

**Minutes of the Seaton Town Council ('the Council')
Council Meeting
on Monday, 13 April 2026**

Present:

Chair: Cllr. M. Hartnell
Town

Councillors: E. Bowman (arrived at 6.38), P. Burrows, N. Dyke, D. Ledger, T. Pengelly, K. Pike, J. Rowland & C. Wood (left at 6.40)

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: 3 members of the public were in attendance.

155. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Davies, Singh & Wright and the reasons accepted. Cllr Bowman apologised that he may be late to the meeting and the reason accepted.

156. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs. Hartnell & Ledger declared interests, as East Devon District Councillors. Cllr. Hartnell also declared an interest as his son worked, on a self-employed basis, for the Gateway Theatre Company. Cllrs Wood and Dyke declared interested as trustee and volunteer respectively at the Gateway Theatre.

157. Council Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of a meeting of Seaton Town Council held on Monday, 3 March 2026. (proposed Cllr. Rowland; seconded Cllr. Pike)

158. County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Arnott's attended and provided the following update:

- Local Government Reorganisation – Cllr Arnott had attended a day of discussions on local government reorganisation and, in light of what the Government had decided in other counties, it appeared likely that the larger Labour-controlled areas in Devon would be given the unitary-status they had sought, leaving the remainder of Devon as a very large and geographically widely spread unitary authority which could leave dangerous gaps in provision and was against the official advice of the relevant Government departments. It was very likely that this would lead to years of litigation, with potentially 21 areas across the UL seeking judicial review of the Government's decisions.
- Libraries – the consultation on the reduction of opening hours of libraries in East Devon had been based on inaccurate information and it was likely that the hours would not be reduced as had been proposed in the consultation document.

159. District Councillors' Reports

Cllr. Hartnell's written report was noted, and an additional update was provided by Cllr. Ledger on the following:

- Lottery Bid – EDDC were proceeding with the funding bid to the National Lottery which, if successful, would provide a significant boost to the natural environment and associated infrastructure in Seaton.

160. Public Question Time

Three members of the public attended and spoke to provide updates on:

- 1st Seaton Scout Group's application for a community grant
- The Gateway Theatre Company
- East Devon Soul Festival

Standing orders were suspended to bring forward consideration of item 26/COU/12 on the agenda, as follows:

161. Community grants

Members **RESOLVED** to approve a grant for £2,000 to 1st Seaton Scouts towards replacement of flooring, with £1,000 to be taken from the community grants budget and £1,000 from EMR329 for youth projects. (proposed Cllr. Wood; seconded Cllr. Dyke)

162. Update on Gateway Theatre Company

A verbal update was provided by the manager of the Gateway Theatre Company who offered to arrange a presentation for Members at the Town Hall regarding GTC's financial position. He added that H&S processes had improved as an external compliance company had been engaged.

163. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the report and correspondence log.

164. Update on Seaton Tourist Information Centre

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

165. Asset Register

Members **RESOLVED** to note and approve the updated asset register, as at 31 March 2026. (moved from the Chair)

166. Admiral Nurse in Seaton

Members considered a request from a member of the public and **RESOLVED** that Seaton Town Council recognises the need for a locally based Admiral Nurse, in view of the prevalence and projected increase in dementia numbers in our location. To potentially explore the provision further Cllr Rowland will raise the subject with the CEO of the Seaton Hospital league of Friends and

Siobhan Pickering the Axe Valley Dementia lead for the NHS to investigate a potential way forward. (proposed Cllr. Rowland; seconded Cllr. Pike)

167. Review of Direct Debits & Bank Mandate

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- approve existing authorised signatories to continue in 2026-27
- add Cllr Hartnell as a signatory to the Council's bank account and for online banking purposes
- approve direct debits, as set out in this report

(proposed Cllr. Rowland; seconded Cllr. Ledger)

168. Schedule of Meetings 2026-27

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of meetings for the 2026-27 municipal year. (moved from the Chair)

169. Seaton Beach School

Members noted the 2025/26 annual report, by Crazy Crabs, on the delivery and success of Seaton Beach School, funded by Seaton Town Council

170. RoSPA Annual Playpark Inspections

Members noted the annual RoSPA inspection reports

171. Seafront Planter – Motion by Cllr. Burrows

Whilst waiting for the removal, by East Devon District Council (EDDC) of the damaged brick flower bed on the Esplanade Members **RESOLVED**:

- to press EDDC to take immediate action to remove the loose bricks and soil, which are a potential danger to pedestrians and motorists, and an unsightly eyesore for visitors to Seaton
- that the Town Clerk should look into the possibility of securing funding from developer contributions to carry out the demolition and removal of the bed and seek quotations for the cost of this, should EDDC not commit to carrying out the work imminently (proposed Cllr. Burrows; seconded Cllr. Hartnell)

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____