

## **BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 22 May 2023 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.35pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr D J Hayward (Town Mayor)  
Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Cllr A F Chaplin  
Cllr Mrs C M Cunningham  
Cllr R J Doorbar  
Cllr Mrs L D Evans  
Cllr M C Hilliar  
Cllr R D Sherriff

**Town Clerk:** Mrs J E Vanstone

**Others Present:** County Cllr Mrs C Channon, District Cllr Ms M Martin, District Cllr H Riddell and four members of the public

### **23.027 Public Speaking Time**

No Members of the public wished to speak.

### **23.028 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mrs M P Lewis and District Cllr Ms C Fitzgerald.

### **23.029 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda**

No interests were declared.

### **23.030 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 24 April 2023 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

### **23.031 Chairman's Report**

The Town Mayor, Cllr D J Hayward said he had nothing to report. He was very happy, proud and honoured to be given the opportunity to hold the position of Town Mayor.

### **23.032 Clerk's Report**

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- Members should submit their Declaration of Election Expenses to East Devon District Council within 28 days of the date of election.
- Members should also submit their Register of Interests Forms to her within 28 days.
- At the last meeting she had advised that she was in possession of a Debit Card on the Council's current account. Cllr D J Hayward had asked that there were adequate restrictions on its use. She confirmed that Financial Regulations 6(r) stated a limit of £500 per transaction – she would be asking Lloyds Bank if it was possible to apply a similar restriction.
- She had received a couple of comments about the lack of grass cutting on The Green, particularly as Gala Week was starting on 27 May. She confirmed that she had contacted East Devon District Council who had advised they were having staffing and equipment issues. They hoped to cut the area that the Lions will be using for their events during the coming week and cut the remainder the week commencing 29 May.

### **23.033 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies**

#### Budleigh Salterton Nursing Association

Cllr R D Sherriff echoed what former Councillor, Alan Jones, had always reported – the Association was keen to receive applications from residents for mobility frames etc.

### **23.034 Reports of County and District Councillors**

#### County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs C Channon congratulated Cllr D J Hayward on his appointment as Town Mayor and thanked Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt for standing as his Deputy. She said the Town Council was fortunate to have councillors who cared about the town and its residents and who would look after the interests of the town. She said Cllr Hayward came from a family who were involved in parish council work – his mother had been a councillor at Colaton Raleigh.

She then reported:

- She was deeply concerned after receiving an email from Devon County Council regarding the Evans Field development. An agreement was in place for the developer to install footpath and lighting but until the bond was received the work could not start. Sadly no money had been received. She would continue to fight for this and having thought a corner had been turned, this latest development was very disappointing. She did wonder how much longer this would go on but promised to persist. The Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group would also continue to push for the work to be done.
- The work to install Double Yellow Lines outside Seachange had finally been done – it had taken 2.5 years which she found very frustrating. She was worried that the work to create two passing spaces in the High Street had not been done.
- There was a huge backlog of pothole repairs. Hundreds of emails a day were being received regarding the state of the roads. She had a long list – her nagging list – which she was monitoring but it was not going down as quickly as she would hope. The defects in the High Street were now classed as potholes. She would raise these issues again at the next Traffic Group Meeting.
- She and Tom Wright were Trustees of the Budleigh Community Youth Project and she was pleased to report that Steve Hitchcock, Head Teacher of St Peter's School, and Jim Mackintosh had been appointed as Trustees. The Youth Club would be restarting soon and they hoped to have around 30 children attending by the autumn. She said the facility was well-used and all were keen to get it going again.
- There were many new officers at County Hall who did not realise there was a holiday season and that roads should not be closed during July and August! They had planned to install EV charging stations outside Marks & Spencer in Exmouth at the same time as the Britain in Bloom judging takes place!
- She had requested that the drains in the High Street be inspected following the flooding in Newton Poppleford and Tipton St John.

The Town Mayor, Cllr D J Hayward asked when the chargers in Rolle Mews Car Park would be working. Cllr Mrs Channon advised that this was East Devon District Council – the Town Clerk will chase this up.

