

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 26 February 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting started at 7.03pm.

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: County Cllr Mrs C Channon, 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.

23.424 Public Speaking Time

No Members wished to speak.

23.425 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr D J Hayward (Town Mayor) and District Cllr Ms C Fitzgerald.

23.426 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

- Cllr W K Wood declared an interest in Min 23.435 – he is secretary of Budleigh Salterton Football Club

23.427 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 29 January 2024 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

23.428 Reports of Committees

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- Community Gardens Committee held on 12 February 2024
- Public Hall Committee held on 12 February 2024
- Budleigh Salterton Climate Change Group held on 5 February 2024

23.429 Chairman's Report

Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt (Deputy Town Mayor) said she did not have a lot to report during her time standing in for Cllr Hayward. She and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting of the Otter to Exe Group and it was good to know that the Council is not alone dealing with issues such as public toilets!

23.430 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- She and Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt had attended the Meeting of the Otter to Exe Group. There had been a long discussion about the current issues with South West Water (SWW). The Group would be writing as a collective. The Group had also discussed Green Wedges and the Public Toilet Review; the villages were not really affected as one or two already run their toilets but it was interesting to know they probably would not take them on now if they knew what was involved!
- She had received details of an online event being held on 27 February which would be discussing the Devon Devolution Deal; members would need to register quickly to be able to attend.
- Devon Association of Local Councils was running a Larger Councils Workshop on 7 March; she was unable to attend and asked if any members were able, they should register quickly.
- She had had a meeting with the Surveyor, Sean Mills, who would be carrying out an inspection of the Station Road Toilets. She asked Members to instruct her as to which type of report he should prepare.

23.431 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

Budleigh Information Centre

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis reported there had been a good joint meeting with the BIC team. They were doing a lot to sort out their problems in order to keep going into the future. Another meeting had been organised for 3 June.

23.432 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs C Channon reported:

- The Council's Budget meeting had been held on 16 February and the budget agreed; there would be an increase of 4.99% in order to support the young, old and vulnerable. Adult Social Care funding was increasing £43.8m. There was funding for pothole repairs but there was currently a shortage of contractors. There was also funding for gully work, YMCAs and homeless charities.
- She had a new swear word – SWW! She had been surprised to see a road closure for Upper Stoneborough Lane and having gone to look found no holes or workmen; the road had remained closed all weekend causing issues for buses and tankers which were having to divert. She said this sort of thing kept happening but there was no way of fining the company. She was not happy that she had not been informed.
- She had made a grant of £500 for the Memory Café at Seachange.
- The Passing Place in the High Street was not as it should be! The Neighbourhood Highways Officer had complained about it – it was not the size it should have been and there was inadequate signage. She was unsure when it will be sorted out.
- She had attended a Members Presentation regarding the Devon Devolution Deal and had sent the slides to the Clerk. She said the county needed better infrastructure; schools and roads as well as SWW issues as fines did not seem to work; health service issues also need to be addressed. She was happy to see all sectors were represented with the inclusion of district councils and the Devon Association of Local Councils. She felt it was important to work as a team.

Cllr M C Hilliar said he had reported a large pothole in Yettington which needed some serious attention. Cllr Channon said there was a wait for a contractor and good weather.

Cllr Hilliar also reported that Sanctuary Lane was in very poor condition. Cllr Channon said there was a problem with the number of springs in the vicinity.

- She also mentioned that she had been contacted regarding the state of the road outside the Library. She said this was due to be resurfaced but did not know when.

District Councillors

District Cllr H L Riddell reported:

- He had attended the event at the Lime Kiln Car Park to celebrate the completion of the Lower Otter Restoration Project and the extension of the Nature Reserve creating the Otter Estuary Nature Reserve, the third in the new King's Series of National Nature Reserves. The event had been well attended.
- Budleigh Salterton Youth Project had held an open morning and had received several ideas of ways to expand the reach of the project. The group was planning a disco at the end of June.
- At the Council Meeting held on 21 February 2024, he had spoken on the motion regarding SWW. During the discussions, there had been the suggestion that the Planning department be shut down. He said it was important that town and parish councils keep on writing to SWW.
- He had met with police regarding the issues in Lime Kiln Car Park. The police had handed out fines and if the offenders were caught again, their cars could be seized. He said that only two or three reports had been logged and it was important to use 101, rather than Facebook!
- He would be attending a Green Wedge Workshop on 5 March and if anyone had any questions for him to raise, to let him know.

