

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')  
Meeting  
on Monday, 2 October 2023**

**Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr. A. Singh

**Town**

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

**Officers:** Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk

**Public:** 6 members of the public were in attendance

**84. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. K. Brooks A. Mendham & D. Ledger and approved.

**85. Declarations of interest**

Cllrs. Haggerty & Hartnell declared a personal interest as an East Devon District Councillors (EDDC) and Cllr Hartnell declared a personal interest as a Devon County Councillor (DCC). Cllrs. Dyke, Singh & Wood declared personal interests as they volunteered at the Gateway Theatre Company. Cllr. Burrows declared an interest as a member of the Seaton Carnival Committee and left the Council Chamber during this item of business.

**86. Public Question Time**

One member of the public, Sharon Bruce, spoke in support of the application by Axe Valley Christians Against Poverty for a community grant. She also wished to place on record her thanks for all the work the Council was doing in the town, in particular in relation to play parks and open spaces and the staging of events.

A second member of the public, Jack Rowland, stated that he had read with interest the reports from the East Devon District councillors and was pleased to see progress being made in several areas. EDDC Councillor Haggerty confirmed, in response, that solutions were being considered regarding the issue of coach parking and, in his view, the solution would not be to implement parking charges but to change the configuration of spaces.

Finally, a member of the Seaton Chamber, James Tribble, spoke to thank the Council for facilitating the Christmas lights being switched on in advance of the town's late night shopping event on 25 November.

## **87. Minutes**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday, 4 September 2023. (proposed by Cllr. Russell; seconded by Cllr. Haggerty).

## **89. Chairman's Report**

Members noted the report.

## **90. County Councillor's Report**

Cllr. Hartnell provided an update on parking on the seafront, in particular relating to motor homes. Whilst the majority of motor homeowners who parked on the seafront were responsible, he acknowledged the concerns of residents regarding the minority who did not behave responsibly or respect the local environment. As such, Devon County Council was considering changes to the timings on the traffic order from 9am – 6 pm to 8am – 8pm. The rationale behind this was to encourage visitors staying overnight to arrive later and leave earlier. Additionally, there was a proposal going to DCC Cabinet imminently to increase the number of civil enforcement officers. Members noted the report

## **91. District Councillors' Reports**

Members noted the written reports and the following additional points were highlighted by the District Councillors:

- Pebble Beach - Councillors had met with residents of Pebble Beach to discuss their concerns regarding potential breaches of s106 obligations. Cllr. Hartnell had spoken to EDDC's planning officers and the various issues were being investigated.
- Seaton Jurassic – Cllr. Hartnell stated that Cabinet had made a recommendation to full Council at EDDC that the capital receipt received in respect of Seaton Jurassic be ringfenced for projects in Seaton. He was not able to disclose the amount of said receipt at this stage. However, at the specific request of both DCC and the Heritage Lottery, any projects would have to align with the original criteria and vision that applied to Seaton Jurassic, when grant funding was awarded.
- Moridunum – there was no timescale currently available regarding the sale of this site, but it was hoped that officers would have more capacity to progress this now that Seaton Jurassic had been advanced.
- Employment sites at Colyford Road and Fosseway – a question was raised as to whether these sites could be used to build affordable housing. Councillors confirmed that the problem with this would be that, as these sites had already been allocated for employment uses, then if this changed then alternative employment sites would have to be found as, if more homes were built, employment and infrastructure would be needed for those living in them.

## **92. Town Clerk's Report**





Members noted the Town Clerk's report and, in particular, the invitation that had been extended to the Town Clerk to speak at the Annual Conference of the Devon Association of Local Councils on 27 September 2023 at Exeter Racecourse.

### **93. Committee Minutes**

Members received and adopted the minutes of the following meetings:

- Planning Committee – 4 September 2023  
(proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

### **94. Update on Tourist Information Centre**

Members noted the update and acknowledged the welcome help from volunteers who manned the tourist information at weekends during the summer months.