Cllr Mrs L D Evans said she presumed Knowle Hill would not now be closed on 13 and 20 August. Cllr Mrs Channon said that was correct.

Cllr M C Hilliar asked if the pothole at Inner Ting Tong had been reported. Cllr Mrs Channon said that whilst this was not in “her patch” she would chase this up.

Cllr R J Doorbar said that it should not be up to residents to keep reporting potholes. Cllr Mrs Channon agreed but explained that staff numbers were very limited and with 82% of the County budget spent on Children's Services and Adult Social Care, there was not much left for Highways.

Cllr Doorbar said it was a national problem and felt it was getting worse. He was surprised there were not more claims for damaged vehicles.

Cllr Mrs Channon said there was an online reporting system and if the claim was genuine, compensation would be paid.

#### District Councillors

District Cllr Ms M Martin said there was nothing to report, just lots of induction training! She and her fellow Ward Members had been thrown in at the deep end with the recent flooding at Colaton Raleigh and Newton Poppleford. She had attended a meeting with the group co-ordinating the relief effort and a document would be published in due course – she would forward a copy to the Town Council. A drop-in session would be held in Newton Poppleford on 23 May with representatives from East Devon District Council StreetScene, Devon County Council and the Environment Agency.

District Cllr Ms M Martin left the meeting.

District Cllr H Riddell said he did not have anything to add. The Annual Council meeting would be held at Ocean, Exmouth on Wednesday 25 May at which time all the Committees were appointed.

#### **23.035 Finance Inspection**

- (i) Payments for the month of May 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 April 2023.

Mrs J E Vanstone added that the Internal Audit was complete and she would be forwarding the relevant information to Members in the next week or so before presenting to the Town Council on 26 June.

#### **23.036 Public Hall: Re-lacquering of Main Hall Floor**

Consideration was given to quotations to re-lacquer the main hall floor.

Cllr Mrs L D Evans advised that there were no known issues with the condition of the floor (such as woodworm) but the Caretaker was continually filling areas which were failing. She said the floor needed to be sealed properly to keep it going for another few years. It was

**Resolved:** The quotation from Fabulous Floors was accepted.

Cllr Mrs L D Evans advised that work could be carried out in July as Imperial Productions were not visiting the town this summer.

#### **23.037 East Devon District Council: Licence Application – Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club, East Budleigh Road**

An application from Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club for an alcohol licence was received and considered and no objections were raised.

#### **23.038 Devon County Council (East Devon HATOC) (Traffic Regulation) Amendment Order**

Details of proposals for No Waiting At Any Time on specified lengths of Bedlands Lane, Boucher Road and East Budleigh Road had been circulated prior to the Meeting and no objections were raised.

### 23.039 Correspondence Received

- The Clerk: May 2023
- Clerks & Councils Direct: May 2023
- Allotment & Leisure Gardener: Issue 2 2023
- Devon County Council:
  - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Granary Lane/Salting Hill/Coastguard Hill/Marine Parade: 28 May 2023 (Gala Week – Fun Run)
  - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic & Parking – Exmouth Road: 13 August 2023 (Surface Dressing Works)
  - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic & Parking – Exmouth Road: 20 August 2023 (Surface Dressing Works)

### 23.040 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Cllr Mrs L D Evans advised that she would be emptying the baskets outside the Public Hall after Gala Week and anyone was welcome to take the plants.
- Cllr R J Doorbar asked for confirmation regarding putting forward items for inclusion on an agenda.  
The Clerk confirmed that items should be forwarded to her in the first instance. She would then put them to the Town Mayor (or appropriate Chairman) for consideration and subsequent inclusion on the agenda.

### 23.041 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning Committee:	12 June 2023 at 7.00pm
Planning Committee:	26 June 2023 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	26 June 2023 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Public Hall Committee:	26 June 2023 on the rising of the Town Council

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.06pm.

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Chairman

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Date