

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 25 March 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.04pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt (Deputy Town Mayor)

Cllr R J Doorbar

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 C Fitzgerald, District Cllr Ms M Martin, District Cllr H L Riddell, six members of the public and Mrs J E Vanstone (Town Clerk)

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

23.476 Public Speaking Time

Mr W McDermott from Budleigh Community Workshop spoke on the proposal to take over the Station Road Toilets. He explained that the Workshop would be interested in using any part of the toilet block to house some of their more noisy machinery.

A resident also spoke about the Station Road Toilets proposal. He felt that East Devon District Council (EDDC) were pushing things on to the Town and Town Council which were not advantageous. They would prefer to see public toilets located in the Public Hall, therefore meaning EDDC had no hold over BSTC.

Another resident said they understood when the toilet block was out of action, the library staff had many people asking to use their facilities. They would not want the library over-whelmed in the future.

23.477 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr D J Hayward (Town Mayor), Cllr A F Chaplin, Cllr Mrs C M Cunningham, Cllr Mrs L D Evans and County Cllr Mrs C Channon.

23.478 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No interests were declared.

23.479 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 26 February 2024 and Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 11 March 2024 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record when Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt is able.

23.480 Reports of Committees

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held on 11 March 2024
- Staffing Committee held on 11 March 2024

23.481 Chairman's Report

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt had nothing to report.

23.482 Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report.

23.483 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

No reports were received.

23.484 Reports of County and District Councillors

Mrs J E Vanstone advised that County Cllr Mrs C Channon had nothing to report this month.

District Councillors

District Cllr Ms M Martin reported:

- At a recent Overview Committee meeting, a proposal to introduce a District-wide tree strategy had been supported. This was part of EDDC climate change work and would be protecting trees, hedgerows and woodlands in urban and rural areas. Town and Parish Councils would be involved as well as other community groups.
Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt asked if this could be used to encourage developers to plant hedgerows rather than put up fencing.
- A Car Park Strategy had also been discussed and would be looking at charges and new technology for paying as well as seasonal discounts. Once completed, the Strategy would go out for public consultation.
- There was not much to update on Lime Kiln Toilets; the planning application was to be discussed on 26 March.
- She was pleased to received support for her proposal to ban glue traps and snares on district council land.

District Cllr Ms C Fitzgerald said whilst she had been on maternity leave for the past three months, she was still keeping in touch.

- The changes to Green Wedges meant the area to the west of West Hill and Exmouth Road which was currently outside the Built Up Area Boundary would be affected. She had spoken to officers to get the report before the Committee earlier than the proposed October date.

District Cllr H L Riddell reported:

- He had met with Simon Jupp to discuss the possibility of a Banking Hub in the town. The town did not meet the current criteria but with those criteria changing in a few months, it still might be a possibility.
- There was a slim chance that the Lime Kiln Play Area would re-open on Good Friday but it was more likely to be after Easter. The work had been held up by the weather.

23.485 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of March 2024, in accordance with Appendix A, were approved.

The Clerk advised that there might be one or two more to add to the list, as it was important all services and goods provided in this year were included for the Year End.

- (ii) It was noted that Cllr Ms G Woodcraft had carried out the internal finance inspections for January and February 2024.

23.486 East Devon District Council: Station Road Toilets

The revised draft Heads of Terms for the building had been circulated prior to the Meeting and were noted.

The following reports had also been circulated prior to the Meeting and were noted:

- a) Meeting held on 29 January 2024 between Town Councillors, District Councillors and officers from EDDC, plus responses to the various questions raised following that meeting.
- b) Survey carried out by Sean Mills on 14 March 2024.

Consideration was then given to whether this Council wishes to purchase the freehold of the said building as per the proposed Heads of Terms. After a lengthy discussion it was

Resolved: This Council does not wish to proceed as per the current Heads of Terms.

It was further

Resolved: Cllr Mrs M P Lewis and Cllr W K Wood will prepare a list of points to be negotiated with EDDC which the Clerk will circulate before sending to EDDC.

23.487 Succession Planning

A report prepared by the Town Clerk had been circulated prior to the Meeting and was noted. The following documents were also agreed:

- Job Description
- Person Specification
- Advertisement
- Job Application Form

Consideration was then given to when her replacement should be employed. It was

Resolved: The advertisement will be placed with Devon Association of Local Councils, National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks after Easter with a closing date of 17 May. Interviews will be held in late May at a date convenient to the Town Mayor.

23.488 Budleigh Business Awards

Consideration was given to whether this Council wishes to sponsor an Award at the inaugural ceremony which will be held in July 2024. It was

Resolved: This Council will sponsor an Award. The type of sponsorship and category will be discussed at the next meeting. The Clerk will ask representatives of Shop Budleigh to attend.

23.489 Correspondence Received

- Budleigh Salterton AFC: Letter thanking the Town Council for the donation
- East Devon National Landscape: Information on the new name of the East Devon AONB
- The Clerk: March 2024
- Clerks & Councils Direct: March 2024

23.490 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis said she had raised a query about the Tide Times and noted it had not been included on the Meeting of the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee. The Clerk explained that the Chairman will raise the issue with the Beach Safety Officer when he meets up with him later in April. In the meantime, she will write to the resident expressing our appreciation for all he has done over the many years.

23.491 Dates of Next Meetings

Annual Parish Meeting:	10 April 2024 at 7.00pm (<i>to be held in the Public Hall</i>)
Planning Committee:	15 April 2024 at 7.00pm
Finance Committee:	15 April 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Planning Committee:	29 April 2024 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	29 April 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.09pm.

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Chairman

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Date

Approved