

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Meeting
on Monday, 7 April 2025**

Present:

Chair: Cllr. A. Singh

Town

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

Officers: Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk

Public: One member of the public were in attendance.

170. Apologies for absence

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

171. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. Hartnell, Haggerty & Ledger declared a personal interest as East Devon District Councillors (EDDC) and Cllr. Hartnell as a Devon County Councillor (DCC). Cllrs. Bowman, Dyke & Wood declared a personal interest as a volunteer at the Gateway Theatre Company who occupied the town hall and Cllr. Hartnell declared a personal interest as his son was a volunteer there. Cllr. Burrows declared a personal interest as a Friend of Seaton Library.

172. Council Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday, 3 March 2025. (proposed Cllr. Beer, seconded Cllr. Singh)

173. District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Haggerty:

- the 'Coach Friendly' inspection in Seaton would be happening this week and was being rolled out across all towns in East Devon with the unanimous support of EDDC
- the issue with the school bus parking was now being addressed
- all new toilets being installed were designed with stoma facilities

Cllr Hartnell:

- there were no detailed updates on the Thury Harcourt toilets or the sale of the Moridunum but EDDC officers had advised that work was going on behind the scenes



Cllr Heath:

- thanked Cllr Haggerty for all the work he had done on the Coach Friendly project which was he stated was very popular with the community
- the state of the Chine had been reported to Environmental Health who had worked well to resolve the situation
- an approach had been received from residents regarding the clocktower in Seafield Gardens, asking who was responsible for repairs. Officers confirmed it was the responsibility of EDDC and it had been reported to them.

174. Public Question Time

EDDC Cllr Paul Arnott attended, as a member of the public, and spoke about his achievements whilst and EDDC and in support of his candidacy for Devon County Council in the upcoming local elections.

175. Committee Minutes

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

- **Planning Committee** –17 February & 3 March 2025

176. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the report and correspondence log.

177. Cyber security breach

Members noted the update on the recent cyber attack on the platform used by the Council to host its financial software and noted the work undertaken by officers to address the situation by setting up a new chart of account with Rialtas and repopulating it to ensure the Council's annual reporting requirements and time frames could be met.

178. Update on Seaton Tourist Information Centre

Members noted the update on enquiries to the tourist information centre and noted that it would reopen at weekend commencing on Good Friday and manned by volunteers organised by Cllr. Bowman, as TIC Co-ordinator.

179. Report on section 106 funding

Members noted the report and funds available from developer contributions for open spaces **RESOLVED** that, in principle, in light of existing knowledge of works that were required to improve and upgrade the playparks, the monies be directed toward the play parks and the actions in terms of consultation and scoping those works, as detailed in the report, be undertaken (proposed Cllr. Rowland, seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

180. Coast & Country Project

Members considered a request for further funding of £5,000 towards the Coast & Country Project and expressed concern as to how difficult it was to find information about Seaton on the site and questioned whether the cross links to Seaton's attractions could be improved. In light of these concerns, Members **RESOLVED** to

defer a decision, as to whether to provide further funding to the project, until the next meeting and, in the meantime the Chairman would discuss with Ignyte how this might be improved. (proposed Cllr. Singh, seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

181. Local Government Reorganisation

Members noted the interim plan submission for devolution in Devon

182. Schedule of Meetings

Members note and **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of meetings for municipal year 2025/26. (proposed Cllr. Hartnell, seconded Cllr. Beer)

183. Email & Internet Use Policy

Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Email & Internet Use Policy, to prevent access to the Council's systems, when outside the UK. (proposed Cllr. Singh, seconded Cllr. Beer)

184. Risk Register

Members noted and **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Risk Register to reflect recent events (proposed Cllr. Singh, seconded Cllr. Beer)

185. Playparks – Annual ROSPA Inspection Reports

Members noted the annual playpark inspections.

186. Renewal of insurance 2025/26 and beyond

Members considered the options for general and vehicle insurance renewal and **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to renew the Council's insurance policies, preferably, by way of the 3-year long term policy proposal with Ecclesiastical, arranged by Clear Councils, at a cost of £14,354.58 per annum for the general policy and whichever vehicle policy provided best value. (proposed Cllr. Rowland, seconded Cllr. Singh)

187. Dog Warden

Cllr Burrows discussed generally the recent meeting of the Foreshore Working Group where the issue of dogs being off lead and fouling was raised. Officers confirmed that EDDC would be upgrading the signage and details of their dog enforcement officer would be circulated.

The Council acknowledged that there were some irresponsible dog owners and fully supported EDDC's efforts to re-educate those who owners.

Confidential Item

The Chairman moved that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 1(d), press and public would be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item on the agenda, as matters being discussed included commercially sensitive information.

188. Update on relocation of Seaton Library

Members received an update and **RESOLVED** to:

- note the update report
- authorise the Town Clerk to agree the heads of terms of the lease as proposed in the report
- permit access to DCC contractors from 11 April 2025
- authorise the instruction of the Council's retained solicitors to act on the Council's behalf in completion of a lease and interim licence in the terms proposed (proposed Cllr. Hartnell, seconded Cllr. Beer)

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

Signed: _____


Dated: _____
