

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Public Hall, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 27 September 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.07pm.

PRESENT

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

Town Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: County Cllr Mrs C Channon, District Cllr T D Wright and two members of the public

21.162 Public Speaking Time

A resident advised that he had previously asked when the bridge across the amenity walk in Upper Stoneborough Lane might be repainted and refurbished. No work had been carried out and he wondered when the work might be started.

District Cllr T D Wright advised that this had been on a list of possible projects when he had been the Environment Portfolio Holder. At that time, he had suggested that the bridge be removed and a lower one put in its place which would enable easier access for disabled users etc. He said this had not been forgotten but was currently on the back burner. He thanked the resident for reminding him and he said he would write to relevant officer to see if this project could be resurrected.

One member of the public left the Meeting.

21.163 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from District Cllr A J Dent and District Cllr P M Jarvis.

21.164 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

- Cllr M C Hilliar declared a personal interest in Min 21.175 – he is one of the candidates
- Cllr Mrs L D Evans declared a personal interest in Min 21.173 – she is the Town Council representative on the group. She reserved the right to speak on the item.

21.165 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 23 August 2021 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

21.166 Chairman's Report

The Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff reported:

- The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar had recently stood in for him at a Book Track award presentation at Budleigh Library and he thanked Cllr Hilliar.
- He also thanked Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt for accompanying him and their respective spouses to the Literary Festival Reception.
- Cllr Sherriff then reported that Pebblebed Heaths had installed an interpretation panel on the redundant plinth on the seafront. He thought it was a good addition to the site.
- He was pleased to advise that a new Assistant to the Town Clerk had been appointed. Interviews had been held on 23 September and Lynne Ward would be commencing her employment on 11 October.

21.167 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- The application for various items from the Welcome Back Fund had been submitted and she was pleased to advise that every item on the application had been granted! This meant that the Council would be receiving the following items and their exact location needed to be agreed:
 - two wooden planters for the seafront
 - two picnic tables for The Green
 - five rustic benches for The Green
 - three trees for The Green
- The Town Maintenance man was getting on very well with the list of jobs and she asked that if anyone had anything else for him to do, to let her know and she would add it to his list.

21.168 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

No reports were made.

21.169 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs C Channon reported:

- She had spoken to Simon Jupp MP about the problems caused by the lack of pavement and street lighting at Evans Field. Mr Jupp had written to the head of Planning at East Devon District Council who had advised that it was not a Planning issue and that Devon County Council should be pressing for the Highways Agreement to be signed. She advised that this was now with the County Solicitor to follow up.
- Members would be aware that a section of wall at Dial House on Chapel Hill had been removed. She explained that this had been a problem for some time and she had recently spoken with the owner about its reinstatement but as this property was in the Conservation Area the building work was held up. She would keep trying to resolve the situation but did not think it would be settled any time soon – she asked that it was kept on the Traffic Group agenda.
- She advised that there was a lot of overgrown vegetation on the boundary of Watch Hill on Cricket Field Lane which was causing problems for users of Chapel Hill.
- County Councillors were struggling to get some issues sorted out. She said that officers still working from home was causing problems and it was taking time to resolve problems as officers were not in the same office and therefore unable to chat over issues. She advised that the Neighbourhood Highways Officers for Budleigh Salterton was encountering additional problems as her line managers were telling her what she should or should not be doing!
- She said she would contact the Clerk to see what was left on the Traffic Group "to do" list.

- She had completed her response to the District Council Toilet Review and said it was essential that there were toilets in the town which disabled users could easily use. She added that if the proposals went ahead the nearest disabled toilet would be at Lime Kiln which was not acceptable.

District Councillor

District Cllr T D Wright reported:

- The public toilet consultation was important and he asked that some thought be given to the Council's response. The toilets in Station Road Car Park and at Lime Kiln were adjacent to car parks and some of that income should be used to pay for these essential services.
- District Council officers were still working from home and there was a reluctance to hold face-to-face meetings, whether that be full Council or Committee meetings. He said that because legislation was not extended in May, any meetings held online did not have decision-making power. He explained that recommendations were made and sent back to the officer, meaning councillors were no longer seen to be making decisions. Some councillors felt that it was a waste of time having face-to-face meetings and everything should be done online. He felt that the informal chats held with councillors and officers before meetings could help decision making; on occasions he had gone to a meeting with certain ideas but following a pre-meeting chat and listening to the thoughts of others, his opinion had changed. He said that Colaton Raleigh Parish Council would be writing to East Devon District Council to express their concern that, in their opinion, District Councillors were not carrying out the democratic process by meeting online. He added that remaining online meant those district councillors who were not overly technically-minded were being left out. He concluded by saying that the decision to hold online meetings would be reviewed in January.

