

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 27 March 2023 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.04pm.

PRESENT

Cllr M C Hilliar (Town Mayor)
Cllr D J Hayward (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr A F Chaplin
Cllr R J Doorbar
Cllr Mrs L D Evans
Cllr R A Harris
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 A J Dent, District Cllr T D Wright and four members of the public

22.442 Public Speaking Time

No members of the public wished to speak.

22.443 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A J Harris, Cllr R D Sherriff and District Cllr P M Jarvis.

22.444 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No interests were declared.

22.445 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 27 February 2023 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

22.446 Reports of Committees

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held on 13 March 2023
- Staffing Committee held on 13 March 2023
- Budleigh Salterton Climate Change Group held on 6 March 2023

22.447 Chairman's Report

The Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar reported that he and the Town Clerk plus Mark Williams, Ed Freeman and Tim Child from East Devon District Council had met with Myles Blood Smyth, the operator of the Longboat Café, to discuss the lean-to which had been erected between the café and the Jubilee Shelter.

He said it had been a good open discussion and things were now moving forward. The enforcement notice would stay in effect for the time being but planning officers were going to meet Mr Blood Smyth at the café to discuss ways alterations could be made to the lean-to to please all. Mr Blood Smyth was happy to work with both Councils and wanted to sort out the matter.

22.448 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- Nomination forms for the forthcoming local Council elections were available from the office. She advised that Voter Numbers were also available from her.
- Earlier in the day she had emailed all councillors regarding an update to Microsoft Office 365 which was required for the email system. She said it was vital the update was carried out as soon as possible as it was needed to block a cyber threat.
- She had also emailed all councillors with information about Guided Tours of the Lower Otter Restoration Project .
- The Community Liaison Officer from Airband would be attending the meeting on 24 April.
- The public toilets in Station Road Car Park would remain open until the end of the summer season.
- She asked for more jobs for the Town Handyman.

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis asked when the end of the summer season would be. Mrs Vanstone said she would find out.

22.449 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group

Cllr A L Jones reported that after a lot of discussion regarding the issues at Evans Field it seemed that the latest negotiations had gone well and the developer had come to an Agreement with Devon County Council (DCC) to install footways and street lighting on the B3178 and had also agreed to fund the extension of the 30mph limit. DCC was now waiting for funds to be transferred to them which would act as security if the developer did not carry out the work.

Devon Association of Local Councils – Larger Councils Committee

Cllr D Tate reported he had attended an online meeting of the Larger Councils Committee. A lot of the items had not been relevant to Budleigh Salterton but he said the discussions on the relationship between town/parish and district councils would be of interest of the Clerk. He felt we were luckier than most, having such a great relationship with our District Councillors.

22.450 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs C Channon started her report by apologising for not attending the recent meeting of Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group – she had had car problems when returning from an earlier meeting. She was delighted to hear of the progress with Evans Field but would keep monitoring developments!

She then reported on the Devolution process which appeared to be a step closer. She explained that the deal would mean greater money and power being passed into the hands of the various county leaders. She said that meant greater local control and the ability to tap into funds for local issues, such as affordable housing and connectivity. The biggest point was there was no need for an Elected Mayor, which had been a sticking point in previous discussions.

If all went well, local consent would be needed before gaining parliamentary approval. She said it was vital to have access to these funds on a local basis to ensure levelling up comes down to the local areas which need it. She said the biggest export locally was young people, who feel they have to leave to get jobs and affordable homes. Changes were also needed to public transport; many businesses were struggling to employ staff and retraining was needed.

She then reported that every penny of the £9.4m which had been allocated in the Chancellor's recent Budget would be spent on repairing potholes. She was appalled by the condition of the County's roads but felt the roads in Budleigh Salterton were not actually too bad! She reminded Members to use the online reporting system.

District Councillors

District Cllr A J Dent reported that there had been some major changes at senior officer level at East Devon District Council.

- Henry Gordon Lennox (Monitoring Officer) had moved on to Cornwall Council. He was pleased to advise that a replacement had been employed and would be starting soon; she was coming from South Somerset Council.
- John Golding (Strategic Lead – Housing, Health & Environment) was retiring and they were in the process of recruiting his replacement. He would be part of the recruitment process and as such would be attending a briefing meeting prior to interviewing applicants.

District Cllr T D Wright added that John Golding would be sorely missed. He then reported that housing number allocations were being reassessed and because of this the Strategic Planning team had stalled all work on the Local Plan whilst they waited to see what the final number of houses would be. Once received, work on the Local Plan could restart.

He concluded that after the elections in May there would be a different Council whose Members would probably have a different attitude to the current Council!

22.451 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of March 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 February 2023.

22.452 Request for Grant Aid 2023/24: Budleigh Salterton Music Festival

- (i) Consideration was given to making a donation towards the cost of organising a Tea Dance on 2 July.

Resolved: A donation will be made.

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

Resolved: A donation of £500 will be made.

The Clerk was instructed to include a caveat that if the event does not go ahead for any reason, the donation must be returned.

22.453 Public Toilet Provision

Consideration was given to the appointment of members to a Working Party which will discuss the provision of a public toilet in the vicinity of the Public Hall.

The following Councillors will sit on the Working Party:

- Cllr A F Chaplin
- Cllr Mrs L D Evans
- Cllr R A Harris
- Cllr D J Hayward
- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis

The Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar advised that Station Road toilets will be marketed as a business opportunity with toilet provision.

Cllr A L Jones said he felt the Town Council had made the right decision regarding the toilets and locating them in the Public Hall would give the Council a better say in when they are open and closed!

22.454 Correspondence Received

- East Devon District Council:
 - Information relating to the work to re-profile the beach gabion wall
 - Details of 2023/24 Council Tax
- Devon County Council:
 - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – High Street: 7 May 2023 (Coronation Community Street Party)
- The Clerk: March 2023
- Clerks & Councils Direct: March 2023

22.455 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Cllr A L Jones said he was delighted that the Mayor’s board had been put up.

22.456 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning Committee:	24 April 2023 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	24 April 2023 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Annual Meeting of the Town Council:	22 May 2023 at 7.00pm
Planning Committee:	22 May 2023 on the rising of the Town Council
Town Council:	22 May 2023 on the rising of the Planning Committee (if required)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.43pm.

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Chairman

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Date