

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Public Hall, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 28 March 2022 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.21pm.

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
Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt
Cllr D Tate

Town Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: District Cllr A J Dent, District Cllr T D Wright and two members of the public

21.381 Public Speaking Time

Helen Mitchell, Chairman of the Budleigh Salterton & District Chamber of Commerce spoke about the request for funding for town maps.

She explained that the maps had originally been installed by Budleigh in Business in 2011. They had been re-done in 2016 and in 2021 the map had been updated to include a "you are here" marker.

She explained that the paper maps had been funded by advertising but this was not possible on the car park signs. She said the Chamber was happy to take on this responsibility and would be grateful for any contribution the Town Council felt able to make.

21.382 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs M P Lewis (holiday), County Cllr Mrs C Channon and District Cllr P M Jarvis.

21.383 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

- Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt declared a personal interest in Min 21.394 – she lives in a nearby road.

21.384 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 21 February 2022 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

21.385 Reports of Committees

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- The Budleigh Salterton Climate Change Group held on 7 February 2022
- The Emergency Group held on 21 February 2022

21.386 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Cllr R D Sherriff reported:

- He had been pleased to present the very last Booktrack award to a local girl who had read 100 books.
- He and Cllr D Tate had attended a meeting at Budleigh Village with local PCSOs. It had been a useful meeting and the majority of conversation had been about anti-social behaviour. Officers had asked that members of the public only used 999 if they were witnessing a crime, otherwise 101 should be used. He said there had been a lot of mumbles about the anti-social behaviour in the town; if councillors heard any rumours, they should encourage the resident to report via 101 and then pass details on to the Town Clerk who will collate the information and forward to the Community Safety Coordinator. He reiterated that rumour and gossip does not help the Police.
- The new Digger Rogers boat was now in place at the junction of Granary Lane and East Budleigh Road and enhanced the entrance to the town. He thanked Kier for their assistance.

21.387 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- The picnic benches ordered as part of the Welcome Back Fund (WBF) will be installed week commencing 4 April. At that time East Devon District Council (EDDC) officers will look at repositioning the five rustic benches also supplied by the WBF.
- The commemorative tree donated by EDDC as part of the Queens Green Canopy had been planted on the higher part of the Green and it will soon be joined by the tree donated by the Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton. The three trees to be planted as part of the WBF will be planted when the benches have been repositioned.
- Officers from the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service had recently carried out an inspection of the Public Hall, Norman Centre and Offices and one or two concerns had been raised. The Clerk reassured Members that these were minor concerns and she would be arranging for the appropriate changes to be carried out in the next week or so.

21.388 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

Budleigh Salterton Covid Support

Mrs J E Vanstone reported on behalf of Cllr Mrs M P Lewis:

- Surgery – COVID rates had gone up in the town with more at the school too. There were lots of unreported cases due to changes in regulations but overall morbidity rates were still low, so the consequences were not too severe. As at 17 March there were four patients in ITU. Patients were still required to wear face coverings in the surgery – this was to protect against staff absences. The surgery was able to do more face-to-face meetings which was good.
- Finance – the traditional COVID support was no longer in place, but Budleigh Salterton Relief in Need continued to help residents in need of assistance – some had used up savings and were struggling with increasing utility bills etc. A package of support was being put together.
- Website – there was a discussion on updating the website to Budleigh Support rather than Covid Support – it would signpost residents to the support that is on offer from wider agencies and groups.
- Refugees – group members had been looking at hosting Ukrainian refugees and were trying to work out how best to do this, possibly by holding a town meeting to find out who was doing/going to do what.
- The Lions had switched their attention to raising money and support for Ukraine. The COVID boosters at Greendale were continuing and President, Richard Allen was doing a great job volunteering there – he had volunteered at over 100 sessions.

Budleigh in Bloom

Cllr Mrs L D Evans reported that the baskets outside the Public Hall would be emptied on 13 April. They would go back after the exterior had been decorated at the beginning of May.

21.389 Reports of County and District Councillors

District Councillors

District Cllr A J Dent reported:

