

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Public Hall, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 25 October 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.06pm.

PRESENT

Cllr R D Sherriff (Town Mayor)
Cllr M C Hilliar (Deputy Town Mayor)
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 (Non-Voting Member)
Cllr D Tate

Town Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: County Cllr Mrs C Channon, District Cllr A J Dent and three members of the public

21.189 Public Speaking Time

- Mrs H Warren, Chairman of the Budleigh Salterton & District Chamber of Commerce spoke about the request for a Grant for this year's Christmas lights installation. She explained that the cost was more than last year as they were going to do things slightly differently, meaning there would be no need for a road closure. She said the Christmas lights were a huge burden on the Chamber and they would like to focus on projects which benefit town's traders. She concluded by asking the Town Council to look favourably on their request and possibly consider taking on full responsibility for Christmas lights in future years, as per Sidmouth and Exmouth.
- Mr T Waddington, Chairman of Trustees at Fairlynch Museum spoke about the request from the South West Museum Development (SWMD) programme for funding. He hoped that all Councillors had read the report which made a case for the Town Council's continued support. He then underlined some key points which a grant to the SWMD provided: he explained that Susan Eddisford was a local contact at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) in Exeter available to give advice – membership of the Devon Museum Group (which included other museums such as Fairlynch and Sidmouth Museum, but also RAMM and the National Trust) and the East Devon Museum Group – access to the Conservation Development Officer based at RAMM who was also available to support and give advice – through the Devon Museums Group, access to the Devon Museum website and its online shop, which was very useful for sales during the closed period of Halloween to Easter. He said that SWMD was also a gateway to funding from the Arts Council England. In summation, SWMD provided professional support which museums such as Fairlynch relied on.

21.190 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs S J Ayres (visitors), Cllr Mrs M P Lewis (away), Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt (unwell), District Cllr P M Jarvis and District Cllr T D Wright.

21.191 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No interests were declared.

21.192 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 27 September 2021 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

21.193 Chairman's Report

The Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff reported:

- He and his wife had attended the Budleigh Salterton Lions Club Charter Evening and it had been a good opportunity to thank the Club's members for all they do for the community. He was very grateful for the amazing amount of work they do for the community.
- He had attended a very successful meeting with East Devon District Council (EDDC) officers and representatives from Budleigh in Bloom regarding rewinding of The Green. He was pleased that an amicable agreement had been reached, in line with views which members of the Town Council had previously expressed. Officers were happy to proceed along the lines previously requested with an area left for tree planting plus the stretch along Station Road and Moor Lane which will be kept cut. He said it remained to be seen what would happen in 2022 but he thought EDDC would be happy to adapt their ideas.
- The redundant bollards which had previously held water/gas/lights had now been repainted. One or two still needed a bit of remedial work but he hoped Coucillors agreed they all looked much better.
- He would not be sending Christmas cards this year but intended to make a donation to Budleigh Salterton Relief in Need to use for those families in the town who were less fortunate.
- On behalf of the Town Council, he wished Lion Alan Tilbury a very happy birthday for later in the week.

21.194 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- This year's Services of Remembrance would be a little different. There would be a wreath-laying ceremony at the War Memorial at 2.00pm on Sunday 14 November but no parade or Church Service afterwards. There would also be the usual short service at the War Memorial at 11.00am on Thursday 11 November.
- An invitation had been received from Budleigh Community Workshop for Councillors to attend an open afternoon on Friday 29 October between 2.00pm and 4.00pm.
- Budleigh in Bloom was installing a floral boat at Pretty Corner and the boat needed a name. She asked for name suggestions by the end of the week and she would then organise a public vote, so that the signwriter could create the sign.
- She was pleased to advise that £34341.11 Community Infrastructure Levy funding had been received; this was in excess of the expected amount and she would be asking the CIL Officer for a breakdown of the funds.
- The town's Late Night Shopping event would be held on 10 December this year.

21.195 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

No reports were made.

21.196 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

Cllr Mrs C Channon reported:

- She had visited Granary Lane following the flooding on 20 October. She said that the floodwater had gone but the road markings were covered by mud. She had reported this and hoped it would soon be cleared up.
- The drains in Moor Lane had been cleared but unfortunately the leaves had not removed. She had flagged up this issue with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer.
- The town was very fortunate to have Fairlynch Museum which brought trade and interest to the town. She said the building needed a lot of care and repair and she had allocated £1000 from her Locality Budget to help. She hoped that Councillors appreciated what the museum did for the town when considering the grant to SWMD.
- Twelve years ago a local group had bought the Venture Hall in Moor Lane. The Hall had previously been jointly owned by the Royal British Legion (RBL) and the Girl Guides. RBL wanted to sell the Hall and the Guides had not been able to raise sufficient funds. A mortgage was taken out to buy out Guides and Budleigh Community Youth Project had been formed. The Hall was used by lots of organisations as well as Guides, Brownies and Scouts. She thanked the Town Council for its contribution which, along with contributions from East Devon District Council, Devon County Council (DCC) and lots of other community organisations, had meant the mortgage had been paid off.

