

## **BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Town Council held online via Zoom on Monday 26 April 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 H L Riddell  
Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt  
Cllr G Turner

**Town Clerk:** Mrs J E Vanstone

**Others Present:** District Cllr A J Dent, District Cllr T D Wright and one member of the public

### **20.354 Public Speaking Time**

No members of the public wished to speak.

### **20.355 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from County Cllr Mrs C Channon and District Cllr P M Jarvis.

### **20.356 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda**

- Cllr D J Hayward declared a personal interest in Min 20.366 – he is the Town Council's representative on the Museum

### **20.357 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 29 March 2021 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

### **20.358 Reports of Committees**

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held on 29 March 2021
- the Finance Committee held on 12 April 2021
- the Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group held on 23 March 2021

### **20.359 Retiring Chairman's Report**

The Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar said he did not have a lot to report. He had carried out his last presentation of Book Track awards, giving book tokens to two boys who had both read 100 books.

He thanked everyone for their support during his term of office. He had enjoyed his time as Town Mayor albeit in unusual circumstances. He said it was now time for someone else to take the reins.

### **20.360 Clerk's Report**

Mrs J E Vanstone reported that the repairs to the Public Hall were now complete. A blood donating session had been held in the Hall the previous Friday and the County Council and Police & Crime Commissioner Elections would be held there on 6 May. From 17 May, all being well, it would be business as usual. She was also pleased to advise that new bookings were coming in for the Norman Centre.

### **20.361 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies**

#### Budleigh Salterton Nursing Association

Cllr A L Jones reported that he was pleased former Councillor Chris Kitson was still working for the community; Mr Kitson had recently approached the Association for some equipment for a resident.

#### Budleigh in Bloom

Cllr Mrs L D Evans advised that the planters outside the Public Hall would be planted up on 11 June. She asked for help emptying them beforehand, as she was unable to do this on her own.

### **20.362 Reports of County and District Councillors**

#### District Councillors

District Cllr A J Dent reported:

- He and District Cllr T D Wright had argued the case for keeping the Information Centre (IC) beach huts. He said East Devon District Council (EDDC) wished to change over the short term lets to long term lets. He and Cllr Wright had explained that the IC needed the income from short term beach hut lets following the withdrawal of the EDDC grant; this was an important element of the whole tourist economy for the town. They had convinced the Committee, by nine votes to four, that this was a good thing and he was pleased the huts would be available for this year; he was hopeful that, provided they were fully let this season, he and his fellow Ward Members would be able to argue the case again next year.
- The annual Council Plan was being re-written by the current administration and four member workshops were being held, to provide a balanced view. He wondered who read the document and felt it was probably only officers and district councillors but it was an important background document. Two of the four workshops had been held so far.
- He was pleased that LED, which had been closed for nearly a year, had partially re-opened with more classes set to return on 17 May. It had been a massive financial burden, underwritten by EDDC until March 2022. He added that District Council finances were at a perilous stage.
- He was interested in the agenda items on BT telephone boxes and the District Council toilets in the Lower Station Road Car Park.

District Cllr T D Wright reported:

- He wanted to add to Cllr Dent's report on beach huts. He said the huts, which were well-constructed, had been stored well over the winter and he questioned the suggestion they needed replacing. He reiterated that the IC needed to let all of them this year, otherwise he and his fellow district councillors would not have a case to keep them in the future.
- He did not think the Council Plan had been well-designed but service leads used it to come up with plans as to how they thought they could operate in the future.

### 20.363 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of April 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 March 2021 due to the current Lockdown.

Cllr Mrs L D Evans asked when the Chairman of the Finance Committee might be able to carry out the inspections, as the auditor might not be too happy if this situation continued much longer.

Cllr D J Hayward said he would do this as soon as he was allowed to enter the offices. The Clerk confirmed, contrary to his opinion, he had not been “banned” from attending the offices!

Mrs J E Vanstone confirmed that the total paid to Cllr M C Hilliar as Chairman’s Allowance during his term of office was just £215.

### 20.364 Requests for Grant Aid

The following documents, which will be used when considering future applications for Grant Funding, had been circulated prior to the Meeting:

- Application Checklist (*for internal use only*)
- Terms and Conditions (*to appear on the Council’s website*)

It was

**Resolved:** Both documents were adopted.

### 20.365 Fore Street Hill: Junction with East Budleigh Road and Coastguard Road

Suggestions for the improvement of the bollard at this junction were received and considered. Cllr A L Jones confirmed that the Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group had looked at one proposal but wondered whether something with less maintenance would be better. After further discussion it was

**Resolved:** Alternative, low-maintenance ideas should be presented to the Traffic Group for discussion at a future meeting and once a design had been agreed, it will be presented to the Town Council for approval.

### 20.366 Request for Grant Aid 2021/22: Fairlynch Arts Centre & Museum

- (i) Consideration was given to making a donation towards the publication of a book on the life and work of Joyce Dennys.

**Resolved:** A donation will be made.

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

**Resolved:** A donation of £100 will be made. This Council is supportive of the project but feel its finances could be better used elsewhere.

Cllr Mrs L D Evans asked that it be pointed out that the name of one of the contributors be corrected to Dolling, rather than Dollery.

### 20.367 BT: Payphone Removal

Details of the proposed removal of the payphones at Rolle Mews Car Park and Marine Parade, were received and considered. It was

**Resolved:** The box at the Rolle Mews Car Park could be removed, but Members felt the one on Marine Parade was vital for safety reasons and should be retained. Members added that if a community group wished to adopt the box at Rolle Mews, then they would support such an application.

**20.368 East Devon District Council: Closure of Public Conveniences**

Details of the proposed closure of the public conveniences in the Lower Station Road Car Park were received and noted.

Consideration was then given to the suggestion that this Council should fund the cost of supplying an operative to carry out the cleaning at a cost of approximately £5900. After lengthy discussion it was

**Resolved:** This Council will not fund this cleaning. The Clerk will contact EDDC and ask if it is possible to keep two cubicles open (to include one disabled cubicle) and, once known, this information will be included on a future Council agenda.

**20.369 Rural Market Towns Group**

Consideration was given to joining the Group at a cost of £130 per annum. It was

**Resolved:** This Council will not join the Group, as Members felt there was little to be gained from such membership.

**20.370 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion**

- Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt thanked the Clerk for recently showing her around the Public Hall. She thought it looked fantastic and she thanked Mrs Vanstone, the Caretaker, Steve Moore, and all involved with the refurbishment. She thought it was worth every penny spent.
- Mrs J E Vanstone thanked Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt for her comments which had reminded her to update everyone on the caretaker’s recovery following his recent operation. She said he was doing very well and had actually visited her the previous week.

**20.371 Correspondence Received**

- Devon County Council: Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic & Parking
  - Halse Hill – 2-3 August 2021
  - Little Knowle – 4-5 August 2021

Cllr Mrs L D Evans asked why these road closures had been submitted. Mrs Vanstone advised that it was to enable Kier to clean the sewer pipes on behalf of South West Water.

**20.372 Dates of Next Meetings**

All Meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice:

Annual Meeting of the Town Council:	4 May 2021 at 7.00pm
Planning Committee:	4 May 2021 on the rising of the Town Council
Town Council:	4 May 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee

The Town Mayor reminded Members that the Annual Town Meeting would be held online via Zoom the following evening at 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.17pm.

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Chairman

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Date