brokers as well as Gallagher for the next insurance period 2025-26 and beyond
- note the renewal of the Council's vehicle insurance cover for 2024/25 with Zurich Insurance Company Ltd for £710.26

(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

182. Coast meets Country

Members noted the update from Cllr Haggerty and **RESOLVED** to allocate a sum of £5,000 from general reserves, available as a result of the underspend in 2023-24. (proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr Burrows)

183. Date of Annual Town Meeting

Members **RESOLVED** to change the date of the annual town meeting from Thursday, 18 April to Monday, 29 April 2024, so as not to clash with the annual general meeting of the Seaton League of Friends. (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr Burrows)

184. Councillor Surgeries

Members **RESOLVED** to agree that Councillor Surgeries to go ahead and for these to be held at the Marshlands Centre. These are to be arranged amongst councillors, with at least one month's notice beforehand. (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Bowman)

185. Update on Seaton Tourist Information Centre

The Council **NOTED** the update on enquiries to the tourist information centre and **RESOLVED** that the Volunteer Co-ordinators would create a schedule of volunteers on a monthly basis to submit to Chair to forward to officers. This would be reviewed in December. (proposed Cllr. Dyke; seconded Cllr. Wood)

186. Playpark inspection reports

Members noted the play park inspections.

Meeting closed at 7.28pm

Signed _____

Dated _____