

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Public Hall, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 21 February 2022 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.13pm

PRESENT

Cllr R D Sherriff (Town Mayor)
Cllr M C Hilliar (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 Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt

Town Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: Two members of the public

21.348 Public Speaking Time

No members of the public wished to speak.

21.349 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr R J Doorbar (working), Cllr Mrs M P Lewis (unwell), Cllr D Tate (isolating), County Cllr Mrs C Channon, District Cllr A J Dent, District Cllr P M Jarvis and District Cllr T D Wright.

21.350 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No interests were declared.

21.351 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 24 January 2022 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

21.352 Reports of Committees

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- The Public Hall Committee held on 24 January 2022
- The Community Infrastructure Levy Committee held on 24 January 2022
- The Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group held on 25 January 2022

21.353 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Cllr R D Sherriff had nothing to report.

21.354 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- At the last Meeting of the Town Council Cllr A J Harris had asked for the payphone on the seafront to be painted. After contacting BT she had been informed that in order to carry out that work, BT required photographs of the interior and exterior of the box. She asked Cllr Harris if he could supply her with some photographs to pass to BT.
- After ten years, the sub-lease for the Jubilee Shelter had been completed and she had received the paperwork from the Council's solicitors, as well as a cheque for £800 (return of an over-payment).

- Clinton Devon Estates had advised that the rent for the Greenway Lane Community Gardens was increasing from £560.50 to £600 per annum from 1 June 2022.
- A review of the Reinstatement Cost Assessment of the Public Hall had been carried out and the sum insured had been increased to £1696000.
- The benches supplied by the Welcome Back Fund had been installed but, unfortunately, they were not in the requested position. She had contacted East Devon District Council and asked they be re-positioned as per her original plan.
- A letter of thanks had been received from Exmouth & District Community Transport Group.

21.355 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

Budleigh in Bloom

Cllr Mrs L D Evans reported that the rectangular beds on The Green had been cleared and the Group hoped to replant them in the next month. Over 400 plants were soon to be delivered for these beds and the two boats. The Group was grateful to the East Devon District Council (EDDC) officers for suggesting that the Welcome Back Fund could finance this project.

Budleigh Salterton Nursing Association

Cllr A L Jones reported that following a conversation with the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar, a resident had been helped with the purchase of some equipment to enable him to stay in his own home. Cllr Jones said that the Association had been able to offer advice so the resident could also access funding from other sources.

21.356 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

Mrs J E Vanstone gave County Cllr Mrs C Channon's apologies; she struggled to hear at meetings held in the Public Hall and had also broken one of her hearing aids which she felt would add to her hearing difficulties! Mrs Vanstone then read Cllr Mrs Channon's report:

- Unfortunately, the Traffic Regulation Orders for the town had not been presented, as planned, to the East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) meeting held in February and were now planned for the July meeting. She was told that this was due to the increased number of requests across the East Devon area and the lack of officer time needed to address them. Several staff had retired or moved on recently and whilst some had been replaced "working for home" seemed to be preventing the development of team work. It was a very frustrating situation for councillors. The list for approval included:
 - Loading restrictions to be added to the DYLS in Cliff Terrace
 - Parking issues in East Budleigh Road outside the Hub, seasonal DYL
 - Two pull-in spaces in Budleigh High Street to permit traffic flow
 - Reinstatement of DYLS between Tesco and Information Centre in Fore Street
- Members had been told that speed limits were outside the scope of this review so that excluded the following:
 - Extending the 30mph limit past the Evans Field development
 - Granary Lane – unsuitable for signs preventing access by large vehicles
 - Additional 20 mph signs on Marine Parade.
 - She felt these issues should be addressed again at the next Traffic Group Meeting to see how they may be progressed

- At the Budget meeting held the previous week, Councillors had agreed an increase of 3% which was a general increase of 2% plus 1% for social care. Unfortunately, the Covid pandemic had caused a large overspend on Adult Social Care services and an increase in Domestic Violence had meant that more children had been taken into care, causing a large overspend on that budget. Like many other local authorities, Devon County Council (DCC) had a huge deficit on its Special Education Needs budget. Members were requesting that the Government helps reduce this deficit but in Devon at present this represented a deficit of over £73m. Fortunately, in recent years DCC had managed to build up uncommitted balances so will be able to set a balanced budget but it had been the hardest budget to set for very many years and those balances can only be spent once.
- She concluded by apologising that this was not a more positive report but she felt it offered an honest picture of the present situation and she hoped that things could only get better!

21.357 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of February 2022, in accordance with Appendix A, were approved.

Cllr Mrs L D Evans questioned the invoice from EDDC for toilet cleaning. The Clerk explained that she understood the cleaning regime had returned to pre-covid timings and therefore this would be the only payment required.

- (ii) It was noted that the Chairman of the Finance Committee had carried out the internal finance inspection for January 2022.

21.358 Request for Grant Aid 2021/22: Knowle Village Hall

- (i) Consideration was given to making a donation towards the purchase of an external defibrillator for the Hall.

Resolved: A donation will be made.

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

Resolved: A donation of £300 will be made.

21.359 Town Defibrillators: Training Courses

Consideration was given to organising a public training session (undertaken by The Community Heartbeat Trust) for up to 50 people at a cost of £175 per session.

Resolved: Training should be organised for the spring.

21.360 HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – 2 to 5 June 2022

Ideas in which this Council can commemorate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee were discussed at length. Two suggestions were received: to install a permanent beacon on the seafront and/or to install a commemorative plinth on the seafront. It was

Resolved: A commemorative plinth will be commissioned and the Town Mayor, Cllr R D Sherriff asked for suggestions for the design and wording which will then be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

21.361 East Devon District Council: Code of Conduct Consultation

The Consultation had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was

Resolved: No comment will be submitted as there is nothing in the document which members were concerned about.

21.362 Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton: Gala Week

It was agreed that a standing agreement be put in place authorising the Town Clerk to approve the following each year:

- A concessionary hire charge to be applied for the hire of the Public Hall (or a Grant towards the cost).
- Use of The Green.
- Erection of bunting above the High Street to remain in situ until after the Literary Festival in September.

The Clerk will report any changes to Councillors

21.363 Correspondence Received

- Longboat Café – Licence Application: Letter of objection
- Allotment & Leisure Gardener: Issue 1 - 2022

21.364 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Cllr A L Jones said he was concerned about the work being carried out at Little Knowle. He wondered which authority had given permission for this work to go ahead. Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar said he thought South West Water was installing pipes to alleviate sewerage leaking into areas in Meadow Road. Cllr D J Hayward asked if the Clerk could write to South West Water requesting some information on the work being undertaken.
- Cllr Jones also commented on the huge amount of money EDDC was going to charge a local family for a memorial seat on The Green. The Clerk explained that the seat had been vandalised in 2020 and EDDC officers had advised it was beyond repair. At that time the officer did not have the family’s contact details and therefore could not update them of the issue. The Clerk then advised that the family had since contacted District Cllr P M Jarvis who was now looking into the situation.
- Cllr Hilliar reported that a bench on The Green had been broken. The Clerk asked for the name on the bench and she would report it to EDDC.
- Cllr Mrs L D Evans offered her apologies for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on 21 April as she had a previous engagement.

21.365 Dates of Next Meetings

All meetings to be held in the Public Hall until further notice.

Planning Committee:	28 March 2022 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	28 March 2022 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Annual Town Meeting:	21 April 2022 at 7.00pm

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.04pm.

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Chairman

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Date