

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')  
Meeting  
on Monday, 7 October 2024**

**Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr. A. Singh

**Town**

**Councillors:** K. Beer, E. Bowman, P. Burrows, D. Haggerty, M. Hartnell, D. Ledger, J. Oldfield, J. Rowland & J. Russell

**Officers:** Town Clerk & Deputy Town Clerk

**Public:** 4 members of the public were in attendance

**76. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received and reasons accepted from Dyke & Wood.

The Chair also welcomed the two newly co-opted Cllrs. Oldfield & Rowland.

**77. 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).

**78. Council Minutes**

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of a meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday, 16 September 2024. (proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Russell)

**79. County Councillor's Report**

Cllr. Hartnell gave a verbal report and highlighted the following:

- the Fisherman's Gap works to install new bus shelter were now underway. Some concerns had been voiced but no new issues had arisen, since the public consultation, that were sufficient to reverse the decision to carry out the works to relocate and replace the bus shelters.
- the new Devon & Torbay Joint Authority was now going ahead, providing a range of posers devolved from central government
- repairs to highways in the county were ongoing with some positive statistics reported in terms of potholes being patches and toad repairs generally. Whilst there was still a significant backlog of repairs to be carried out, the additional funding provided has assisted in the process.
- Some of the crossings in the town had been repainted and others were scheduled.

Members noted the report.

## 80. District Councillors' Reports

East Devon District Councillors gave verbal reports and highlighted the following:

- Several strategic planning meetings had taken place to discuss and allocate development sites across the towns in East Devon. All previously recorded sites would be taken forward leading to approximately 300 homes in Seaton over the next 20 years. Whilst it was recognised that not all residents were in support of this, all local planning authorities were required to deliver a certain number of new homes and it was likely that the target would be increased by the newly elected government. Once it was known what these new targets would be, if any shortfall was identified, those sites previously identified but not already taken forward would be revisited.
- the works at Seaton Hole would be completed in 2025.
- a review of provision by Leisure East Devon ('LED') was being undertaken, as part of a wider review of all leisure provision across the district.
- EDDC had purchased the lower part of the Seaton Wetlands. This could lead to various opportunities and an options report was being prepared.
- a consultation had been launched to assist in shaping EDDC's anti-poverty policies.
- a briefing has been given to the ward members on the 'no ball games' policy in Seaford Gardens and an update will be provided to the town council in due course when officers came back with a view.
- the 'Coach Friendly' initiative was moving forward and 6 of the 8 towns had now joined the project.

Members noted the reports.

## 81. Public Question Time

The following matters were raised by members of the public:

- a question was raised regarding which applications had been considered and which deferred at the earlier Planning Committee. This was clarified and would be reported in the minutes of the meeting.
- issues were raised regarding a property in the town that was being used as a holiday let, in breach of planning restrictions on the use of the property. The Chair of Planning and ward members said they would raise this matter with EDDC's enforcement officers.
- concerns were raised over various safety issues arising from the way that Sea Hill was being used by drivers. This was noted and, Cllr Hartnell confirmed that he had highlighted the concerns to the DCC highways team.

## 82. Committee Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to note and ratify the minutes of the following meetings of the Council's committees:

- **Planning Committee** –16 September 2024  
(proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Beer)

### **83. Chairman's Report**

Members noted the report.

### **84. Town Clerk's Report**

Members noted the report and correspondence log and **RESOLVED** that:

- Councillor surgeries - Officers would assist with scheduling bi-monthly councillor surgeries in different locations in the town. (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Beer)
- Seafront planter – the Council should work with the principal authorities to arrange the removal of the remainder of the damaged planter as soon as possible. (proposed Cllr. Burrows; seconded Cllr. Bowman)

### **85. Update on Seaton Tourist Information Centre**

Members discussed the report and recommendations and **RESOLVED** to:

- note the report
- open the TIC at weekends during 2025, subject to volunteer availability and rotas prepared by the volunteer co-ordinators
- designate Cllr Rowland, who kindly volunteered, to assist Cllr. Bowman, as a Volunteer Co-ordinator, as Cllr Dyke has stepped down
- ratify the prior agreement to arrange thankyou refreshments at Marshlands for all volunteers who have kindly given up their time to assist in the TIC and at events throughout the year, up to a cost of £100 on 21 October.
- arrange training to reflect all the town's benefits for new and existing volunteers in Spring 2025

(proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Singh)

### **86. Committee Membership 2024/25**

Members **RESOLVED** that the following councillors be appointed to the vacancies on the Council's committees:

- Planning Committee – Cllr. Rowland
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – Cllr. Oldfield
- Personnel Committee – Cllrs. Bowman & Rowland

(proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Ledger)

### **87. Priorities for Seaton Town Plan**

Members considered the priorities suggested by Cllr. Rowland and detailed below, and **RESOLVED** that these would be considered in conjunction with the existing town plan and with any other priorities identified by Members and all proposals would form the basis for a working group discussion before final priorities and budgets were set for the new financial year:

1. To work in co-operation with EDDC, DCC and Seaton Chamber to identify potential new regeneration projects for Seaton that could dovetail with priority 2. In addition to continue the regular walk outs with EDDC Streetscene Officers to emphasis areas that need attention and document these with agreed actions and progress.

2. To arrange to meet with freeholders / owners of buildings in Seaton that require attention and action e.g. the Lookout on West Walk, Hook & Parrot, empty commercial properties that have remained empty for more than 6 months in order to understand the current situations and determine possible next steps.
3. Consider options for Seaton Museum in view of the current situation .
4. Explore a potential transfer of assets from EDDC to Seaton Town Council e.g. Windsor Gardens, Jubilee Gardens.
5. To consider making an application to SW in Bloom for either 2025 or 2026 after determining what work is required and involving community volunteers where necessary. As a subset of the work required this can dovetail with subjects 1 and 2, but could also cover subjects such flag and bunting displays, painting of railings, benches, beach cleaning, weed and detritus. (proposed Cllr. Rowland; seconded Cllr. Ledger)

**88. External Auditor's Report 2023-24**

Members **RESOLVED** to note the completion of the external audit ,with no issues raised for the financial year 2023 – 2024. (proposed Cllr. Beer; seconded Cllr. Singh)

**89. Playpark inspection reports**

Members noted the play park inspections

Meeting closed at 7.25pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_