District Cllr Ms M Martin said she did not have a lot to add as she had attended the same meetings as Cllr Riddell!

- She had offered to help with one of the relaxation rooms at the Venture Hall and was helping redesign the website.
- She had received a complaint about the state of Station Road.
- The next update would be after the workshop on 5 March.

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis asked when the work at Lime Kiln playpark would be finished. Cllr Riddell was not sure but hoped it would be before Easter.

Cllr Lewis also asked when the work on the seafront toilets would be carried out as it was important there were operational toilets on the seafront during the summer. Cllr Martin confirmed that funding for temporary toilets had been approved.

Cllr M C Hilliar congratulated Cllr Riddell on his inaugural speech at East Devon District Council (EDDC) the previous week.

23.433 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of February 2024, in accordance with Appendix A, were approved.
- (ii) It was noted that the Chairman of the Finance Committee will carry out the internal finance inspection for January 2024 as soon as he is able.

23.434 Request for Grant Aid 2024/25: Budleigh Music Festival

- (i) Consideration was given to making a donation towards the Tea & Tunes event which will be held on 5 July 2024.

Resolved: A donation will be made.

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

Resolved: A donation of £500 will be made.

23.435 Request for Grant Aid 2024/25: Budleigh Salterton AFC – Youth Section

(i) Consideration was given to making donation towards the purchase of additional equipment needed to set up 'Robins Nest'.

Resolved: A donation will be made.

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

Resolved: A donation of £5000 will be made.

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis asked if these items could be funded from S106 funds as the site came under the Evans Field catchment area.

The Clerk gave a brief explanation on the difference between S106 and CIL monies.

Cllr Riddell advised that he had previously spoken to the S106 officer about this and had been told it was not possible to use S106 for these items.

23.436 East Devon District Council: Pavement Licence Application – Mercado, 24 High Street

An application from Mercado for a pavement licence was received and considered. It was

Resolved: The application could not be supported, as Members feel there is insufficient space for pedestrians to walk past with pushchairs/wheelchairs etc.

23.437 Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal

The Devon and Torbay Devolution Draft Proposal had been circulated prior to the Meeting. Members asked for more time to consider the Proposals and therefore a response will be made at an Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council to be held on 11 March 2024.

The Clerk asked for comments by 6 March so she could prepare a précis for circulation with the agenda.

23.438 Emergency Plan

Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt explained that since Adrian Harris had stood down, work on the Plan had stalled. The Clerk added that the plan was 95% completed and did not need a great deal more work to complete it.

Resolved: Cllr S J Horn agreed to take on the project. The Clerk will go through everything with Cllr Horn once it is received from Mr Harris.

District Cllr Ms M Martin said that David Whelan at EDDC was a great source of help and information.

Cllr Sismore-Hunt said she would visit Mr Harris to collect the information/equipment.

23.439 Correspondence Received

- Devon County Council:
 - East Devon HATOC (Traffic Regulation) Amendment Order
 - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Stoneborough Lane: 16 April 2024 (Pole Replacement)
 - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic & Parking – Granary Lane, Salting Hill, Coastguard Hill and Marine Parade: 26 May 2024 (Fun Run)
- South West Museum Development: Update on 2024 provision
- Allotment Gardener: Issue 1 2024
- Otter Valley Association: Spring 2024
- Shop Budleigh: Details of the Budleigh Business Awards

23.440 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Cllr Mrs L D Evans asked that the Town Council revisited the issue of staffing levels in the office.
Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt said she and the Clerk had been discussing this and a Staffing Committee meeting would be held on 11 March 2024 to consider the options.
- Mrs J E Vanstone advised that she had scheduled the Annual Parish Meeting for 10 April 2024.

23.441 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning Committee:	11 March 2024 at 7.00pm
Foreshore & Footpaths Committee:	11 March 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Planning Committee:	25 March 2024 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	25 March 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Annual Parish Meeting:	10 April 2024 at 7.00pm

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

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Chairman

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Date

