

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 29 January 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.08pm.

PRESENT

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 S J Horn
Cllr Mrs M P Lewis
Cllr D Walsh
Cllr W K Wood
Cllr Ms G Woodcraft

In attendance: District Cllr Ms M Martin, District Cllr H L Riddell, Mrs J E Vanstone (Town Clerk) and one member of the public

In the absence of the Town Mayor, the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt chaired the Meeting.

23.375 Public Speaking Time

No members of the public wished to speak.

23.376 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from the Town Mayor, Cllr D J Hayward, District Cllr Ms C Fitzgerald and County Cllr Mrs C Channon.

23.377 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

- Cllr Mrs L D Evans declared a personal interest in Min 23.386 – she is the deputy chairman of the Group
- Cllr M C Hilliar also declared a personal interest in Min 23.386 – he is the Council representative on the Group

23.378 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 11 December 2023 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

23.379 Reports of Committees

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- Community Infrastructure Levy Committee held on 15 January 2024
- Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group held on 16 January 2024
- Budleigh Salterton Climate Change Group held on 22 January 2024

23.380 Chairman's Report

No report had been received.

23.381 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- The Council Tax Base information had now been received. For 2024/25 it had changed to 2826 from 2812 in 2023/24. This meant the Council Tax charged to a Band D property had changed to £58.70 from the estimated £59.00.
- The repairs to the Public Hall roof had been carried out and this would hopefully mean no more towels on the office floor!

23.382 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

St Peter's School

Cllr M C Hilliar reported that the Head Teacher, Mr Hitchcock, was now job sharing at The Beacon in Exmouth until they were able to find a new head teacher. During his absence, the School was in the very capable hands of Acting Head Teacher, Mrs Broad.

Budleigh in Bloom

Cllr Mrs L D Evans reported that the Group would be holding its AGM in the Norman Centre on 13 March. The Group continued to raise funds for its spring planting programme.

23.383 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

Mrs J E Vanstone read County Cllr Mrs C Channon's report:

- She had been contacted by Clinton Devon Estates (CDE) regarding the installation of Double Yellow Lines along South Farm Road. She understood that CDE were happy to pay for the Traffic Order so she hoped it could be progressed quickly. She would be contacting the Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) to arrange a site visit.
 - She had received a request for a bus stop sign on Little Common and she would also be contacting the NHO about this.
- Cllr Mrs L D Evans wondered if the Double Yellow Lines would have blips to stop disabled drivers parking along the road.

District Councillors

District Cllr H L Riddell reported:

- The Open Morning at the Youth Club had gone well but attendance was not as high as they had hoped. The attendance at the Youth Club was still good and the team were looking at organising some trips in the summer.
- He had met with the Head Teacher from St Peter's School and Cllr W K Wood at the Football Club to discuss the community pitch. They had made quite a bit of progress and the lease was nearly ready to be signed. He added that they had been approached by a group who wanted to organise walking football sessions.

Cllr Mrs L D Evans asked when the pitch would be ready. Cllr Wood said they would not know the state of the ground until it had been cut and rolled but hopefully the pitch would be ready by the start of the new season.

District Cllr Ms M Martin reported:

- She and Cllr Riddell had attended the recent Overview Committee meeting at which Beach Amenity Development Plan (BADP) was discussed. The Plan would cover all aspects of the beach but in Budleigh Salterton would focus on Steamer Steps rebuild, damage to the beach hut footings, lifeguarding and the Donkeys Turn path as well as the sewerage discharges. She and Cllr Riddell would be meeting with the Beach Safety Officer, Pete Blyth, to discuss the Plan, but specifically Budleigh Salterton.
Mrs J E Vanstone asked if the Town Council would be included in any decision making. Cllr Martin thought that would be the case and asked for the name of the Councillor who would attend any meetings. The
- The Overview Committee had also discussed a proposal to encourage Coach Tourism in the District. This would mean improved signage and coach parking areas. Any recommendations would need to go to Cabinet for final approval.

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis said she understood District Cllr Ms C Fitzgerald had had her baby and asked if the Council could send congratulations.

23.384 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the months of December 2023 and January 2024, in accordance with Appendix A, were approved.
- (ii) It was noted that the Chairman of the Finance Committee had carried out the internal finance inspections for November and December 2023.

23.385 Audit 2023/24

It was noted that the Council's Internal Auditor, Westcotts, had undertaken the interim audit and no issues had been raised.

23.386 Request for Grant Aid 2024/25: Exmouth & District Community Transport Group

- (i) Consideration was given to making a donation to the Group.

Resolved: A donation will be made.

Cllr M C Hilliar added that the Group runs three buses and provides a fantastic service including lunch/supermarket trips and taking patients to hospital appointments. He said any donation would help a great deal.

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

Resolved: A donation of £1500 will be made.

23.387 Budleigh Information Centre

Mrs J E Vanstone provided an update following the Working Group meeting held on 3 January 2024.

The group agreed that there needed to be an open discussion with the Budleigh Information Centre (BIC) to learn a bit more about the running of the Centre and gain BIC's understanding of the Council's future involvement.

She said it was recommended that the Group met with up to three BIC members and report back to the Town Council.

23.388 Devon Wildlife Trust: Free Landmark Tree

Information from the Devon Wildlife Trust had been circulated prior to the Meeting. Consideration was given to whether this Council wished to apply for a free tree as part of the Saving Devon's Treescapes Project.

Mrs J E Vanstone advised that the tree presented to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee had died and wondered, if the application was successful, if this tree could be planted in its place.

Resolved: No objections were raised to an application being submitted.

23.389 Correspondence Received

- Devon County Council: Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic & Parking – Granary Lane: 18 to 22 March 2024 (South West Water – new connection works)
- Royal British Legion, Budleigh Salterton Branch: Letter of thanks for donation
- Devon Association of Local Councils: Notification of Subscription Fees 2024/25
- Lloyds Bank: Details of when the Mobile Branch Service is ending and alternative arrangements
- The Clerk: January 2024
- Clerks & Councils Direct: January 2024

23.390 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Cllr R J Doorbar said the issues with sewerage discharges were important and the Council must keep monitoring the situation as well as putting pressure on South West Water. He said he was reluctant to swim in the sea because of this.
District Cllr Ms M Martin added that this subject is raised at every parish council meeting she attended.
Cllr Mrs C M Cunningham said she was concerned there were discharges even when there had been no heavy rain.
Cllr Doorbar asked that the District Councillors continued to keep up the pressure at East Devon District Council.
Cllr Mrs M P Lewis said the work being carried out by the school could be really useful when their results are collated.
- Cllr Mrs Lewis asked if a response had been received from Kier regarding the path at Evans Field.
Mrs J E Vanstone said she had not received a response at the time of the meeting.
- Cllr Mrs Lewis reported she understood a resident was responsible for changing the tide times at Steamer Steps and she wondered who would do this if this resident was unable to continue.
It was suggested that this be included in any Beach Management Plan.

23.391 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning Committee:	12 February 2024 at 7.00pm
Community Gardens Committee:	12 February 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Public Hall Committee:	12 February 2024 on the rising of the Community Gardens Committee
Planning Committee:	26 February 2024 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	26 February 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.41pm.

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Chairman

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Date