

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Annual Council Meeting
on Monday, 1 September 2025**

Present:

Chair: Cllr. A. Singh

Town

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

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: One member of the public was in attendance during the early part of the meeting and the DCC Cllr Arnott arrived shortly after the meeting started.

Prior to the first item on the agenda, the Chair at the meeting said a few words about the sad and sudden loss of the late Cllr Ken Beer and commended all he had done for the town, both as a Seaton Town Councillor and in his other voluntary roles.

58. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Haggerty and Rowland and the reasons accepted.

59. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. Hartnell & Ledger declared a personal interest as East Devon District Councillors (EDDC). Cllrs. Bowman & Dyke declared personal interests as volunteers at the Gateway Theatre Company, and Cllr. Wood declared an interest as a volunteer and trustee of the Gateway Theatre Company. Cllr. Hartnell declared a personal interest, as his son was a volunteer and conducting work on a self-employed basis for the Gateway Theatre Company.

60. Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of a meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday, 7 July 2025. (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Burrows)

61. Committee Minutes

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

- **Planning Committee** – 23 June and 7 July 2025

As the DCC councillor had not yet arrived, Members **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to bring the following item forward on the agenda. (proposed Cllr. Hartnell; seconded Cllr. Singh)

62. Update on Gateway Theatre Company

Members received an update from the Chair of the Gateway Theatre Company ('GTC'), in particular with regard to finance, H&S and a culture change within the organisation including:

- all GTC staff had now left or resigned, which had left the trustees to carry out day-to-day management and rethink how the organisation operated and how they could increase business and reduce costs, as the costs were very high compared to what GTC did
- trustees were currently undertaking H&S checks and scheduling
- offer made to a new manager and formal acceptance was awaited. The trustees were confident that the person to whom the post had been offered had more than appropriate experience
- scheduling had been thoroughly reviewed and high-quality new events added
- GTC had reconnected with community groups including Seaton Carnival, B Sharp, Seaton Music Society and Jazz Jurassic and Seaton Panto was reforming
- a new bookkeeper was being recruited, and this may be covered from within GTC's volunteers. If this happened GTC would be saving about £25,000 per year in salary costs
- a recent incident of criminal damage to the door of the building was being investigated by the police and a local company had agreed to repair the door free of charge

Members noted the update.

63. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Arnott attended and verbally highlighted the matters set out in his written report which had been circulated to Members. Members' noted the county councillor's written report.

Cllr Arnott also provided an update on local government reorganization as both a DCC and EDD councillor. A request was made that Cllr Arnott, in his role as Leader of EDDC, personally intervene and speak to officers regarding the poor state of the town and inadequate service provided by Streetscene. Cllr Arnott committed to intervene on behalf of the Seaton Town Council in response to this request.

64. District Councillors' Reports

Cllr Haggerty's written report was noted. Cllrs. Hartnell & Ledger gave verbal reports, highlighting the following:

- a 30 year business plan for housing was being reviewed with a focus on planning and managing repairs to housing stock rather than reacting when issues arise. It was anticipated that this should lead to savings

- £28million in saving was expected over the 30 year period, over all council owned housing and all would meet decent home standards
- a £100 million investment was planned over the same period with 500 properties being built over next 5 years (first stages in Exmouth and Honiton)
- a question was raised as to how this would sit with the imminent local government reorganisation and Cllr Ledger advised that HM government required local housing authorities to set business plans for the long term, which would be adjusted when new structures were known

Members noted the reports.

65. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present during this item of business.

66. Chairman's Report

Members noted the chairman's report.

67. Town Clerk's Report

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- note the town clerk's report and correspondence log.
- subject to confirmation from DCC that they are content with the Chamber's proposals for Fisherman's Gap and subject to the Chamber accepting full responsibility for the installation, maintenance, and management of the structure, grant permission for installation of the structure on the roundabout.

(proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

68. The Ken Beer Room

In recognition of the significant contribution made to both the town council and the town, by the late Councillor Ken Beer, during his 13 years as one of Seaton's longest serving town councillor, Members **RESOLVED** to name the new council chamber on the first floor of Marshlands - The Ken Beer Room.

(proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Burrows)

68. Appointments to committees

Members **RESOLVED** to make appointments to the following committee vacancies:

- Finance & General Purposes Committee – Cllr Pike
- Personnel Committee – Cllrs. Haggerty & Pike

No councillors agreed to sit on the Planning Committee so three vacancies remain.
(proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

69. Appointments to outside bodies

To make appointments to the following outside bodies:

- Axe Valley Christians Against Poverty – Cllr Singh (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)
- DALC County Committee – Cllr Burrows (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

- Gateway Theatre Company – Cllr Pike(proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Ledger)

70. Update on Seaton Tourist Information Centre

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

71. Annual tree inspections

Members noted the annual tree inspection reports and associated works undertaken.

72. Report on Local Government Reorganisation

Members noted the update and associated timetable on local government reorganisation, and **RESOLVED** to:

- note the known challenges arising from the LGR and other work streams, as set out in this report
- note that reports will be brought on a regular basis to keep Members updated
- and where decisions are required that cannot be made under delegated powers (proposed Cllr. Singh; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

73. Youth Provision in Seaton

Members noted an update report on youth provision in Seaton

74. Play Park Inspections

Members noted the inspection reports

The meeting closed at 7.09pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____