

## **BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL**

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

Meeting commenced at 7.15pm.

### **PRESENT**

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

Cllr A F Chaplin

Cllr Mrs C M Cunningham

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, two members of the public and Mrs J E Vanstone (Town Clerk)

### **23.511 Public Speaking Time**

Mrs Jen Mills from Shop Budleigh spoke about the Business Awards which will take place later in the year.

Moving on from the successful Christmas promotion, the Shop Budleigh team was trying to capitalise on that momentum and encourage all Budleigh businesses to “blow their own trumpets”. She said the Awards were aimed at all businesses based in the EX9 postcode, not just for Budleigh Salterton High Street. Entry costs had been kept low and any money that was left over would be put towards updating the town’s Christmas lights.

The team had selected all their judges (a really broad cross-section of the local community) and sponsorship was starting to come in.

Nominations would close on 30 April after which the judges would have 2-3 weeks to discuss entries. The Short List would then be announced with the ceremony being held on 4 July at Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club’s new clubhouse, The Holt.

She said that in the future the event could become a fundraiser and monies could be channelled back into the High Street but this first year, the team would be happy if the event paid for itself.

She said that any Sponsorship from the Town Council would be gratefully received and would enable the team to put on a really good event and get some good publicity for the town.

She was then asked if sufficient sponsorship had been received and whether there was any national funding available. Also, could East Devon District Council (EDDC) help at all?

She explained that the final sponsor details were not in. She was not aware of any national funding streams.

District Cllr Ms C Fitzgerald said she would speak to Rob Murray (Economic Development Manager at EDDC).

The Clerk will pass on the contact information of Devon Communities Together.

District Cllr H L Riddell and Mrs Mills left the meeting.

### **23.512 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from County Cllr Mrs C Channon.

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

No interests were declared.

### **23.514 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 25 March 2024 and the Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on 15 April 2024 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

### **23.515 Report of Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group held on 16 April 2024 were noted.

### **23.516 Retiring Chairman's Report**

The former Town Mayor, D J Hayward had not submitted a report.

### **23.517 Clerk's Report**

Mrs J E Vanstone reported that the "Budleigh Welcomes You" signs had been removed and were currently with Devon Signs for renovation.

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

#### Budleigh Salterton Football Club

Cllr W K Wood advised that at a recent Committee Meeting, the Club felt it had to return the Town Council Grant. He explained that the Club did not have enough funds to renovate the play area and make it a usable playing area. The Youth Section will carry on at St Peter's School for the time being but would use the main club area during the summer. He said EDDC had let the area go and the Club felt they should bring it back up to standard.

District Cllr Ms C Fitzgerald said she would speak to Cllr Wood after the meeting as she was sure EDDC officers were not aware of the amount of investment that was needed for the project.

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis asked that the Grant be reserved for the Football Club in case the project resumed in the future.

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

#### County Councillor

Mrs J E Vanstone reported on behalf of Cllr Channon:

- There had been a delay in advertising the Traffic Orders as the composite list for East Devon was very long this year and that department was short of staff. The list will go to the Highways & Traffic Orders Committee in July.
- She had contacted Clinton Devon Estates about the condition of their new car park at South Farm Road.

#### District Councillors

District Cllr Ms M Martin reported:

- The play park at the Lime Kiln car park was now open and the new planting would be delivered soon. She explained that the hedge separating the old cricket club from the car park would be maintained by Clinton Devon Estates and the new area adjacent to the play area would be maintained by EDDC.

District Cllr Ms C Fitzgerald reported:

- She had attended a meeting of the Waste and Recycling Board. The District still had really high levels of recycling and was in the top five councils in the country. She said EDDC was one of the first councils in England to recycle AHP (absorbent hygiene products) and a scheme was being trialled in Cranbrook in June.

### **23.520 Finance Inspection**

- (i) Payments for the month of April 2024, in accordance with Appendix A, were approved.
- (ii) It was noted that Cllr Ms G Woodcraft had carried out the internal finance inspection for March 2024.

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

- (i) Consideration was given to increasing the number of bank signatories to six (currently five).  
**Resolved:** The number of bank signatories will be increased to six.
- (ii) Cllr Mrs C M Cunningham, Cllr R J Doorbar and Cllr D Walsh volunteered to be added to the list of those with authority to sign cheques and Direct Debits and authorise internet banking payments.

### **23.522 Appointment of Solicitors**

Consideration was given to appointing a new solicitor to deal with the purchase of the freehold of Station Road Toilets from East Devon District Council. Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt advised that the Clerk had suggested appointing Tozers in Exeter. The Clerk added she understood Tozers were acting for another town council purchasing toilets from EDDC.  
**Resolved:** The Clerk should instruct Tozers to act on this Council's behalf.

### **23.523 Budleigh Business Awards**

Consideration was given to whether this Council wishes to sponsor the Awards Event and at what level (Bronze £50, Silver £300, Gold £500). The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt said what a great job the Shop Budleigh Team were doing and thanked Mrs Mills for a wonderful presentation. It was  
**Resolved:** This Council will provide £500 of sponsorship for the event.

### **23.524 Councillor Vacancies**

Consideration was given to delaying the co-option process until the required time has passed for both vacancies and it was  
**Resolved:** The process will be delayed until after 13 May 2024.

### **23.525 Swift Boxes**

A request from the Otter Valley Association to install up to five swift boxes on the rear elevation of the Public Hall was received and considered. It was  
**Resolved:** The request was approved. The Clerk will contact the Otter Valley Association to organise a convenient time for them to install the boxes.

### **23.526 Meeting Dates**

It was noted that the Town Council meeting dates for June/July 2024 will be changed to the following:

- 1 July 2024 (Planning and Town Council) (*previously 24 June*)
- 15 July (Planning, Foreshore & Footpaths and Public Hall) (*previously 8 July*)
- 29 July (Planning and Town Council) (*no change*)

### **23.527 Gala Week 2024**

It was noted that the Clerk had responded to the following request from the Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton, as per Min 21.362 of the Town Council minutes dated 21 February 2022:

- A concessionary hire charge of £100 to be applied for the hire of the Public Hall
- Use of The Green
- Erection of bunting above the High Street to remain in situ until after the Literary Festival in September

**23.528 Correspondence Received**

- Simon Jupp MP: response to letter regarding sewage issues
- South West Water: response to letter regarding sewage issues
- Environment Agency: response to letter regarding sewage issues
- OfWat: response to letter regarding sewage issues
- Devon County Council: Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Swains Road: 15 July 2024 (Repair Defective Tarmac)

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

- The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt asked who owned/was responsible for the post at the top of Fore Street Hill. The Clerk said she was not 100% sure but would check with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer to see if they could advise.

**23.530 Dates of Next Meetings**

Annual Meeting of the Town Council:	13 May 2024 at 7.00pm
Planning Committee:	13 May 2024 on the rising of the Town Council
Planning Committee:	20 May 2024 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	20 May 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Planning Committee:	10 June 2024 at 7.00pm

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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Chairman

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Date