

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Meeting
on Monday, 11 March 2024**

Present:

Chair: Cllr. A. Singh

Town

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

Officers: M. Tredwin, Locum Town Clerk

Public: 1 member of the public was in attendance

171. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. N. Dyke & C. Wood and approved.

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, 4 March 2024. (proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Beer)

174. Public Question Time

A member of the public said how pleased she was to see the new bus shelters, however, she, and other members of the public, were disappointed with the overall design. She asked if the design could be revisited and an additional side added, as this would prevent people getting wet when the wind was blowing from that direction. She also asked if a waste bin that had been removed would be replaced, as litter was now left to blow around. She also stated that some railings opposite had been removed.

Cllr. Hartnell noted her comments and, in his role as a DCC councillor, would make contact with the highways team and pass on the comments to see if there was any way to put another end on the shelter. In his role as an EDDC councillor, he would also check with Streetscene to enquire about the bin. Discussion on the railings ensued and this would be looked into.

Confidential item

Proposed Cllr Hartnell and seconded Cllr Ledger that the press and public would be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item, as there as matters were being discussed which could include personal data.

175. Council procedures and staffing issues

The chair initially reflected on the successes that the Council had achieved over the past few years. These successes had led to much positivity within the town and had resulted in positive national coverage of the work that officers and councillors had been involved with.

However, an extraordinary meeting had been called as councillors had expressed concern about the behaviour of some councillors and their attitude towards the procedures and collective decision-making processes of the Council and also the manner of their communications with officers. Members discussed ways to ensure that the reputation of the Council was not further damaged and so that officers feel supported and not under continual attack. Members agreed that such behaviour was potentially affecting delivery of the Council's services and projects and placing the Council at risk in terms of its obligations to its employees under employment law.

Members agreed that individual complaints should be submitted to the Monitoring Officer, when they believed that potential breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct had occurred, and asked that, as part of his role in managing councillors, that the Chair write formally to the councillors concerned explaining the damage that their behaviour was causing and further **RESOLVED** that:

- all communications from all councillors should, in the first instance, be directed to two named councillors - Cllr. Singh & Haggerty, as Chair and Deputy Chair – rather than directly to officers. This would initially be for a three-month period, after which it would be reviewed.
- all councillors to attend "Good Employer Training" delivered by DALC or similar within 3 months.

(Proposed: Cllr Ledger; Seconded: Cllr Hartnell)

Majority decision 9 for; 1 against

Meeting closed at 8.08pm

Signed _____

Dated 8/4/24