

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held online via Zoom on Monday 22 February 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.05pm.

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 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, District Cllr T D Wright and one member of the public

20.269 Public Speaking Time

No Members of the public wished to speak.

20.270 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs C E Henkus (work commitments).

20.271 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No interests were declared.

20.272 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 25 January 2021 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

20.273 Reports of Committees

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- The Community Gardens Committee held on 8 February 2021
- The Finance Committee held on 8 February 2021
- Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group held on 19 January 2021

20.274 Chairman's Report

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

20.275 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- Work in the Public Hall was progressing well and the new foyer doors were now installed.
- East Devon District Council (EDDC) Engineers would be carrying out the annual cliff inspection on 1 March under the supervision of the consulting Engineering Geologist.

20.276 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

No reports were received.

20.277 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

Mrs J E Vanstone read County Cllr Mrs C Channon's report:

- At the budget meeting held on 18 February, Devon County Council (DCC) had agreed an increase in Council Tax of 4.99%; this included an increase of 3% for the social care precept. Adult Care and Health would receive increased funding of £21435 and Children's Services an additional £11398. The final settlement came in rather higher than expected and this money would be spent on gully and highway maintenance. The Covid-19 funding Grant is £14823.
- The resurfacing of Northview Road, which did not take place in January due to the wet weather, will now take place at the beginning of March.
- She was grateful to Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Services, the Cabinet member for Communities and EDDC Streetscene and Environmental Health Officers of EDDC for all the help and support they recently gave when two properties in The Lawn lost their roofing in the gales. The tenants had been found temporary accommodation whilst repairs were carried out.

District Councillors

District Cllr A J Dent said he was delighted with the improvement of road surfaces around the town following the recent resurfacing programme!

District Cllr P M Jarvis advised at the recent meeting of the Poverty Working Panel, members had received a presentation from Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) East Devon. He explained that he used to sit on the CAB board when a councillor in Plymouth and he was interested to hear how CAB East Devon dealt with issues in a rural area. He said the new CEO was extremely switched on and it was obvious, listening to him, that he enjoyed his job. It was anticipated that there would be a lot of redundancies in the near future and CAB was prepared to assist. Cllr Jarvis said that councillors should feel safe to direct anyone to them and that he was proud of CAB in East Devon.

District Cllr T D Wright advised that he did not have anything significant to report. The full Council would be meeting to set its budget on 24 February 2021.

20.278 Finance Inspection

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

20.279 Remote Meetings

The impact of the current regulations, which allow for remote meetings, coming to an end on 7 May 2021, was discussed.

Consideration was given to what action, if any, this Council should take to overcome any potential problems in returning to face-to-face meetings.

Resolved: The Clerk will write Simon Jupp MP to request that an extension to the current legislation be considered by Parliament. Any other decisions with regard to face-to-face meetings will be deferred to a future Town Council meeting.

20.280 East Devon Local Plan 2021-2040

The Consultation Document was received and considered and it was

Resolved: The following comments will be forwarded to EDDC:

- There is no provision for new nursing homes or hospitals
- Whilst the provision of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points is mentioned, there are no specific suggestions to locate charging points in any of the district council's car parks
- There is concern that there is no mention of changes to infrastructure to cope with the increase in houses, particularly in the western end of the district where routes into Exeter are already severely congested
- There are concerns that the amount of planned development in the district will have an adverse impact on the Areas of Outstanding Beauty
- Members were pleased to see that sustainable transport is being promoted

There was also mention of the installation of an EV charging point at the town's Football Club; the Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar suggested that the Club committee responded to the plan independently.

Cllr H L Riddell left the meeting.

20.281 Climate Emergency

The Town Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and established a small working group to identify ways in which the Council would respond. The Covid-19 pandemic meant a halt to the work and plans in 2020.

Consideration was given to how this Council can take forward responses to climate change across all aspects of Council responsibilities.

Resolved: The Town Council will continue to consider Climate Change when making decisions and involve the community. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with the contact at St Peter's School who is keen to inform the Council of ideas the school children have.

20.282 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

- Cllr D J Hayward commented on the letter from EDDC regarding Empty Homes Week.
- Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt asked if there was any update on the Grant Funding Agreement for the grant to the Budleigh Community Workshop Trust. The Clerk advised that she had now heard from the Council's solicitor and would be responding to the Trust in due course.
- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis asked if there was any news on the footpath to the Evans Field development. District Cllr A J Dent said he had had a response from District Planners who were in contact with the developer and their solicitors. Cllr Hayward suggested that a private contractor could install a footpath for £100/metre. Cllr Mrs Channon added that any footpath must be of a certain standard and if not, DCC would not adopt it and therefore the Town Council would be responsible for it. Further discussion took place and it was agreed that both County and District officers must be encouraged to keep pressing the developer to install the footpath and lighting.

20.283 Correspondence Received

- St Peter's School: copy of the letter from the Head Teacher to Devon County Council regarding the lack of pathway to Evans Field
- OVA: response from the Hon Secretary regarding suggested grant to Budleigh Salterton Covid-19 Support
- Devon Association of Local Councils: Minutes of Meeting held on 11 February 2021
- Allotment & Leisure Gardener: Issue 1 2021
- Devon County Council: Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Halse Hill: 1-2 March 2021

20.284 Dates of Next Meetings

All Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice:

Planning Committee:	8 March 2021 at 7.00pm
Foreshore & Footpaths Committee:	8 March 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Planning Committee:	29 March 2021 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	29 March 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.22pm.

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Chairman

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Date