

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 30 January 2023 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.36pm.

PRESENT

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

Town Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: County Cllr Mrs C Channon, District Cllr A J Dent, District Cllr P M Jarvis, District Cllr T D Wright and five members of the public

22.343 Public Speaking Time

No members of the public wished to speak.

22.344 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from the Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar.

22.345 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

- Cllr R A Harris declared a personal interest in Min 22.353 – his wife volunteers at the Information Centre
- Cllr R D Sherriff also declared a personal interest in Min 22.353 – he is a Trustee of the Information Centre
- Cllr Mrs L D Evans declared a personal interest in Min 22.354 – she is the Deputy Chairman of Exmouth & District Community Transport Group

22.346 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 12 December 2022 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

22.347 Chairman's Report

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr D J Hayward had nothing to report.

22.348 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported that the cost of replacing the dormer windows and electric blinds in the Public Hall had increased by £757. Work would be going ahead as planned in April 2023.

22.349 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

Budleigh Salterton Nursing Association

Cllr A L Jones said Members would be aware that he would be standing down as a Councillor at the next election. He highlighted the work that the Group carried out and he said its members worked really hard helping in need residents of Budleigh Salterton. He hoped his replacement would be as supportive as him.

Knowle Village Hall

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr D J Hayward reported he had attended a recent Hall Committee meeting. One item which had been discussed was that the defibrillator outside the Hall had been tampered with and therefore had had to be reset before it could be used again; this was unplanned expenditure which the Hall Committee had to bear.

Cllr D Tate added that there were no street lights in that area which did not help matters.

Cllr Hayward then reported that the Hall Committee were planning a Gala Week event and were looking for old games, such as shove ha'penny and bar billiards; if anyone had any such games they no longer required, the Committee would be most grateful to receive them.

22.350 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs C Channon reported:

- The work on the car park at St Peter's Church has been completed but drivers now needed a permit to park there, which would hopefully stop abuse of the car park! The handrail to the disabled door had also been replaced and she had funded that from her Locality Budget.
- The Devon County Council budget for 2023/24 had not been fixed, the meeting would be held in February. There would be a large increase in the Children's Services budget which was mainly taken up with the pay rise for teachers. The budget for Adult Social Care was also increasing. She advised that 87% of the budget was spent on Children's and Adult Services and that was why the roads were not as good as one would wish.
- January was commonly known as "pothole month". She said it was important that any potholes were reported using the systems in place (online or by telephone). She said the team that mends the potholes was also the team which drives the gritting lorries so they were always busy!
- The Traffic Order for Double Yellow Lines (DYL) outside Seachange on East Budleigh Road and the passing place on the High Street had been approved but the lining work would not be carried out until May or June, which she felt was too long to wait.

Cllr D Tate asked if disabled badge holders could park at the Church car park.

Cllr Mrs Channon advised they could not but they were able to park on DYL if not causing an obstruction and not on a loading bay.

District Councillors

District Cllr P M Jarvis reported that the majority of District Council meetings were still hybrid meetings and councillors who were not in person could not vote. He said that he sits on the Poverty Working Panel and unfortunately the most recent meeting had been cancelled. He was concerned that meetings were being cancelled which meant Councillors were unable to comment. He hoped that the new Council in May would bring about change.

Cllr R J Doorbar asked what the reason was for cancelling the meetings.

Cllr Jarvis advised that no reason was given – the Chairman had the right to rearrange meetings but unfortunately no alternative date had been provided. It was very difficult to organise especially when working full time.

Cllr Doorbar wondered how District Councillors could represent the people of East Devon if they were not meeting in person and not able to put forward their views.

District Cllr Wright said that EDDC was one of the last councils in the country to reinstate face-to-face meetings.

County Cllr Mrs Channon added that she too had received complaints that there were no officers in Blackdown House which she felt needed flagging up.

Cllr R A Harris wondered if this Council could express this unhappiness to EDDC. The Clerk said she would send a suitably worded letter to the CEO, Mark Williams.