21.170 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of September 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 August 2021.

21.171 East Devon District Council: Public Toilet Consultation

The Consultation Document was received and considered. After lengthy discussion it was:

Agreed: The Clerk will prepare a report to send to East Devon District Council rather than complete the online consultation. The following comments should be included:

- It is this Council's opinion that all four toilet blocks in the town should be Category A
- It is vital that there are disabled toilets in the town
- Income from car parks adjacent to toilets should be used to fund their refurbishment and ongoing maintenance
- Brook Road, Steamer Steps and Lime Kiln should all be refurbished

21.172 East Devon District Council: Gambling Policy Consultation

The Consultation Document was received and considered. It was

Resolved: No response will be made.

District Cllr T D Wright added that he, District Cllr A J Dent and District Cllr P M Jarvis all sat on the Licensing Committee. There was concern about online gambling and it was fortunate that there was no betting shop in Budleigh Salterton now. Nationally online gambling was a real problem.

21.173 Budleigh in Bloom

Correspondence from the Chairman of the Group, regarding sponsorship of the floral boat at Pretty Corner, was received and considered. It was

Resolved: Sponsorship of £500 was agreed.

21.174 Town Emergency Plan

The Draft Plan was received and considered.

The Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff thanked Cllr A J Harris for his work on the document. He said he would like the Council to approve the finished document at the Town Council meeting on 25 October and suggested that all Councillors read the document fully and forward any suggested alterations to Cllr Harris before 11 October.

Cllr Harris added that it would be a living document so it would always be easy to make any amendments. He said he would speak to the Clerk about contacting other town organisations etc.

21.175 Devon Association of Local Councils: Board of Directors

The list of candidates had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff proposed that each councillor send their choice of candidates to the Clerk by Wednesday 29 September to enable the vote to be made before the closing date.

21.176 Correspondence Received

- Buckingham Palace: Thank you for Letter of Condolence
- The Clerk: September 2021
- Clerks & Councils Direct: September 2021

21.177 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

- Cllr A L Jones asked why squares and arrows had been marked on the road at West Hill, near Little Common.
The Clerk said she was not aware why they were there but would try and find out.
- Cllr A J Harris advised that the bridge works at Knowle (over the cycle path) had finished but a portable toilet had been left behind.
The Town Mayor understood there was still some work being carried out at that location
- Cllr D Tate asked if the Town Council could consider providing facilities for the town's teenagers as he felt the demographic of town had changed, especially since the Evans Field development had welcomed its first residents. He said he had spoken to the groundsman at the Football Club and the area next to the main pitch was a great area which could be taken on for the town.
Cllr A L Jones advised that he was a Football Club Committee Member. The Committee had approached EDDC and to date no response had been received, which club officers would be following up.
Cllr Tate added that he would also chase this up with EDDC
- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis advised that the Friends of Budleigh Salterton Library had raised over £590 at various recent sales and the Committee thanked everyone who had helped.
- Cllr Mrs Lewis also advised that some Afghan families were being accommodated in Exmouth.
- Mrs J E Vanstone reported that she had made a start on the Council's Facebook page and would forward details for all to share.
- Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt wondered if this Council should also write to EDDC regarding the lack of face-to-face meetings.
- Cllr Mrs S J Ayres said several people had commented about CCTV in the town.
Mrs J E Vanstone said she would contact Cllr Mrs Ayres and update her on the situation.

21.178 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning Committee:	25 October 2021 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	25 October 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Public Hall Committee:	25 October 2021 on the rising of the Town Council
Community Gardens Committee:	25 October 2021 on the rising of the Public Hall Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.42pm.

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Chairman

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Date

Approved