

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Public Hall, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 26 July 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.20pm.

PRESENT

Cllr R D Sherriff (Town Mayor)
Cllr M C Hilliar (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr A F Chaplin
Cllr A J Harris
Cllr D J Hayward
Cllr A L Jones
Cllr Mrs M P Lewis
Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt

Town Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: County Cllr Mrs C Channon and four members of the public

21.090 Public Speaking Time

No Members of the public wished to speak.

21.091 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs L D Evans (family commitments), District Cllr A J Dent, District Cllr P M Jarvis and District Cllr T D Wright.

21.092 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No interests were declared.

21.093 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 28 June 2021 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

21.094 Chairman's Report

The Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff reported:

- He had helped with the recent litter picks on The Green and Beach which had been organised by St Peter's School and the Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton. Not a huge amount of litter had been collected but it was good to get the children aware of issues from an early age.
- Eighteen months ago a resident had fenced off part of the amenity walk backing on to Honey Park Road. After some time, and persistence from a former councillor, the Town Clerk and her assistant, it had been removed!
- He had met with Marc Jobson and Bill McDermott from the Budleigh Community Workshop (BCW) to discuss a joint community project to re-stain the benches along the seafront. Members would remember that a local resident was carrying out this work but due to other commitments he was unable to continue this work. The work would be carried out by Launchpad working under supervision of the BCW. It was hoped they would be able to start in August with the Town Council providing the materials. He said he would like to pay Launchpad for their work and felt it was an opportunity for them to earn some money and contribute something to the town.
Cllr Mrs M P Lewis said this was a great idea and asked if the cost would be agreed by the Town Council.

Cllr Sherriff confirmed that he had passed on some leftover materials to BCW. He explained that BCW were not sure how much time it would take to complete each bench and payment might be per bench or per hour. Once this information was known, it would be put to the Town Council for discussion.

- He had attended the inaugural meeting of Lower Otter Restoration Project (LORP) Liaison Group as the Town Council representative. District Cllr T D Wright had been elected Chairman. He explained that the primary purpose of the group was to keep the community updated with the project. He said that if a Member was approached by someone with queries or concerns about the project, they should contact either him or District Cllr T D Wright. He then explained that, for the time being, parking had been prohibited along South Farm Road and he knew there would be concerns about the lack of parking and the impact on Granary Lane and adjoining roads.

There was some discussion on the pros and cons of prohibiting parking along South Farm Road and the effects on neighbouring roads. County Cllr Mrs C Channon asked if the Clerk could chase up the installation of two Traffic Orders for Granary Lane.

21.095 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- The 'No Cycling' stencil had finally been found and these markings had now been painted on the seafront. She said that additional worded signage would be provided to back up the visual signs on the lamp posts.
- Following a discussion with the Town Mayor, she had added two Zoom meetings for 16 August – Emergency Group at 6.30pm followed by Climate Change Group at 7.30pm.
- She had been contacted by the Devon County Council regarding the review of Public Rights of Way in the parish. A Public Meeting would be held in the Public Hall on 1 September and she would forward information to Members and arrange for posters to be put up around the town.

21.096 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

Budleigh Salterton Nursing Association

Cllr A L Jones reported that the Association had been able to help two ill local gentlemen with items to make their lives a little easier. He reminded Members that if they became aware of anyone needing assistance, to let him know and the Association would do its best to help.

Budleigh Salterton Covid Support

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis advised that the Group had been stood down but with 20 new cases in the town in the last week she thought it might not be too long before it started up again, adding that that would not be a difficult process.

Friends of Budleigh Salterton Library

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis reported that the Friends were organising a book sale on the seafront on August Bank Holiday Monday. She said that if anyone had any fiction books, they should contact the library who would put them in touch with the person storing the books.

Exmouth & District Community Transport Group

Cllr M C Hilliar reported that the Group had brought in a new timetable and whilst numbers were still limited, there was a return to lunch trips, outings and shopping trips. All staff were back in the office, but the group was looking for volunteer drivers. One of the buses had been damaged slightly but this would be repaired soon. Group funds had been bolstered by an anonymous donation.

21.097 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs C Channon reported:

- At long last the wall on Chapel Hill (Dial House) had been dismantled and she hoped it would not be long before it was reinstated. She had been contacted by a resident who wondered who would be paying for the work and she had confirmed that it was being paid for by the house owner and not Devon County Council (DCC).
- She had some concerns about the number of weeds growing on the edge of kerbs around the town. Cleaning of footpaths was East Devon District Council (EDDC) responsibility and not DCC – she felt the brushes which were used by EDDC did not clear out the seedlings. This was leading to quite large, unsightly weeds growing in the pavements which then prevented rainwater from going down the drains. She would be drawing up a list and if it is not too much of a job, would happily make a contribution from her locality budget.
- She had been approached by someone who has a mobility scooter and was concerned that there were several places in the town with no dropped kerbs. When it was convenient, she would go along the High Street with this resident to find out which areas were the worse. She and Cllr Mrs M P Lewis had met with another resident to see how the pavements could be improved to facilitate easier travel from Moormead to Seachange and that solution will be going to the Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group for discussion.
- At a site visit with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO), she had spoken to someone who was working on a building project in Northview Road and had asked when they will be finished so that the road could finally be resurfaced there! She added that there was no point in doing that work before then.
Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt asked if South Farm Road was an adopted highway. County Cllr Mrs C Channon confirmed that it was as far as South Bridge when it then became Clinton Devon Estates' responsibility.
Cllr Mrs Sismore-Hunt added that the roadway was in poor condition.
Cllr Mrs Channon said part of the LORP was to raise the road and install a new bridge which should improve the road surface.
Cllr Mrs M P Lewis advised that there were a lot of road signs on the pavement at West Hill and asked if they should be in the road.
Cllr Mrs Channon said they should not be on the pavement and asked the Clerk to report that to the NHO.

