

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Meeting
on Monday, 4 March 2024**

Present:

Chair: Cllr. A. Singh initially; Cllr. Haggerty chaired the meeting after Cllr. Singh had to leave early, due to an unavoidable commitment

Town

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

Officers: Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk

Public: 6 members of the public were in attendance

156. Apologies for absence

Apologies and reasons for absence were received from Cllr. K. Brooks and approved.

157. Declarations of interest

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

158. Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday, 5 February 2024. (proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Russell).

159. Co-option to Seaton Town Council

Having considered the applications from 6 applicants to fill the casual vacancy and having heard presentations from 5 of them, prior to the meeting, the Chairman moved that a vote be taken. Haydn Boehm received a majority of the votes of those councillors present and therefore, in line with the standing orders, was duly co-opted to fill the casual vacancy.

160. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The Town Clerk would make arrangements for Haydn Boehm to sign the declaration of acceptance of office, prior to the next meeting.

161. County Councillor's Report

Members noted Cllr. Hartnell's verbal report. The following matters were highlighted:



- Tesco Car Park changes – discussions had taken place with Tesco and the local police about the ongoing issue of cars congregating in the car park in the evenings and causing noise disturbance. Tesco had installed new signage limiting the duration of a driver's stay. It was hoped that these changes would help to alleviate the nuisance being caused to local residents.
- Bus shelters – all the bus shelters in the town had now been replaced with the exception of the two on the seafront. The consultation on the relocation of the shelters on the seafront had now concluded and 29 representations had been received, many of which were neutral. Having considered the results of the consultation, the work has been signed off and should be completed after Easter.
- Multi-use trail – this was now open between White Cross Gardens and the cemetery. There had been some issues with access through farm gates that had been passed on to DCC who had confirmed that pedestrian access was not permitted through the farm gates. However, the tenant farmer had also been advised that the barbed wire placed on the gates should be removed and this had now been done. Pedestrian access points were at White Cross Gardens and the cemetery.
- Devolution – various presentations had taken place on the question of devolution in Devon. Devon lacked behind other parts of the UK in terms of average productivity. Some of the reasons for this included reliance on limited transport links and limited affordable housing. A consultation on devolution was now open on DCC's website.
- Potholes – the state of Valley View Road was raised and Cllr. Hartnell confirmed that it was on the highways schedule of works to be patched, surface dressed and relined. This would coincide with the new legal traffic order enforcing no parking on the zig zag lines where, currently no parking was only advisory.

162. District Councillors' Reports

Members noted the following updates from East Devon District Councillors:

- Cllr. Haggerty:
 - Coach Friendly – he had attended a conference in Warwick attended by MPs and coach operators to listen to the requirements of coach operators. He added that councils in some parts of the country did not encourage coaches, but he had made it clear that East Devon definitely welcomes coach visitors as tourism was an important part of the local economy.
 - Seaton coach parking – plans were ongoing to change the parking bays so that both visiting coaches and local school buses could be accommodated.
 - Coast meets Country – the initial grant funding from the Innovation & Resilience Fund had now ended. Cllr Haggerty would bring a report to the town council in due course.



- Planning – he had decided to resign from Seaton Town Council Planning Committee, as he now sat on EDDC Planning Committee, and wished to avoid any conflict of interest or any suggestion of predetermination.
- Cllr. Ledger:
 - South West Water – at the last meeting of full council, a motion was passed questioning their fitness for purpose. They would be asked to comment on as many planning applications as possible to advise on their capacity and that will feed into the Local Plan over the next 20 years.
 - Green wedge – a proposal to reduce the green wedge by up to 70% was unanimously rejected by EDDC
 - Social housing – a housing taskforce was looking at the housing service and re-evaluation methods of delivery across the district. If the devolution deal goes ahead, it would place greater emphasis on social housing
- Cllr. Hartnell:
 - West Walk - a planning application had been submitted regarding the demolition and rebuilding of West Walk public toilets and determination was still pending. A 'Changing Place' WC was to be provided including a bigger space, hoist, bench and other facilities to improve provision for those with additional needs. £3.4 million was being spent across the district to improve public toilets.

163. Public Question Time

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

- Look Out – concern was raised regarding the deteriorating condition of the Look Out on West Walk, in light of its prominence on the seafront. It was suggested that the Council carry out a Land Registry search and contact the owner to establish their plans for the site. Members **RESOLVED** that the Council should:
 - establish ownership of the site and write to the landowner asking what they were proposing for the site
 - write to EDDC as the local planning authority to ask them to consider issuing a s215 notice under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990(proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Wood)
- Hidden disabilities – the individual speaking wished to ensure that hidden disabilities – particularly stomas - were taken into account, when finalising the plans for the new public toilets. She stated that, on occasions, those with hidden disabilities were challenged when using the disabled public toilets, which was difficult. She provided 'Stoma Friendly Toilet Guidance' and explained simple changes that could be made to assist stoma patients. Members **RESOLVED** that the Council should write to EDDC highlighting the following:

- invite them to take into account the needs of stoma patients when designing the new disabled toilets
 - the need to lock the door of the disabled toilets
 - request details of the current cleaning schedules
- (proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Wood)

164. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the Town Clerk's report.

165. Committee Minutes

Members noted the minutes of the following meetings:

- Planning Committee – 22 January and 5 February 2024

166. Update on Seaton Tourist Information Centre

Members noted the level of enquiries to the tourist information centre.

167. Community Grants Applications

Members **RESOLVED**:

- to approve a grant of £1,000 to Seaton Cricket Club (proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Wood)
- that, as the organisation was a newly formed CIC with no proven track record at the current time, to defer consideration of the application by Sustainable Project Live CIC until such time as the outcome of their application for funding from the National Lottery was known, when the application could be reviewed (proposed Cllr. Bowman; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

168. Cyber Security Insurance Policy

Members **RESOLVED** to defer this item of business to enable enquiries to be made of the Council's IT providers (Core IT) as to establish what further insurance, if any would be necessary to protect the Council, over and above the level of cover provided by Core IT by virtue of the contract to provide services between the two parties. Members further **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to (proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Bowman)

169. Renewal of the Council's insurance policies 2024/25 and beyond

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- delegate authority to the Town Clerk to renew the Council's insurance cover for 2024/25 and beyond on a 3-year basis with the underwriter procured by Gallagher that represents the best value
- note the renewal premium received from Zurich Insurance Company Ltd for motor insurance cover for 2024/2 and delegate authority to the Town Clerk to renew the motor insurance cover for 2024/25 with the provider that represents best value, once further quotations are available (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Beer)

170. Playpark inspection reports

Members noted the play park inspections.

Meeting closed at 8.08pm

Signed _____

Dated 11/4/24

