

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Meeting
on Monday, 1 July 2024**

Present:

Chair: Cllr. A. Singh

Town

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

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: 6 members of the public were in attendance

35. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received, and reasons accepted, from Cllr. Ledger.

36. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. Hartnell & Haggerty declared a personal interest as East Devon District Councillors (EDDC) and Cllr. Hartnell as a Devon County Councillor (DCC) and a member of the Seaton & District Hospital Steering Group.

Cllrs. Dyke & Wood declared a personal interest as volunteers at the Gateway Theatre. Cllr. Bowman declared an interest as a volunteer at Seaton Repair Café.

37. Council Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of a meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday 3 June 2024. (proposed Cllr. Russell; seconded Cllr. Beer)

38. Committee Minutes

Members noted the minutes of the following meetings of the Council's committees:

- **Planning Committee** – 22 April, 13 May & 3 June 2024

39. County Councillor's Report

Due to the effect of purdah on council business, prior to the general election, Cllr Hartnell had no matters to report.

40. District Councillors' Reports

Due to the effect of purdah on council business, prior to the general election, councillors had little to report, other than highlighting the following:

- land on Seaton Wetlands was up for sale and said land was of strategic importance for EDDC as adjacent to EDDC-owned land

- the work on achieving 'Coach Friendly' status across the district would be resumed after the election
- there had been issues with Royal Mail and polling cards being sent out, however, this would not preclude voting, as long as voters attended with appropriate photo identification
- the issue of overgrown footpaths would be raised by EDDC councillors with officers

41. Public Question Time

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

- speaking in his capacity as Chair of Seaton Hospital Steering Group, Mr. Jack Rowland gave an update on the work that had been undertaken. In summary, meetings had been undertaken with NHS Property Services and the Integrated Care Board ('ICB'). Further meetings had taken place with various third parties and discussions were reflected in the business plan that had been prepared and grant funding had been requested. The upcoming general election had affected the work being undertaken in two ways:
 - decisions on grant applications had been delayed; and
 - NHS Property Services had cited purdah as a reason not to meet in June

Negotiations would recommence after the general election.

- Roy Vider, of the Royal British Legion ('RBL'), spoke to;
 - thank the Council, especially the Deputy Clerk, for the help towards the D-Day Commemorative events
 - ask whether the Council could assist towards the £1,500 cost of cleaning and renovating the town's war memorial
 - advise that the RBL would be holding an event to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8 May 2025 and hoped to work with the Council and other interested groups to arrange this.
- a third member of the public spoke about the work being undertaken by the Seaton Emergency Group and asked how the Council saw its part in that, what financial support might be available and whether volunteers could be covered by the Council's Volunteer Policy and public liability insurance. A request was also made to have a standing item on the monthly agenda of the Council, regarding this work. Cllr Burrows indicated that he would be happy to be involved in the group.

42. Chairman's Report

Members noted the Chairman's report.

43. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the report and correspondence log.

44. Update on Seaton Tourist Information Centre

Members noted the update on enquiries to the tourist information centre.

45. Community Grants

Members considered an application for a community grant from Seaton & District Youth Group ('SDYG') for £8,000 - 10,000 to assist in the costs of establishing a youth club in the town. Whilst Members were minded to support, in principle, what the group was trying to achieve they took the view that more information was needed as to the need for such a club and felt that the means by which the project might be supported should be through the budgetary process, rather than via the community grant scheme. Therefore, having discussed the application, Members **RESOLVED** to meet informally and consider the need and how the Council might best support the SDYG in achieving its aims (Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Boehm)

46. Play Park Inspection Reports

Members noted the play park inspections.

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 items on the agenda as matters being discussed included commercially sensitive information.

47. Cyber Security

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

- approve the purchase of 4 new PCs at an approximate cost of £700 + VAT per unit
- authorise the Town Clerk to instruct Core IT to make the necessary arrangements to upgrade the Council's IT systems, in line with the recommendations detailed in their proposal, for the fee of £3,480.00 + VAT
- authorise the Town Clerk to instruct Core IT to upgrade the Council's current IT package to the Core+ package for a monthly fee of £1,196.00 + VAT
- authorise the Town Clerk to purchase the necessary cyber security insurance policy at a cost of £405.44, subject to any increase since the quotation was obtained

authorise the cost of the upgrade, over and above that included in existing IT budgets, to be met by taking £1,000 from the equipment budget, and the remainder from general reserves slightly. proposed (Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Singh)


48. Essential works to playparks

Members considered the quotations obtained and **RESOLVED** to engage Proludic UK to carry out the essential repair and maintenance works to the Titan play equipment in the Underfleet Playpark, as detailed in the report, at a cost of £11,356.50 + VAT. (Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Haggerty)

49. Update on town assets

The Town Clerk provided an update to Members, following a recent meeting with officers from EDDC, on various projects within the town that were the responsibility of the district council. Members noted the update.

Meeting closed at 7.02pm

Signed 
Dated 2/9/24