

## **BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Budleigh Salterton Climate Change Group held online via Zoom on Monday 6 March 2023 at 6.00pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr M C Hilliar (Chairman, Town Mayor)  
County Cllr Mrs C Channon  
Ms J Moore (St Peter's School)  
Mr P Fletcher (Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton)  
Mrs K McDermott-Darley (Budleigh Community Workshop Trust)  
Mr M McGlade (Budleigh Salterton & District Chamber of Commerce)  
Mr G Maddaford (Otter Valley Association)

**Secretary:** Mrs J E Vanstone

### **CC/27 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr D J Hayward, Cllr Mrs M P Lewis, District Cllr P M Jarvis and Clare James (Clinton Devon Estates).

Cllr J Tresidder (East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council) was not present.

### **CC/28 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 January 2023 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

### **CC/29 Water Pollution on our Beaches**

Jemima updated the Group on the purchase of water testing kits. She said that the children were keen and she had people to carry out the actual tests. She was still waiting to hear from the supplier.

George advised that the OVA Chairman knew of a supplier and would pass on his contact details to Jemima.

George wondered if the work to the outfall pipe would improve water quality. Christine said she would soon be attending a Lower Otter Restoration Project stakeholder meeting and would raise those questions.

There was then some discussion on the sewerage pumping system in the town.

Mike advised that Jo had written to South West Water (SWW) inviting them to speak at a future meeting but had not had a response.

Kate said that Simon Jupp MP had raised this in parliament. The level of pollution going into our seas and rivers needed to be looked at. She felt a special project team should be formed to look at all aspects of this issue as currently the groups were not joined up.

Christine was also concerned about this. She added she had met a representative from the Environment Agency who had advised that SWW should be tackled as much as posters reminding visitors to take their rubbish home.

### **CC/30 EV Charging Points**

Jo updated the Group on the possible installation of EV Charging Points. She explained that in order to install EV Chargers, the Town Council needed to have the General Power of Competence (GPC). Unfortunately, the current make-up of the Town Council meant that it was not possible to adopt GPC as it is a requirement that a minimum of two-thirds of the total number of councillors have to be elected and it is currently less than that. She added that this may change after the elections in May.

She then advised that she had looked at the councils which were listed on the Char.gy website with a view to contacting them but they were district, borough or county councils who have different rules than town and parish councils.

It was agreed that this item will be kept on the agenda for future meetings.

Peter asked when the cycle racks in Rolle Mews Car Park would be reinstated. Jo said she had asked East Devon District Council (EDDC) to do this and would chase them.

**CC/31 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion**

- Christine said the Devon Carbon Plan was an interesting document and well worth a read. She said Devon County Council (DCC) was working hard to install EV chargers around the County and she felt EDDC should be lobbied; their recycling system was good but they could do more.
- Peter asked why more cycle paths couldn't be installed in the town – he said there was obviously funding available but it seemed it had all been spent in Exeter and nothing had been spent here. Christine explained that schemes needed to be submitted to DCC; the path was Budleigh Salterton to Exmouth was important.
- Jo reported that Clare had advised it was Clinton Devon Estates' plan to be net zero by 2030.
- Kate commented on the increase in the number of cases of bird flu and its transmission on to mammals. She wondered with the proximity of the River Otter to the town, whether this Group should be concerned. Christine added that she was concerned about the barnacle geese and suggested we contact the RSPB for more information.

**CC/32 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on Zoom on Monday 19 June 2023 at 6.00pm.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 6.37pm.

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Chairman

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Date