

## **BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 10 July 2023 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.26pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr D J Hayward (Town Mayor)  
Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Cllr Mrs L D Evans  
Cllr R D Sherriff

**Town Clerk:** Mrs J E Vanstone

**Others Present:** Cllr Mrs C M Cunningham, Cllr M C Hilliar, Cllr D Walsh, Cllr W K Wood and Cllr Ms G Woodcraft

### **23.093 Election of Chairman**

Only one nomination had been received, that of Cllr R D Sherriff, proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt and seconded by Cllr Mrs L D Evans. The Town Mayor declared that Cllr R D Sherriff be appointed as Chairman.

### **23.094 Public Speaking Time**

No Members of the public wished to speak.

### **23.095 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A F Chaplin.

### **23.096 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held on 13 March 2023 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

### **23.097 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman said four factors were key regarding the current state of the foreshore:

- a) East Devon District Council (EDDC) has a shortage of funds
- b) EDDC has a shortage of manpower
- c) EDDC has a shortage of resources
- d) a lack of clarification as to which authority/organisation is responsible for key areas of the seafront

The following areas were highlighted as cause for concern during a recent walk with the Town Mayor, Cllr D J Hayward and officers from EDDC:

1. The posts at the southern end of Cliff Road, where it joins the footpath, need painting. Responsibility probably lies with Devon County Council (DCC) Highways but this was not clear. This is a quick job that could be carried out by Budleigh Salterton Town Council (BSTC), otherwise there will be a long wait for the relevant authority to take responsibility.
2. Most of the benches on the Foreshore have been re-stained. Those in the area of Steamer Steps need doing. See a, b and c above – no action in the foreseeable future unless BSTC takes responsibility.
3. The shelter just west of Steamer Steps. EDDC is aware it is unsafe and in need of repair. It has been closed off until these works are completed.

4. Steamer Steps. The proposed work to replace the railings should have started, but as yet hasn't. The steps are the responsibility of DCC, the railings EDDC. Watch this space! The redevelopment of the steps is on hold because of cost issues and a lack of clarity regarding responsibility between DCC/EDDC. See a,) b), c) and d) above.
5. The vegetation growth on the slopes by Steamer Steps and east towards the Fisherman's area. Health and Safety legislation now requires contractors to use specialist safety equipment to manage the vegetation in this area. EDDC do not have such equipment or have staff trained to operate in what they view to be a hazardous location. Unless an independent specialist contractor can be found, no action will be taken with regard to this.
6. EDDC have stated that they will strim and then remove the weeds along the seaward edge of the Foreshore between Steamer Steps and the BS Club.
7. The water quality display monitor by the Jubilee Shelter isn't working but will be replaced shortly.
8. The re-painting of the shelter by Lime Kiln car park which was started during the winter still has not been completed. East Devon District Council officers will ask EDDC Property Services to complete this work asap.
9. The railings by the gun emplacements are safe but in need of renovation.

The Chairman said this was a sorry state of affairs. Any progress on the above seemed to fall to the Town Council if there was a wish to see an improvement in the Foreshore in the foreseeable future.

He wondered if the Council should consider looking to employ an additional contractor to tackle some of these additional jobs.

### **23.098 Disabled Beach Access**

Consideration was given to the provision of disabled access to the beach.

The Chairman explained that matting had been installed at Beer and Seaton beaches which allowed mobility and wheelchair users to get on to the beach but not in the sea. EDDC officers had looked at Budleigh beach and a section at Lime Kiln was suitable. They estimated the cost would be in the region of £6000. EDDC did not have the funds to install matting during the current financial year but officers would be submitting budgets for beach access improvements in 2024. The Chairman explained the advantage of waiting would be that EDDC would be responsible for the installation/removal of the matting each year and would also store it over the winter months.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that this suggestion be put to the Town Council for consideration.

### **23.099 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion**

- The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt asked that the area around the dog bin in Bear Lane be cleared.
- Cllr Mrs Sismore-Hunt said she thought the dog bin on the seafront had been removed.
- Cllr Mrs L D Evans asked that the area from the Rosemullion to Jubilee Field be cut back.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.47pm.

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Chairman

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Date