

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Meeting
on Monday, 3 June 2024**

Present:

Chair: Cllr. A. Singh

Town

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

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: 5 members of the public were in attendance

26. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received, and reasons accepted, from Cllr. Haggerty. Members also asked that thanks to former Cllr. Karen Brooks be minuted for the time she served on the Council. The Town Clerk confirmed that a letter of thanks had also be sent to her. (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Beer)

NOTE – Cllr Boehm sent his apologies after the meeting as he was unexpectedly away.

27. Declarations of Interest

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

Cllrs. Dyke & Wood declared a personal interest as volunteers at the Gateway Theatre.

28. Council Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of a meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday 13th May 2024. (proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Dyke)

29. Public Question Time

Two members of the public spoke regarding the following matters:

- one member of the public wished to raise awareness of issues and stigma surrounding the use of cannabis-based products which were prescribed for medicinal purposes. He highlighted the importance of ensuring that public bodies complied with the relevant legislation concerning equality for all, and ensuring individuals prescribed with such medication were not treated differently. The Town Clerk thanked him for highlighting the issue and

advised the Council that advice was being taken to ensure that the Council was compliant in this regard in terms of its policies and application thereof. The Deputy Clerk had had several conversations with the member of the public who raised the issue and would be speaking to him again the day after the meeting to update him on the latest advice.

- Another member of the public spoke about her ongoing commitment to establish a market in the town. A committee had now been formed and the support of the Council was sought. The Town Clerk explained that the Council had a community grants policy and scheme with details available on the Council's website. A question was raised as to whether the Council could negotiate reduced fees with EDDC for use of Windsor Gardens. Cllr. Ledger, in his capacity as an EDD Councillor agreed that he would ask the question of EDDC officers dealing with this but cautioned that the question had been asked in the past and reduced fees were not possible, as the fee structure was set across the whole district.

30. Committee Minutes

Members received the minutes and **RESOLVED** to note the decisions therein, of the following committee meeting:

- Planning Committee – 22 April 2024
(proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Beer)

31. Update on Tourist Information Centre

Members noted an update on enquiries to the tourist information centre. Cllr Dyke advised 20 new volunteers had been recruited and also that, due to changed circumstances, as of September, he would have to step down as a volunteer co-ordinator for the tourist information centre but would still volunteer when he could. Cllr Bowman asked whether a QR code could be created linking to the Council's website and placed on a sign on the gate to assist visitors when the centre was closed. The Town Clerk agreed that officers would look into this.

32. Outside Bodies

Members **RESOLVED** to appoint the following representatives to the following outside bodies for the 2024/2025 Municipal Year:

- EDDC's Arts & Culture Forum (next meeting 12 June at 2pm via Zoom) – Cllr Singh as representative and Cllr Boehm as substitute (proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Beer)
- Coast & Country Project – Cllr Haggerty as representative (proposed Cllr. Dyke; seconded Cllr. Beer)
- Gateway Theatre Company – Cllr Haggerty as representative (proposed Cllr. Dyke; seconded Cllr. Beer)

33. Communications with officers

Members **RESOLVED** to extend for a three-month period, the principle of the following resolution made by Council on 11 March 2024, but replacing Cllr. Haggerty with the newly elected Deputy Chair – Cllr Hartnell:

- *'all correspondence from all councillors should, in the first instance, be directed to two named councillors, Cllr. Singh & Hartnell – rather than directly to officers.'*

(proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Wood)

34. Play Park Inspection Reports

Members noted the play park inspections and **RESOLVED** that the Town Maintenance Officer should be expressly thanked for his hard work in maintaining and ensuring the safety of both play parks. (proposed Cllr. Ledger; seconded Cllr. Singh)

Meeting closed at 6.37pm

Signed _____

Dated _____

DRAFT