

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Public Hall, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 23 August 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.03pm.

PRESENT

Cllr R D Sherriff (Town Mayor)
Cllr M C Hilliar (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr Mrs S J Ayres
Cllr R J Doorbar
Cllr Mrs L D Evans
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: District Cllr A J Dent, District Cllr P M Jarvis and one member of the public

21.132 Public Speaking Time

No Members of the public wished to speak.

21.133 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A F Chaplin (holiday), Cllr A J Harris (holiday), Cllr D Tate (holiday), County Cllr Mrs C Channon and District Cllr T D Wright.

21.134 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No interests were declared.

21.135 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 26 July 2021 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

21.136 Reports of Committees

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- Emergency Group held on 16 August 2021
- Climate Change Group held on 16 August 2021

21.137 Chairman's Report

The Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff had nothing to report.

21.138 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reminded those present of the Public Meeting to be held in the Public Hall on 1 September at which an officer would be giving details of Devon County Council's Review of the Public Rights of Way in Budleigh Salterton. The meeting would start at 7.00pm.

21.139 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

No reports were made.

21.140 Reports of County and District Councillors

District Councillors

District Cllr A J Dent reported

- There would be no face-to-face meetings until January 2022 at the earliest. He said he was not happy with the decision and enjoyed attending council meetings and seeing people!
- A severe shortage of drivers, as well as sickness and holidays, was impacting on the recycling collections and the issue would continue for the foreseeable future. Residents were asked to leave out their recycling for four days if it had not been collected. He said that everyone must be sensible regarding food waste and if necessary, store it safely until it was collected.
- He expected that all Members were aware of the current review of public toilets which would continue until 1 October. He explained to keep all the district's public toilets open and brought up to standard, would require investment of approximately £3.15m. The Review was a potential for communities to suggest alternative uses of the buildings housing the toilets. He asked that as many people as possible should respond to the consultation and tell East Devon District Council (EDDC) their ideas. He said it was vital to comment.
Cllr Mrs M P Lewis asked how residents without internet access could respond. Mrs J E Vanstone said she would obtain some paper copies and take them to the library and Information Centre.

District Cllr P M Jarvis reiterated what Cllr Dent had said regarding the problems with the recycling services. He said this was a national problem, not just restricted to East Devon.

He also added that when responding to the Public Toilet Review, residents should think of the District Council area as a whole and not just concentrate on Budleigh Salterton. People with hidden disabilities should also be considered.

County Councillor

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

- She had been down the High Street and inspected the drains. The ones on the South side of the street were the most choked and definitely needed cleaning. They were due to be done as part of the three-year schedule but it was not possible to close the road until at least the end of the school holidays, as there would be absolute chaos in the town. The flooding in Fore Street had not been caused by over-blocked drains but a burst water pipe which South West Water (SWW) were now dealing with. The Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) was well aware of the condition of the High Street drains.
- She and the NHO had visited Boucher Road to look at the manhole cover surrounded by traffic cones and had spoken with the owner of a nearby property. She said that the manhole belonged to SWW and it had a small hole into the drain beside it. It has, apparently, been like this for over two years. The NHO will contact SWW.
- She had contacted Simon Jupp MP regarding the impassive situation between Sunningdale Property Developers and Devon County Council (DCC) regarding the lack of footpath and streetlights to the new development at Evans Field. Mr Jupp was prepared to take this up with Sunningdale Developments and see if the contract could soon be signed. In the meantime, she asked if the local handyman could be asked to cut back the brambles overgrowing the path.

- She had received a good number of complaints about The Green. She thought it looked an awful mess and was no advert for the town. Most of the complaints had come from parents commenting that dog owners cannot easily see and pick up dog mess from these overgrown areas and that when children play in this area, they get covered in dog mess which is a health hazard. She had been in the Information Centre and had spoken to the Chairman of Budleigh in Bloom who had told her that the rewilding was causing weeds to grow in the flower beds. Volunteers were of the opinion that there seemed little point in trying to make the beds attractive against a background of overgrown grass and weeds. She had also advised that the soil was too rich for many wildflowers. Cllr Mrs Channon was in favour of rewilding but not in an area which was intended to be a leisure area for the community. She would like to see the part of The Green which runs alongside Station Road to be cut as it used to be.
- She asked that the town handyman remove the weeds along the gutters at the top of Chapel Street and Chapel Hill and also cut back the nettles at the junction of Cricket Field Lane and Upper Stoneborough Lane. DCC had cut the grass verge there but not removed the nettles which were overgrowing the footpath and causing visibility problems and probably stinging a few bare legs!
- She and the NHO had met with Cllr Mrs M P Lewis and carried out a site visit at the junction of Upper Stoneborough Lane and East Budleigh Road. They had agreed that it would be possible to make a dropped kerb in this area and had marked it out. The NHO was now looking into how such a project might be funded. She thought this would be valuable asset for both people who drive mobility scooters, use mobility wheelies, or have pushchairs.