22.351 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of January 2023, 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 December 2022.

22.352 Request for Grant Aid 2022/23: Exmouth & District Talking Newspapers

- (i) Consideration was given to making a donation to the Group.
Resolved: This Council will make a donation.
- (ii) Consideration was then given to the amount of the donation.
Resolved: Before a donation is made, the Clerk was asked to obtain additional information relating to the amount of residents in Budleigh Salterton the Group helps. Once this information is received, the item will be discussed again.

22.353 Request for Grant Aid 2022/23: Budleigh Information Centre

- (i) Consideration was given to making a donation towards the cost of organising the Coronation Street Party.
Mr A Tilbury advised that the Information Centre needed to fundraise to help pay for running costs and if no money was raised, the Centre would have to close. If the Council funded the Street Party, additional monies raised from the event would go towards these running costs.
Resolved: This Council will make a donation.
- (ii) Consideration was then given to the amount of the donation.
Resolved: A donation of £2700 will be made.

22.354 Request for Grant Aid 2023/24: Exmouth & District Community Transport Group

- (i) Consideration was given to making a donation to the Group.
Resolved: This Council will make a donation.
- (ii) Consideration was then given to the amount of the donation.
Resolved: A donation of £1250 will be made.

22.355 East Devon District Council: Public Toilet Review – Station Road Toilets

A report, prepared following a meeting held on 9 January 2023 between Cllr R A Harris, the Town Clerk, District Cllr A J Dent and officers from East Devon District Council, had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was noted.

Consideration was then given to whether this Council wishes to take over control of the Station Road Toilets and if so;

- a) Agree the extent of the external area this Council wishes to be included in the demised area.
- b) Agree any alterations which this Council may wish to carry out.
- c) Dependent on the above, agree that the Town Clerk signs the Heads of Terms on behalf of the Town Council.

A lengthy discussion took place and the following points were raised:

- There is a need for public toilets in this part of town
- Peppercorn rent
- The existing toilets are operational
- The Heads of Terms put forward by East Devon District Council (EDDC) were not flexible
- Should this Council saddle future councils with considerable expenditure for up to 99 years?
- Concerns the Station Road Car Park could be developed in the future
- Station Road Toilets will need upgrading at some point and the associated cost
- Members should see records of asbestos etc before signing any documents
- Concerns about vandalism

Resolved: This Council does not wish to take over control of the Station Road toilets.

As this Council does not wish to take over control of the Station Road Toilets, consideration was then given to what Public Toilet provision can be created to service this part of the town.

Resolved: This Council will set up a working group to work on the future Public Toilet provision in this part of town. Its membership will be agreed at the next meeting of the Town Council.

22.356 East Devon District Council: Emerging Local Plan 2020-2040

The comments sent by this Council in response to the recent consultation were noted.

22.357 East Devon District Council: Event Consultations

It was noted that no objections were raised to the following events:

- Exe Estuary 50k and Marathon – Use of Lime Kiln Car Park – 16 July 2023
- Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival – Use of The Green – 15 to 26 September 2023

22.358 Correspondence Received

- NHS England: Response to letter of concern relating to Lloyds Pharmacy outlets in the town
 - Launchpad: Letter of thanks for donation towards the Community Larder
 - Otter Valley Association: Winter 2023
 - The Clerk: January 2023
 - Clerks & Councils Direct: January 2023
- Cllr A F Chaplin advised that he had also received a letter from NHS England in response to a personal complaint re Lloyds Pharmacy – he would give a copy to the Clerk for circulation

22.359 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

No other business was raised.

22.360 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning Committee:	13 February 2023 at 7.00pm
CIL Committee:	13 February 2023 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Community Gardens Committee:	13 February 2023 on the rising of the CIL Committee
Planning Committee:	27 February 2023 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	27 February 2023 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Annual Parish Meeting:	15 March 2023 at 7.00pm <i>(to be held in the Public Hall)</i>

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.39pm.

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Chairman

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Date