- Council Tax - this had been confirmed as a £5.00 or 3% increase and demands had been issued. Band A-D properties will receive a £150 rebate but with inflation, the general cost of living, fuel increases, the news was not good and all were in for a very difficult time in the coming months. Similarly, as government support for councils had been massively reduced, they were all scrabbling to make ends meet whilst continuing to provide both statutory and non statutory services.
- Car Parks - a general increase of the cost from £1.00 per hour to £2.00 for 21 car parks and £1.50 per hour for many of the remainder had been agreed at full council. The decision was made without a EDDC Car Parking strategy in place (and no strategy planned for the foreseeable future) and no consultation with communities or businesses. A number of members had objected and voted against these proposals. This meant both Lime Kiln and Rolle Mews car parks would cost £2.00 per hour from 1 April. He believed Station Road would rise to £1.50 per hour. For local residents, the annual car park permit was the best possible way to keep car parking costs to a minimum. At present this was £100 a year for one town with additional towns costing £20 each. From 1 April this would also increase to £120 but he did not have the exact details of the cost for additional towns.
- Public Toilets - EDDC would be keeping 14 public toilet sites across the district and would update and refurbish these sites at a cost of £3 million to provide modern, safe and accessible toilets. EDDC will be charging to use these refurbished toilets when they were open, using contactless payments. Pre-paid cards will be made available for those with disabilities or for those who receive certain benefits. EDDC was working on the marketing information for the 13 other sites which the Council was no longer able to provide from April 2023. The priority for those sites was to find alternative uses which favour community or local business. EDDC would be writing to town and parish councils to update them on the Public Toilet Review and discuss next steps with them. Whilst EDDC progressed these discussions most of these public toilets will be open until April 2023. In Budleigh the two seafront toilets will be retained, Brook Road will be closed and Station Road will be up for negotiation between the Town Council and EDDC.
- Longboat Café - the extension that the new operator had installed had been done without planning permission and as a result an enforcement notice was threatened. After intervention by ward members, the planning officers had agreed that if the extension could be made temporary, ie movable, then they would consider it more favourably. This has now been done along with a considerable amount of internal rearrangement and operational improvements. Whilst not everyone liked the design, he and his fellow ward members felt the service provided was a valuable addition to the local tourist economy and attracted many visitors to the seafront.
- Beach Huts - there were twelve new beach huts at the Longboat end of the seafront. These had been provided by EDDC for the Information Centre to rent out, but it had taken a considerable effort by ward members, along with Helen Warren as Chair of the Budleigh Salterton Chamber of Commerce, to achieve this result. Originally, due to the financial pressures on EDDC, officers had recommended the huts, which were in a very poor state of repair, should be removed and the sites offered to the public as were all the other sites on the seafront.

To the officers and Portfolio Holder, this had made financial sense. To ward members, it was a substantial loss of a major holiday attraction and source of income for the Information Centre. Ward members had to 'call in' a Cabinet decision for it to be reversed and the Council persuaded to invest in the new huts that we now see. He added that they had not been painted as they were under warranty for two years and to paint them would negate that warranty.

District Cllr T D Wright reported:

- Car park permits were now available to purchase on a monthly basis
- Beach huts – he felt it was a bit of a cheek that the cabinet member, who had wanted to dispose of the beach huts, had turned up for the unveiling of the new huts!
- Recycling – collections were improving but with the rise of Covid cases, there were some delays/missed collections.

Cllr D Tate asked if the toilet blocks would remain under EDDC ownership or sold for profit. Cllr Dent said either of those options was possible.

Cllr D J Hayward asked when the Electric Vehicle chargers would be installed at Rolle Mews Car Park. Cllr Wright advised that they were due to be installed in a matter of weeks – they would be going up against the wall, where the disabled bays were, which in turn were to be relocated.

21.390 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of March 2022, 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 February 2022.

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

Plans to install a plinth/cairn on the seafront to commemorate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee were discussed and it was

Resolved: The largest Dartmoor boulder with a granite inset was chosen and it will be placed on the seafront, near the flagpole. The Clerk will liaise with EDDC as to the most appropriate location.

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

- (i) Consideration was given to making a donation towards the update of the town maps.

Resolved: A donation will be made.

- (ii) The amount of the donation was considered.

Resolved: A donation of £450 will be made.

21.393 St Peter's Church Car Park

Consideration was given to a request to support an application from the Parochial Church Council to Viridor for funding to refurbish the car park and it was

Resolved: This Council will forward a letter of support to accompany the application to Viridor.

One member of the public left the meeting.

21.394 East Devon District Council: Licence Application – The Salt Cellars, 30 Greenway Lane

An application from Mr R T A Charlton for an Alcohol Licence was received. It was

Resolved: This Council supports the application although there were concerns about lack of toilet facilities and car parking.

21.395 East Devon District Council: Licence Application – Tank Field, South Farm, Budleigh Salterton (*adjoining parish*)

An application from Eventist Group for a Time Limited Premises Licence was received. It was

Resolved: This Council supports the application

21.396 East Devon District Council: Use of The Green – 7 to 10 July 2022

An application from Budleigh Music Festival to use The Green to erect an inflatable structure, comprising of numerous chambers, which allow an interplay of light, shape and sound, was received. It was

Resolved: This Council supports the application which was hugely successful in 2021.

21.397 Budleigh Salterton Climate Change Group

The following documents were received:

- Terms of Reference
- Action Plan

It was

Resolved: They should be adopted by this Council and published on the Town Council website

21.398 Correspondence Received

- Knowle Village Hall: Letter of thanks for donation
- Devon County Council:
 - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Salting Hill: 9 to 20 May 2022
 - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Kersbrook Lane: 30 May to 3 June 2022
- Thelma Hulbert Gallery: Exhibitions programme – 16 March to 24 December 2022
- The Clerk: March 2022
- Clerks & Councils Direct: March 2022

21.399 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

- Cllr D Tate advised that residents of Knowle village were concerned about the increase in traffic and were worried about the speed of traffic
The Clerk suggested that the Community Speedwatch team increase their surveys. The Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group will discuss these concerns at the next meeting.
- Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt advised that one of the posts at the War Memorial had been damaged.
- Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt also asked that, in future, all questions during meetings be directed via the Chairman.
- Mrs J E Vanstone advised that New Councillor training courses were still available and she would circulate the dates to members.

21.400 Dates of Next Meetings

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

Annual Town Meeting: 21 April 2022 at 7.00pm

Planning Committee: 25 April 2022 at 7.00pm

Town Council: 25 April 022 on the rising of the Planning Committee

Cllr R D Sherriff advised that the date of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council had been changed to 16 May.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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Chairman

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Date

Approved