

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')  
Extraordinary Meeting  
on Monday, 27 January 2025**

**Present:**

**Chair:** Cllr. A. Singh

**Town**

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

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

**Public:** Three members of the public were present.

**128. Apologies for absence**

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

**129. Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs. Hartnell & Haggerty declared personal interests as East Devon District Councillors (EDDC) and Cllr. Hartnell declared a personal interest, as his son was a volunteer at the Gateway Theatre Company. Cllr. Bowman declared a personal interest, as a volunteer at the Gateway Theatre Company.

**130. Council Minutes**

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

**131. Public Question Time**

Three members of the public were present, who made representations in their capacity as trustees of the Gateway Theatre Company, and its request for further financial support, including a grant of £12,343.43 and deferral of repayment, until March 2026, of all other monies due under the lease and incurred during the financial year 2024/25.

**Confidential Items**

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 this agenda as the matters being discussed included commercially sensitive information.

### 132. Update on the Town Hall

Members considered carefully the further submission from the Gateway Theatre Company, the statements made by the trustees at the meeting and the answers to questions raised and, in reaching its decision the Council balanced the request for financial support to enable GTC to continue trading, against the Council's duty to the public purse and to all residents of the town, taking account of available budgets and the ongoing significant risks presented and, whilst acknowledging the efforts made by the trustees, took the view that further financial support could not be justified and **RESOLVED** to:

- to refuse the Gateway's original request for a grant of £20,000 towards operating and staff costs, as considered and recommended for refusal on 20 January 2025 by the Finance & General Purposes Committee
- to refuse the updated request for a grant of £12,343.43 to cover the cost of the Council's invoice dated 21 January 2025
- to refuse to defer the repayment date of other costs that will be incurred by the Council and fall due under the lease in March 2025 until March 2026
- defer a decision on expenditure on the stage rigging, electrics and curtains until such time as the town hall's future is decided and/or subject to the requirements of the Council's insurers
- instruct the Town Clerk to write to GTC advising them of Council's decision and seeking their intentions as regards their tenure of Seaton Town Hall (proposed Cllr. Rowland; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

Meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated 3/2/25