

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Council Meeting
on Monday, 2 February 2026**

Present:

The Chair and Deputy Chair were not present, therefore in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, Cllr Rowland was chosen to preside at the meeting

Chair: Cllr. J. Rowland

Town

Councillors: A. Gwyn Davies, K. Pike & P. Wright

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: 6 members of the public were in attendance.

126. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Burrows, Dyke, Hartnell, Ledger, Pengelly, Singh & Wood and the reasons accepted.

127. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Gwyn Davies declared an interest in that he was supporting Seaton Cricket Club in delivering the outdoor cinema event.

128. Council Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of a meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday, 8 December 2025. (proposed Cllr. Pike; seconded Cllr. Gwyn Davies)

Standing Orders were suspended to enable the Council to deal with the Planning Agenda which had been scheduled immediately before the meeting of full council and had to be adjourned as the committee was not quorate. (proposed Cllr. Pike; seconded Cllr. Wright)

129. Planning applications for consideration

Members considered the following planning applications:

26/0007/VAR

Mr Terry Whittingham

**Hook & Parrot Inn, East
Walk, Seaton EX12 2LN**

Variation of Condition 2

(approved plans) on planning
permission 25/0470/VAR

(demolition of existing public

house and 3 residential apartments, and construction of replacement bar/restaurant and 9 no. residential apartments, and associated works), to change internal works so all flats are facing the sea.

Members **RESOLVED** to propose no objection to the application.
(moved Cllr Wright; seconded Cllr Rowland)

25/2642/FUL

John Billingham

**14 Honey Ditches Drive
Seaton EX12 2NU**

Proposed single storey extension (in place of existing conservatory).

Members **RESOLVED** to propose no objection to the application.
(moved Cllr Wright; seconded Cllr Rowland)

26/0053/FUL

Mr G Williams

**Foxfield 92 Beer Road
Seaton EX12 2PT**

Demolition of existing dwelling, construction of a single replacement dwelling.

Members **RESOLVED** to propose no objection to the application.
(moved Cllr Wright; seconded Cllr Rowland)

130. County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Arnott did not attend and there was no county councillor report.

131. District Councillors' Reports

No district councillors were present and there were no district councillors' reports.

132. Public Question Time

A member of the public spoke, on behalf of the Friends of Seaton Library, in support of the importance of there being no reduction in the current opening hours of Seaton Library. If the hours were reduced to 15 per week as proposed, this would have a devastating effect on users of the service, in particular children and elderly users who could not travel to alternative locations.

133. Update on Gateway Theatre Company

There was no update on the Gateway Theatre Company.

134. Consultation Response on Devon Libraries

Members were unanimous in their concern at the proposed reduction in opening hours of Seaton Library and the following concerns were raised:

- the library was well used as a community hub by all elements of the community
- the proposed change would mean the library would only be open for 15 hours over 3 days (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday)
- in light of Seaton's age profile and poor public transport links to alternative libraries, Seaton would be disproportionately affected by the cuts
- the age profile of the town, as the Council's 2025 community consultation had demonstrated, meant that many residents preferred to read and receive information via the printed word as opposed to online or by way of electronic devices
- the proposed % reduction in hours was far greater in Seaton than in other places. For example, the proposal relating to Seaton (33 to 15) reduced opening hours to just 45% of the current 33 hours, whereas the proposal for Honiton (38 to 34.5), was only a 9% cut to 91% of current hours
- the proposals for each town are apparently based on the respective level of use of each site. However, as Seaton was closed for a period due to its move to Marshlands, usage figures should be adjusted to reflect this
- no evidence or figures had been published to support the proposals

As such, Members expressed real concern about the effect such a reduction in hours would have and **RESOLVED** that Seaton Town Council should respond to the consultation regarding the future of libraries in Devon opposing the proposed reduction in opening hours of Seaton Library from 33 to 15 hours per week, in the strongest of terms, and supporting the retention of a minimum of 33 per week, in light of the importance of the library as a well-used community space for all in Seaton and the surrounding areas. (proposed Cllr. Pike; seconded Cllr. Rowland)

135. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the report and also noted Cllr. Rowland's update on his approaches to EDDC regarding 'The Lookout' on the seafront. He had submitted a freedom of information request asking how many section 215 notices had been served by EDDC under town & country planning legislation in the preceding 5 years. None had been served. He had requested a meeting with the leader of EDDC and relevant portfolio holder to discuss this and press for a notice to be served on the owners of the site.

136. Update on Seaton Tourist Information Centre

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

137. Interim Audit Report 2025-26

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- note the interim 2025-26 internal audit report and observations
- approve the amendments to the Council's Financial Regulations and Publication Scheme as detailed in the Town Clerk's comments at B1, B2 and L1 to the Internal Audit Observations Report
- confirm that the level of general reserves was considered, and deemed to be adequate, as part of the budget setting process for 2026-27
- ratify that the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights for 2024-25 were 11 June to 22 July 2025, as approved by a meeting of the Council on 9 June 2025
- review and confirm the effectiveness of the Statement of Internal Controls as adopted on 12 May 2025
- authorise the Town Clerk to liaise with the Council's brokers and, if possible, to increase the Council's fidelity insurance limit from £250,000 to £600,000
- ratify the independence of the Council's Internal Auditor – IAC Audit & Consulting Ltd to approve the recommendations arising from the observations therein

(proposed Cllr. Gwyn Davies; seconded Cllr. Pike)

138. Griz Fest 2026

Members considered the proposal for funding, from the Council's earmarked reserve for youth projects, to support youth activities at Griz Fest 2026 and **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to allocate £2,000 from the EMR designated for youth provision to support costs associated with the offer of free children's places in GrizFest 2026. (proposed by Cllr. Rowland as Chair)

139. Open Air Cinema 2026

Members considered a proposal for funding to Seaton Cricket Club to support an openair cinema/community event in 2026 and **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to allocate £2,000 from the Council's events budget to support the delivery of Seaton Outdoor Cinema 2026. (moved by Cllr. Rowland as Chair)

140. Play Park Inspections

Members noted the inspection reports.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____