

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

Present:

Chair: Cllr. M. Hartnell

Town

Councillors: E. Bowman, P. Burrows, A. Gwyn Davies, T. Pengelly, K. Pike, J. Rowland & P. Wright

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: 2 members of the public were in attendance.

141. Apologies for absence

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

142. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Hartnell declared an interest as an East Devon District Councillor and also that his son did work on a self-employed basis for the Gateway Theatre Company. He further declared that, as he has already emailed the s106 Officer at EDDC, in support of the utilisation of developer contributions towards the new nets at Seaton Cricket Club, he would not vote on this item of business. Cllr Burrows declared an interest as a Friend of Seaton Library.

143. Council Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of a meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday, 2 February 2026. (proposed Cllr. Rowland; seconded Cllr. Wright)

144. County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Arnott's written report was noted. Disappointment was expressed that there was no mention of the proposed significant reductions in opening hours to Seaton Library.

145. District Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Hartnell updated Members on the following:

- Local Government Reorganisation – a great deal of resources at EDDC were being taken up by LGR. The consultation was now underway, and it was frustrating that, as part of this, HM Government had not commented on what their preferred structure might be. There were likely to be significant challenges for EDDC, if the new unitary authority did not come into existence in 2028 as planned.

- Jubilee Gardens – there had been improvements to the condition of Jubilee Gardens. However, it was important that this continued, especially after the departure of the Streetscene Manager to a different team.
- West Walk Public Toilets – the storm damage to the adjacent wall was to be repaired.

Members noted the update and expressed the view that it would be helpful if written reports could be provided by district and county councillors, especially if they were unable to attend town council meetings.

146. Public Question Time

Members of the public spoke, on behalf of the Seaton Cricket Club, seeking the town council's support for an allocation of s106 funding towards new cricket nets.

147. Update on Gateway Theatre Company

There was no update from the Gateway Theatre Company.

Standing orders were suspended to bring forward item 26/COU/09, a report on allocation of developer contributions. (moved by the Chair, Cllr. Hartnell)

148. Allocation of s106 Developer Contributions

Members considered carefully whether the Council should support requests from Seaton Cricket Club and Seaton Primary School PTA for funding from s106 developer contributions. They were supportive of both requests as felt that both would greatly benefit the town and community. However, some concern was expressed that use of the pool by the wider community should be secured by EDDC as part of the funding agreement. Members **RESOLVED** to:

- note the report
- confirm the Council's support for the allocation of developer contributions as follows:
 - Seaton Primary School – up to £13,800 towards upgrades to the school swimming pool
 - Seaton Cricket Club – up to £35,000 towards a new two-lane EBC-compliant fully enclosed cricket practice net system
- authorise the Town Clerk to confirm to EDDC, as administering authority, that Seaton Town Council supports both proposals, subject to appropriate community use of the swimming pool being secured via an agreement with EDDC

(proposed Cllr. Rowland; seconded Cllr. Pike)

149. Town Clerk's Report

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- note the report and correspondence log

- instruct the Town Clerk to respond to the statutory consultation on local government reorganisation, supporting the 4-5-1 Reimagining Devon proposal, or such other proposal as they see fit
- confirm the Council's priorities for 2026-27 as:
 - ensuring the Council's readiness for Local Government Reorganisation, including the working with EDDC on the potential transfer of community assets
 - improved community engagement, in accordance with the recently adopted Community Engagement Plan
 - ongoing maintenance and upgrades to the Council's land, buildings and other assets
 - renewal and review of all the Council's leases
- note expenditure of £2,570 + VAT, to carry out urgent interim repairs to the library roof at Marshlands, authorised by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Council and of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, under the Council's Financial Regulation 5.18

(moved by the Chair, Cllr. Hartnell)

150. Update on Seaton Tourist Information Centre

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

151. Community Grants

Members considered carefully an application from East Devon Soul for a community grant of £1,500. Whilst they were sympathetic to the application, Members felt unable to support the application for the follow reasons:

- concerns that the figures provided were unrealistic in terms of anticipated income and expenditure
- as other funding applications had been unsuccessful, Members expressed doubt that, without those funding streams, the event may not be viable on the scale proposed
- whilst they felt the vision for the event was positive, it was ambitious for a first event of its kind in Seaton and Members felt that a smaller pilot event this year might offer a more manageable starting point and help build momentum for future years
- with only 4 months to go, Members were not convinced that this was sufficient time to ensure that all the necessary infrastructure, marketing and ticket sales were in place to ensure successful delivery of the event
- Members noted that much of the funding requested appeared to relate to running costs for this year's event, rather than to the purchase of capital items that could support the event year on year
- Members would have welcomed the applicant to attend the meeting to hear from them directly to better understand the proposal

In light of the reasons above, Members **RESOLVED** not to approve a community grant application for £1,500 from East Devon Soul (proposed Cllr. Burrows; seconded Cllr. Rowland)

152. Renewal of insurance policies

Members **RESOLVED** to note officer discussions with the Council's brokers - Clear Councils - as to policy renewal and to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to:

- renew the Council's general policy of insurance for the second year of the 3-year policy arrangement, once the 2026-27 premium is confirmed
- renew the Council's motor insurance for 2026-27, once the best value premium is confirmed

(moved by the Chair, Cllr. Hartnell)

153. Play Park Inspections

Members noted the inspection reports.

Confidential item

The Chairman moved, in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 1(d), that press and public would be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item, as matters are being discussed which could identify an individual and may contain personal data

154. Staffing

Members considered the report and **RESOLVED** to approve an amendment to the Town Clerk's contract as detailed in the report on this item.

(moved by the Chair, Cllr. Hartnell)

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

13/4/26