

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council to be held online via Zoom on Monday 25 January 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.25pm.

PRESENT

Cllr M C Hilliar (Town Mayor)
Cllr R D Sherriff (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr A F Chaplin
Cllr Mrs L D Evans
Cllr A J Harris
Cllr D J Hayward
Cllr Mrs C E Henkus
Cllr A L Jones
Cllr Mrs M P Lewis
Cllr H L Riddell
Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt
Cllr G Turner

Town Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: County Cllr Mrs C Channon, District Cllr A J Dent, District Cllr P M Jarvis and District Cllr T D Wright

20.216 Public Speaking Time

No Members of the public wished to speak.

20.217 Apologies for Absence

None, all Members being present.

20.218 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

- Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar declared a personal interest in Min 20.227 – he is the Town Council's representative on the group
- Cllr Mrs L D Evans also declared a personal interest in Min 20.227 – she is the Deputy Chairman of group
- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis declared a personal interest in Min 20.226 – she is the Town Council's representative on the group

20.219 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held online via Zoom on 14 December 2020 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

20.220 Reports of Committees

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- The Public Hall Committee held on 11 January 2021
- The Emergency Group held on 11 January 2021

20.221 Chairman's Report

The Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar advised that he had nothing to report.

20.222 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- Work on the Public Hall and Norman Centre was progressing well. The main lounge in the Norman Centre had been decorated with just a few bits of filling to complete. In the Public Hall, the plastering was completed and the carpenter had the last bits of boxing to finish after which the plumber and electrician could make a start.
- Before Christmas she had forwarded the Grant Funding Agreement for the Grant to the Budleigh Community Workshop Trust to the Council's solicitor for checking but had not heard anything since. She would chase him up and also send an update to the Trust.
- She read out an email from Devon County Council (DCC) advising that the damaged railings in Fore Street would hopefully be replaced at the end of February.

20.223 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

Exmouth Local Action Group

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis advised that this Group had been stood down for the duration of the current lockdown.

Budleigh Salterton Covid Support Group

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis reported that the Group was meeting weekly. The Medical Centre had reported that the vaccination programme was going well with no major problems. Cllr Lewis said the staff and volunteers should be thanked for their tireless work. The biggest concern was, once vaccinated, people thought they did not have to observe social distancing guidelines. The group was still supporting the town's families, but the funds were running low.

20.224 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs C Channon reported:

- A lot of highways issues, which had been ongoing for some time, had now been dealt with. During the last week, even during Storm Christoph, West Hill and part of Exmouth Road had been resurfaced along with Saltings Hill and the area outside the Public Hall. She was pleased that only one criticism had been received, relating to lack of access to Westbourne Terrace. Bedlands Lane and Northview Road would be surfaced dressed in the forthcoming week.
- A lot of comments had been received about the resurfacing of the cycle path to Exmouth – walkers were unhappy that cyclists were able to go faster, and cyclists were unhappy that there were more walkers using the path!
- She was concerned that the 30mph limit on B3178 had not been moved to include Evans Field but she had spoken to the relevant officer and hoped this would soon be sorted out.
- She thanked The Hub for helping transport numerous residents to the Exmouth Tennis Centre for their Covid vaccinations.

Cllr Mrs L D Evans commented on the pothole on Coastguard Road and one at Liverton Dip.

The Clerk advised that both of these had been reported via the Devon County Council website reporting page.

District Councillors

District Cllr A J Dent reported:

- The Planning application for the Lower Otter Restoration Project had been approved with a number of conditions imposed. He had met with the Environment Agency and residents of Frogmore Road in East Budleigh and hoped that their concerns had been allayed.
- Pooh Cottage had applied for year-round occupancy but he was pleased that no caravan could be occupied for more than 60 days in a row.
- He was meeting with LED to discuss the financial worries that the group was encountering. He said that all leisure facilities were facing financial difficulties and he was not sure how they would be able to continue because of lack of use.
- With regard to the Cycle Path to Exmouth, he had contacted Cllr S Hughes to see if it was possible for the path to be divided for walkers and cyclists.
- The dog poo bin at Bear Lane had been damaged but this had been reported and should be repaired soon.
- The Nightingale Hospital in Exeter was being filled with patients from Dorset and Somerset. He understood the patients were being very well looked after but the building was very cold resulting in a call for shawls and blankets!

District Cllr P M Jarvis reported

- He was a member of the Poverty Working Panel and whilst he commended the Job Centre and Council for their work, there were a lot of residents (especially those who worked in shops) who were currently furloughed and if the scheme did not continue would find themselves in real financial difficulty. He asked Members to keep an “ear to the ground” and pass them on to the Support groups.

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis reiterated what Cllr Jarvis had said. She added that the Budleigh Salterton Covid Support Group was concerned that residents were not asking for help until it was too late. She said the system was very respectful and was not just for families, it was for any resident to access. She said that Devon Communities Together had been asked to look out for small businesses which may be struggling – support was available (although not financial).

District Cllr P M Jarvis added that whilst families were important, there were a lot of single residents working in the town who may be struggling and they should not be forgotten.

District Cllr T D Wright reported:

- He felt the work to alter South Farm Road could not come quickly enough for the people who lived and worked on that side of the river, especially after another flood this past week.
- He still sat on the Waste & Recycling Board and wanted to pass on apologies for the recent disruptions with collections. The biggest reason was the reallocation of collection rounds, which had meant crews on routes they did not know very well. There had been a huge amount of recycling over the Christmas period, nearly double the usual amount in some places! He hoped that things should now be getting back to normal.

20.225 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of January 2021, in accordance with Appendix A, were approved.
- (ii) It was noted that the Chairman of the Finance Committee had not been able to carry out the internal finance inspection for December 2020 due to the current Lockdown restrictions.

20.226 Request for Grant Aid 2020/21: Budleigh Salterton Covid-19 Support

(i) Consideration was given to making an additional donation to the Support Group.

Resolved: A donation will be made.

(ii) Consideration was then given to the amount of the donation. Cllr Mrs M P Lewis and the Clerk updated Members on the Group's current financial status. After some discussion it was

Resolved: A donation of £2000 will be made. It was further agreed that the Finance Committee will meet on 8 February to discuss the Grants budget for 2021/22 and what the Council's expenditure is likely to be in next few months.

20.227 Request for Grant Aid 2021/22: Exmouth & District Community Transport Group

(i) Consideration was given to making a donation to the Group.

Resolved: A donation will be made.

(ii) Consideration was then given to the amount of the donation.

Resolved: A donation of £1500 will be made, split between the Community Bus and Ring & Ride.

20.228 Emergency Group

The co-option of Cllr A J Harris on to the Committee was approved.

20.229 Otter Valley Association: Wildflower Planting

A letter from the Chairman, regarding a Grant which is available for wildflower planting, was received and considered.

Resolved: This Council does not wish to take up the offer of a Grant and it was felt the Group should be asked if they would consider donating any funds to the Budleigh Salterton Covid Support Group.

20.230 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

No other business was raised.

20.231 Correspondence Received

- Royal British Legion Budleigh Salterton Branch: Letter of thanks for donation
- The Clerk: November 2020 and January 2021
- Clerks & Councils Direct: November 2020 and January 2021
- Allotment & Leisure Gardener: Issue 4 2020

20.232 Dates of Next Meetings

All Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice:

Planning Committee:	8 February 2021 at 7.00pm
Community Gardens Committee:	8 February 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Finance	8 February 2021 on rising of Community Gardens Committee
Planning Committee:	22 February 2021 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	22 February 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

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Chairman

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Date