21.141 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of August 2021, in accordance with Appendix A, were approved.
- (ii) It was noted that the Chairman of the Finance Committee had carried out the internal finance inspection for July 2021.

21.142 Audit 2020/21

Consideration was given to the approving the change to the Box 3 and Box 7 figures for Year Ended 31 March 2020.

The Clerk explained that this was due to the Council changing from a Receipts & Payments to Income & Expenditure system of accounting and the difference was the total of the previous year's closing debtors (£2777.77). It was

Resolved: The restated Box 3 and Box 7 figures for Year Ended 31 March 2020, following communication from the External Auditor, were approved.

21.143 Staffing: Clerk's Hours

Consideration was given to the suggestion that, from 13 September 2021, the Clerk will be paid overtime as and when required, until such time as a new assistant is in post and comfortable with their duties.

The Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff advised that the Clerical Assistant was leaving on 10 September and her replacement might not be in post until the end of October. It was

Resolved: Overtime will be paid as required.

21.144 Disused Lamp Posts/Bollards: Repainting

Consideration was given to a quotation to paint five disused lamp posts/bollards at various locations around the town.

The Clerk had contacted three companies but had only received one quotation. It was

Resolved: The quotation from P & P Decorators should be accepted.

21.145 Committee Membership

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt be appointed to the Emergency Group in place of Cllr Mrs L D Evans who will step down.

21.146 S.106 Funds

Consideration was given to the suggestion that £22365.99 of funds allocated for play in the town can be used for the East Devon District Council project to update the Play Area in Greenway Lane.

21.147 The Green: Rewilding Project

A report from the Climate Change Group, regarding the East Devon District Council project to rewild sections of The Green, was received.

After some discussion the Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff suggested that each councillor take a plan of The Green and mark which area(s) should be rewilded. He asked they return them to the Clerk by the end of the month who will then collate the responses.

21.148 East Devon District Council: Welcome Back Fund – Application for Funding

Consideration was given to the completion of the Expression of Interest form for Funding for Commemorative Trees and Rustic Benches on The Green.

After lengthy discussion it was

Resolved: The following items will be requested on the Expression of Interest form:

- 3 trees
- 2 pembridge picnic benches
- 2 planters for seafront
- 5 rustic benches

21.149 COP26 Green Ambassadors Programme

Consideration was given to which resident/organisation should be nominated as a Green Ambassador. It was

Resolved: The following will be nominated:

- The Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton for their litter-picking work during lockdown
- St Peter's School and their climate change projects

21.150 Town Council Facebook Page

Consideration was given to creating a Town Council Facebook Page. It was

Resolved: A page will be created and run by the Town Clerk. It was also agreed that there should be at least two moderators to ensure there are no inappropriate posts.

21.151 Correspondence Received

- Otter Valley Association: Summer 2021
- Devon County Council: Temporary Prohibition of Traffic – Stoneborough Lane: 15-19 November 2021
- Allotment & Leisure Gardener: Issue 3 2021

21.152 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

- The Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff asked the new councillors to consider which of the various committees they would like to sit on and to contact the Clerk with their requests. He wondered whether other councillors might think it was time to make a change of committee.
- Cllr Sherriff then advised that as part of the Lower Otter Restoration Project, the western footpath, running under the Granary Lane cliff from the Cricket Club to South Farm Road, would be closed from 1 September for the foreseeable future.

- Cllr Mrs L D Evans wondered how long the restrictions would be in place on Knowle Hill.
The Clerk said she had not been informed of any restrictions and was therefore unable to answer that question but would endeavour to find out.
- Cllr R J Doorbar said he was pleased the door had been opened for the meeting. He felt it was a good idea as Covid was still present and there was some nervousness amongst residents.
- Cllr M C Hilliar asked if it was possible for EDDC StreetScene to look at the pavement in Moorhaven.
District Cllr A J Dent said an officer had visited Moorhaven and agreed the work should be undertaken as soon as possible. Cllr Dent added that he wondered why the work had not been carried out earlier.
- Cllr Mrs Evans also asked what progress had been made regarding the yellow line which had been painted on the seafront near the fishermen's area.
Cllr Sherriff said that there was no funding to create a lip but asked if the problem could be discussed by the Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group.

21.153 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning Committee:

27 September 2021 at 7.00pm

Town Council:

27 September 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.27pm.

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Chairman

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Date