District Councillor

District Cllr A J Dent reported:

- EDDC had published its new 'Council Plan'. He explained that the document would act as a practical roadmap highlighting its key focusses – including making sure people can afford to live, conserving the district's magnificent environment and supporting the creation of jobs while helping the local economy to recover after pandemic. The Plan also focused on a greener East Devon, housing and recovering economy.
- The number of patients in Devon's hospitals with COVID-19 had almost doubled in the first three weeks of October and was expected to continue rising as cases in the community increased. It was still vital that everyone did their bit to help the local NHS 'Wear a mask, get vaccinated and keep your distance'. The increasing rates of COVID in the community was also impacting on staffing. Currently 810 NHS staff in Devon were off work due to COVID; this accounted for almost 1 in 3 NHS staff absences, up from just over 1 in 5 at the beginning of October. People across Devon were being urged to support the NHS by helping to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 and flu viruses. Here's what you can do:
 - Ensure you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 – have a booster dose when you are eligible
 - Have the seasonal flu vaccination
 - Continue to follow social distancing measures, wear a mask where appropriate and wash your hands frequently
 - Avoid visiting people in hospital if you have sickness or diarrhoea
 - Self-isolate and take a PCR test if you have symptoms of COVID-19
 - Carry out regular lateral flow tests
- There were general concerns about where the Climate Emergency was heading. A number of energy saving aspects were being addressed in the new Council Plan (www.eastdevon.gov.uk/councilplan). He had seen an interesting survey in BBC News with some practical tips and thoughts for all to ponder:
 - Using renewable energy is more effective than simply recycling or making home improvements like home insulation (but do both!)

- Using an electric car or even taking a long-haul flight saves more energy than taking public transport
 - Giving up meat and family pets is better than giving up the car!
- He concluded by advising this last element of his report was simply to raise awareness of some of the things all individuals could consider doing and for which we can make relevant and practical choices.

21.197 Finance Inspection

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

21.198 Audit of Accounts: Year Ended 31 March 2021

It was noted that the Audit had been successfully completed.

21.199 Request for Grant Aid 2021/22: South West Museum Development

- (i) Consideration was given to making a contribution to the Programme, which, in turn, would enable the Fairlynch Museum to draw down enhanced services.

Resolved: A grant will be made.

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

Resolved: A contribution of £800 will be made.

21.200 Request for Grant Aid 2021/22: Budleigh Salterton & District Chamber of Commerce

- (i) Consideration was given to making a contribution towards the cost of installing the Town's Christmas Lights.

Resolved: A grant will be made.

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

Resolved: This Council will fund the entire cost of installing the lights, being £2610.90 plus VAT.

Mrs Warren thanked Members for their generous contribution. She then left the meeting along with County Cllr Mrs C Channon and District Cllr A J Dent.

21.201 Town Emergency Plan

The finalised Plan was received.

The Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff thanked Cllr A J Harris for his hard work to complete the Plan.

Cllr A L Jones asked that the information about Snow Wardens be included and it was agreed that this scheme can be reinstated in due course.

Resolved: The Plan should be adopted. At this time, it will just cover flooding but in the future, it can be adapted to cover other eventualities.

21.202 Correspondence Received

- Veterans Community Support (East Devon): letter of thanks for support
- OVA: Autumn 2021 newsletter
- Budleigh in Bloom: letter of thanks for boat sponsorship

21.203 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Cllr Mrs L D Evans advised that Budleigh in Bloom had been planting up the planters in Fore Street over the weekend and she had noticed that the railings were a bit of a mess; she asked if they could be repainted.
- Cllr M C Hilliar advised that he had been speaking at the recent Devon Association of Local Councils Conference and he wondered if there was an appetite to set up a Youth Council in the town.
Cllr D Tate thought this was a brilliant idea.
- Cllr Mrs L D Evans had been contacted by a resident during the week about the Jubilee Shelter who wondered what was happening about the removal of two benches.

21.204 Dates of Next Meetings

Finance Committee:	8 November 2021 at 7.00pm (to be held in the Norman Centre)
Foreshore & Footpaths Committee:	8 November 2021 on the rising of the Finance Committee
Planning Committee:	29 November 2021 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	29 November 2021 on the rising of the Planning Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.57pm.

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Chairman

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Date