### **95. Report on events 2023**

Members noted the report and Cllr Hartnell asked that thanks be recorded to officers for all their hard work in the delivery of the events. Cllr. Burrows added that in 2024 the Carnival events schedule was likely to be extended over a two-week period and this could possibly include the Outdoor Cinema event, Members **RESOLVED** to:

- note the overall delivery costs and feedback for:
  - Coronation activities
  - Seaton Summer Celebration
  - Seaton Children's Festival
  - Seaton Outdoor Cinema
- approve, in principle, the delivery of an extended Seaton Summer Celebration event in June 2024 to include:
  - children's activities such as beach school, magician, science workshop
  - live music
  - community group participation, to include a BBQ
  - one food concession and ice cream van

subject to further research confirming the ability to deliver it within existing staff capacity and within budget, once the budget for 2024/25 has been approved by Council

- approve, in principle, the establishment of a Seaton Summer Celebration/Events Working Group and delegate authority to the Deputy Clerk to prepare any associated terms of reference and membership
- approve in principle the delivery of a Seaton Outdoor Cinema event in 2024 to include additional activities, subject to further research confirming the existing outdoor cinema team's ability to deliver it on a voluntary basis
- delegate to the Town Clerk authority to take such action and allocate such expenditure, within the approved events budget, as she considers necessary to deliver the following events on the terms proposed in the report and to make such adjustments to the schedule as become necessary, in 2024:



- Seaton Summer Celebration, extended to incorporate Children's Festival
- Seaton Outdoor Cinema

(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

#### **96. Report on youth consultation**

Members noted with interest the results and conclusions of the youth consultation and considered that, in principle, a youth forum may be an option worthy of further consideration. Cllr Burrows commented that the Council had tried to establish a youth council on several occasions in the past but, unfortunately, on each occasion, interest had quickly waned. Members **RESOLVED** that officers should carry out further research into how other councils engaged with young people in their towns and with what degree of success and bring a further report to Council, when this work had been carried out. (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

#### **97. Community grant applications**

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

- Re:Store – £1,000 (deferred application) - (proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Russell)
- Axe Valley Ring & Ride - £1,000 - (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Russell)
- Axe Valley Christians Against Poverty - £1,000 - (proposed Cllr. Haggerty; seconded Cllr. Russell)

Members **RESOLVED** to defer the following application to the next meeting so that Members could consider the full accounts supplied by the Seaton & District Art Society:

- Seaton & District Art Society - £903 - (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Dyke)

#### **98. Playpark inspection reports**

Members noted the play park inspection reports.

#### **99. Town Hall maintenance costs – further credit to the Gateway**

In 2023-24, expenditure incurred on the town hall amounted to £22,877, and the Gateway were responsible for half of this amount (£11,438.50), in accordance with the lease. In September the Council approved a proposal to reduce this amount by £1,167.50 conditional on payment being made by the Gateway by 31 October, rather than at the end of the 2023-24 financial year. The reduced amount due was £10,271. Members considered concerns expressed by the Gateway that, if early payment were made, then this could lead to a potential loss of interest of £250. Therefore, to recognise this, the Council **RESOLVED** that the amount due should be reduced by a further £250 making a total of £10,021, due by 31 October 2023. Any further expenditure incurred during the financial year would be invoiced at the end of the financial year. (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Russell)

**100. Seaton Christmas Lights Switch On 2023**

Members **RESOLVED** to award £500 to the Carnival Committee towards the cost of a first aid station and the attendance of morris dancers at the Christmas Lights Switch On 2023.

(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

**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 discussion of the following item on the agenda as matters being discussed included commercially sensitive information.

**101. Report on quotations for tree works**

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- note the emergency works carried out by Teign Trees & Landscapes and associated costs of £395 + VAT, along with other tree works at the Underfleet at a cost of £120 + VAT at Underfleet Play Park
- approve the instruction of Scalwell Lane Nursery to carry out the required works in Cliff Field Gardens at a cost of £200
- note the recommendation for future tree planting, to replace stock lost to disease.

(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

Meeting closed at 7.18pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