21.098 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of July 2021, in accordance with Appendix A, were approved.
- (ii) It was noted that the Chairman of the Finance Committee had not carried out the internal finance inspection for June 2021 but he hoped to do this during the forthcoming week.

21.099 Councillor Vacancies

It was agreed that the following applicants were to be co-opted on to the Town Council:

- Sarah Ayres
- Richard Doorbar
- Dave Tate

Cllr A L Jones thought it would be appropriate if, at the next meeting, the existing councillors introduced themselves to the new councillors (and vice versa).

21.100 Public Hall: Replacement Lighting

The expenditure for replacement lighting in the Council Offices and Public Hall was approved.

The Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff explained that only one quotation had been obtained as Bagwells were the Council's main electrical contractors. To maintain openness and transparency, the Clerk was asked to obtain three quotations for all future projects.

County Cllr Mrs C Channon left the meeting.

21.101 East Devon District Council: The Green – Grass Cutting/Rewilding

The Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff reported on a meeting with East Devon District Council StreetScene officers:

- Following receipt of comments/complaints from residents regarding the state of The Green, he and the Clerk had met with Tom Wood and Lorna Christo to discuss the rewilding programme.
- He had contacted the Otter Valley Association and Budleigh in Bloom, asking for their views on the programme – these responses had been received and forwarded to all Members.
- He explained the officers had agreed that some areas looked unkempt and would be arranging for these areas to be cut.
- All rewilded areas would be cut in September.

He proposed that the Climate Change group discussed this matter at a meeting to be held on 16 August and proposals for 2022 be brought to the Town Council meeting on 23 August.

He would then convene a meeting with all interested parties in September.

21.102 The Green: Commemorative Trees

Mrs J E Vanstone updated Members on the proposal to plant three commemorative trees on The Green.

- As the Chairman had already reported, she and he had met with officers from East Devon District Council to discuss the rewilded areas on The Green. While the officers were in the town she thought it opportune to mention the Council's plans to plant three commemorative trees and had asked them if they could suggest a suitable location.
- Suitable species had been discussed and they advised that any native tree would be ideal for carbon capture. They had also suggested that the Council looked at the website for the Queen's Green Canopy which is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee". The number of trees on offer was 30 which was a few more than the Council was planning!
- At a recent meeting of the Covid Support Group, Cllr Mrs Lewis had mentioned the plan and an idea was mooted to make the spot an area for contemplation by including an L Shaped bench. Mrs Vanstone explained that she had contacted Steve Hitchcock, the Head Teacher at St Peter's School, to see if the School would like to be involved in the scheme. She would be speaking to him at the start of the new term about an idea to install benches alongside the trees.
- She and Cllr A F Chaplin were going to take a walk around the Green when she would show him the area suggested by the EDDC officers. She added that the officers thought the idea of adding a couple of benches was a good one. Benches might be available via a scheme currently being run by EDDC which uses government funding "to promote a safe public environment for a local area's visitor economy".

21.103 Council Meetings

The frequency and venue of meetings for the remainder of 2021 was discussed. It was

Resolved: The Town Council will continue to meet in the Public Hall on a monthly basis with planning applications received out of time being deliberated under delegated powers.

There was further discussion about the difficulty in hearing one another and the Clerk was asked to investigate the possibility of adding microphones to the existing sound system.

21.104 Survey Monkey

Consideration was given to renewing the subscription to this service at a cost of £384 per annum. It was

Resolved: This subscription will not be renewed.

21.105 Correspondence Received

- The Clerk: July 2021
- Clerks & Councils Direct: July 2021

21.106 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt asked if Budleigh in Bloom had managed to find someone to water the troughs as the troughs at the War Memorial were looking a bit tired.
The Clerk advised that the Group had not found anyone. It was suggested that Seachange might be able to assist and the Clerk will speak to Mr Jobson.
- The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar advised that there was a sunken slab on the footway between Moorhaven and Greenway Lane.
- Cllr Hilliar also advised that he and a group of Moorhead residents might be interested in adopting a part of The Green with a view to rewilding it.
- Cllr Hilliar wondered if any trees leftover from those available through the Queen’s Green Canopy could be used at Lime Kiln to replace those being lost by the Lower Otter Restoration Project.

21.107 Dates of Next Meetings

Emergency Group:	16 August 2021 at 6.30pm
Climate Change Group:	16 August 2021 at 7.30pm
Planning Committee:	23 August 2021 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	23 August 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.32pm.

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Chairman

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Date