

## **BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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

Meeting commenced at 7.15pm.

### **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 Mrs M P Lewis  
Cllr D Walsh  
Cllr W K Wood  
Cllr Ms G Woodcraft

**Town Clerk:** Mrs J E Vanstone

**Others Present:** County Cllr Mrs C Channon and District Cllr Ms C Fitzgerald and two members of the public

### **23.240 Public Speaking Time**

No members of the public wished to speak.

### **23.241 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from District Cllr H L Riddell.

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

- Cllr M C Hilliar declared a personal interest in Min 23.253 – he is the Town Council's representative to St Peter's School

### **23.243 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 25 September 2023 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

### **23.244 Reports of Committees**

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- Public Hall Committee held on 9 October 2023
- Staffing Committee held on 9 October 2023

### **23.245 Chairman's Report**

The Town Mayor, Cllr D J Hayward reported:

- He and the Town Clerk had met with Phil Morgan from Devon County Council to discuss the issues with the town's drains. It had been an informative discussion and he and Mr Morgan had then visited the shops in Fore Street which had been flooded on 17 September. The drains had been blocked as well as gullies and down-pipes, but it had been one in 25-year event which meant the drains were not coping. The drains had since been cleared.
- He had attended an interesting Otter to Exe meeting with chairmen and clerks from various local councils situated between the two rivers. Exmouth had reported vandalism problems in the town and whilst there were issues in Budleigh Salterton, there were not on the same scale.

### **23.246 Clerk's Report**

Mrs J E Vanstone reported

- She was in the process of upgrading the Hall and Office internet to full fibre. There would be a period of transition when both systems were operating but she was hopeful that everything would be up and running smoothly by the end of November.
- She expected to hear from East Devon District Council (EDDC) at the beginning of November as to whether there would be a by-election following Roger Sherriff's resignation. She would keep Members updated.

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

#### Budleigh in Bloom

Cllr Mrs L D Evans reported that the town had been replanted for the winter. While the volunteers had been undertaking the planting they had had a discussion about the flower bed between the library and medical centre. One of the volunteers would be happy to give replanting advice; the Clerk will make contact.

Cllr Mrs Evans then advised that the team would be removing the three-tiered planter outside the library as it was difficult to reach with watering cans; they would be offering it to the School who could perhaps use it to grow herbs.

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

#### County Councillor

Cllr Mrs C Channon reported:

- Clarepharm. When she had heard that the larger shop was closing, she had contacted Marc Jobson at Seachange as they had previously discussed the possibility of a pharmacy at the former hospital. There had been talk about putting the two licences into the one small pharmacy and she had checked with Dr Rick Mejzner to see if this was permissible as she was not sure if there could be two licences in one location. He was looking into this. She thought it would make a lot of sense to have a pharmacy at Seachange.  
Cllr Mrs M P Lewis thought it would be against monopoly rules to put the two licences into one.  
Cllr Mrs L D Evans said she was concerned about a pharmacy at Seachange as there was a push to encourage people to shop in the town.  
Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt added that large prescriptions were being sent off site to be made up.
- South Farm Road. She had been surprised to see the number of cars parked on the road and in the car park on a recent visit to South Farm! She said a request for Double Yellow Lines was on the composite Traffic Order but this could take up to 18 months to be completed and she felt this was too long. She asked the Town Council to write to Clinton Devon Estates (CDE) to request they fund the Order.
- Evans Field. At the last Town Council meeting, it had been suggested that the cost of installing street lighting and footpath be investigated. She said she had not got a precise figure but thought it could be six figures.  
Cllr Mrs M P Lewis said the footpath was more important than the streetlights and asked if the costings could show the footpath and streetlights separately.
- The Neighbourhood Highways Officer, Emma Sampson, had had an accident and she was sorry to report that her stand-in was a bit of a jobsworth! She had been informed that he was insisting that a payment of £240 be made for the licence for the Late Night Shopping Event. She had explained the situation to him and was pleased to advise that no charge would now be made!

#### District Councillors

District Cllr Ms C Fitzgerald had forwarded her report to the Clerk who had circulated it earlier in the day. It covered the following:

- Lifeguarding Provision at Budleigh Salterton for 2024
- Youth Football pitch at Budleigh Salterton Football Club
- Car Parking Charges
- Housing Monitoring Update
- Grass Cutting

District Cllr Fitzgerald added the following comments:

- There was to be a district-wide review of motor homes and she wondered if there were any issues in Budleigh Salterton. She was aware they were quite a problem in Exmouth but did not know if it was the same in Budleigh Salterton.
- She was concerned about Shop Vacancies and had asked the manager for Economy to take a look at the High Street when he is in the area on 31 October. The Town Mayor confirmed there were 6 empty shops along the High Street.
- There was also to be a review of dog and litter bins as it would seem there were differing charges across the District. The Clerk confirmed that this Council did not pay for any bins.

Mrs J E Vanstone had circulated District Cllr H L Riddell's report earlier in the day. It covered the following points:

- The first 'pumpkin festival' at South Farm
- South Farm Road
- Budleigh Salterton Youth Trust
- Overview Committee meeting covering the new Bin and Waste Strategy along with the new Parking Strategy
- Youth pitch at Budleigh Salterton Football Club

One member of the public left the meeting.

#### **23.249 Finance Inspection**

- (i) Payments for the month of October 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 September 2023.

#### **23.250 Authority to Sign Cheques/Direct Debits/Authorise Payments**

Cllr Ms G Woodcraft volunteered to be added to the list of those with authority to sign cheques and Direct Debits and authorise internet banking payments.

#### **23.251 Staffing – Salary Increases**

The decision made by the Staffing Committee at which it was agreed to increase the hourly rate paid to both the Caretaker and Deputy Caretaker by £1.00 per hour was ratified.

#### **23.252 Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal 2023**

Consideration was given to an appropriate donation for the wreaths and it was

**Resolved:** A donation of £300 will be made.

#### **23.253 Request for Grant Aid 2023/24: St Peter's School PTA**

- (i) Consideration was given to making a grant towards the purchase of gifts for the Christmas Grotto.

**Resolved:** A grant will be made.

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

**Resolved:** A grant of £500 will be made.

**23.254 Request for Grant Aid 2024/25: Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton – Gala Week Children’s Cycle Competition**

(i) Consideration was given to sponsoring the Cycle Competition.

**Resolved:** This Council will sponsor the Competition.

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

**Resolved:** Sponsorship of £200 was agreed.

**23.255 Correspondence Received**

- Shop Budleigh: Launch pack
- Otter Valley Association: Winter 2023 newsletter
- Devon County Council:
  - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Bear Lane: 24 October 2023 (work to rising main)
  - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – East Budleigh Road: 1 to 3 November 2023 (supply new water supply)
  - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Stoneborough Lane: 19 to 20 December 2023

**23.256 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion**

- Cllr R J Doorbar said he had a couple of issues that he wished to raise at the next meeting and he would be contacting the Clerk and Chairman with the relevant information

**23.257 Dates of Next Meetings**

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Planning Committee:          | 13 November 2023 at 7.00pm  |
| Foreshore & Footpaths:       | 13 November 2023 on the rising of the Planning Committee              |
| Community Gardens Committee: | 13 November 2023 on the rising of the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee |
| Planning Committee:          | 27 November 2023 at 7.00pm  |
| Town Council:                | 27 November 2023 on the rising of the Planning Committee              |
| Finance Committee:           | 27 November 2023 on the rising of the Town Council                    |

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.51pm.

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Chairman

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Date