

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

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

Meeting commenced at 7.24pm.

PRESENT

Cllr C A Sismore-Hunt (Town Mayor)
Cllr M C Hilliar (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr J S Billington
Cllr A F Chaplin
Cllr C M Cunningham
Cllr R J Doorbar
Cllr S J Horn
Cllr D Walsh
Cllr W K Wood
Cllr G Woodcraft

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

24.112 Public Speaking Time

No Members of the public wished to speak.

24.113 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M P Lewis and District Cllr C Fitzgerald.

24.114 Councillor Vacancy

It was noted that Jan Billington is co-opted on to the Town Council, unopposed.

24.115 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

No interests were declared.

24.116 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 1 July 2024 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

24.117 Reports of Committees

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held on 15 July 2024
- Public Hall Committee held on 15 July 2024
- Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group held on 16 July 2024

24.118 Chairman's Report

The Town Mayor, Cllr C A Sismore-Hunt reported:

- She had attended the Music Festival Reception which had been a very enjoyable evening.
- She and the Clerk had attended the Budleigh Business Awards. It had been a superb event and she hoped it continued in the future with more businesses getting involved.
- The Civic Service had been very successful. It was a lovely service and she thanked Cllr R J Doorbar for his assistance.

- The interviews for the replacement Town Clerk would be taking place on 6 and 16 August. The Clerk had met with five candidates so far with the final two due to visit over the next few days. She was pleased with progress as she had been getting a little concerned about the lack of responses!

24.119 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- She had replaced Councillor folders and had updated the notes on Declaring Interests and Planning Considerations. She had also included a breakdown of the Council's Income and Expenditure for 2023/24.
- The War Memorial was due to be cleaned over the weekend of 24/25 August but she would check the dates as this was the Bank Holiday weekend.
- She had spoken to Doug Stanton at East Devon District Council regarding the Station Road Toilets:
 - EDDC would like confirmation that this Council is happy for the car park sign and litter bin to remain in situ once the toilets were transferred.
 - She had asked for permission to install a water fountain near the service door and reported that it would be simpler to do this after the transfer had taken place.
 - Exchange of Contracts was scheduled for 30 September 2024 with the transfer taking place on 31 March 2025.
- She had attended a very interesting meeting, chaired by Cllr Paul Arnott, to discuss the issues with the Evans Field development. Also attending were Cllr Todd Olive (Portfolio Holder – Strategic Planning), County Cllr C Channon and all three Ward Councillors as well as two Devon County Council Highways Officers. It seemed that a trigger clause had not been included in the decision notice which would have required the developer to install a footpath and street lighting on B3178. Residents wanted EDDC to take legal action but it was unclear if this would happen. Cllr Arnott had suggested an update meeting in September after he and Cllr Olive had had time to speak with planning officers and take legal advice.
- Only one application had received for the remaining vacancy so that person could be co-opted immediately without interview. She will invite them to sign their Acceptance of Office later in the week.

24.120 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

Foreshore & Footpaths Committee

Cllr A F Chaplin advised that the Beach Access Matting would be installed on 1 August. The matting would run 210m in front of the Lime Kiln Car Park and would remain in situ until the end of September/beginning of October (depending on the weather!). It would be stored by EDDC over the winter and reinstalled in April. If it became apparent that the location needed changing, this could be done for 2025.

Friends of Budleigh Salterton Library

Cllr R J Doorbar reported that the fundraising being carried out by the Friends and Library staff was amazing. He said the staff did a great job and thought it was one of the best libraries he had visited. He understood the Clerk was liaising with the staff as to how best they could get funding to update their staff room.

Budleigh in Bloom

Cllr C M Cunningham reported that she had attended a recent meeting. The Group was desperately short of volunteers, especially to help with watering. She said that as time goes on, the volunteer team would diminish further. It was suggested that friends could create a buddy system to share the tasks. Committee Members would be attending the Lions Bank Holiday Monday seafront sale where they would be handing out leaflets asking for volunteers. She said the planting really made the town look special so it was vital to expand the team.

24.121 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

County Cllr C Channon thanked Cllr Sismore-Hunt for the invitation to attend the Civic Service; the town had been well represented with the bonus of nice refreshments afterwards!

- She briefly reported on the Evans Field meeting. She added that the Clerk had made a good point that BSTC could not be expected to pay for the footpath or street lights. She said it was such a shame the development had ended like this, as all Dr Evans had wanted was affordable housing for local residents. If there was any further development in this area it was incumbent on everyone to make sure this situation was not repeated.
- She had attended a meeting with South West Water officers. She had been made aware of work planned in Fore Street during the summer and had advised there was an embargo of summer works, except for emergency work. The scheme had changed to start in Little Knowle then working through the town. She had also commented about work going on in the town on Friday afternoons and the disruption over the weekend if the work is not concluded. She said SWW relationship with Devon County Council was not good mostly due to a lack of communication. She said that the new scheme needed careful perusal.
- She had been approached by a resident of West Hill who had complained about how dangerous the road was! She explained there was no way of installing additional footways and was not aware of any serious incidents on this road. The resident had advised that the hedge on the north side of the road was overhanging the footway and she had passed this information to Highways.
- She was aware that some trees along Exmouth Road and West Hill were starting to obstruct the buses. She said that residents needed to be aware of their duty to keep trees properly pruned.
- She and District Cllr H L Riddell had met with Jen Mills from Shop Budleigh to see what could be done about empty shops etc; it had been a positive meeting.

District Councillors

District Cllr H L Riddell also thanked Cllr Sismore-Hunt for the invitation to the Civic Service. It had been a nice afternoon and he was appreciative of the hard work organising such an event.

He then reported:

- The planning application for Rockfish had been approved. Marine Parade residents had raised the issue about the cladding which had been installed on the exterior of the café. Enforcement officers had visited and Rockfish would be required to apply for retrospective planning for this. There would be an official café opening on Friday 2 August, from 5.00pm.
Cllr Doorbar added that he had spoken to one of the contractors who had advised that they were good employers.

District Cllr H L Riddell left the meeting.

District Cllr M Martin added her thanks for the Civic Service and commented on the lovely cakes!

She then reported:

- Cllr M C Hilliar had done a great job representing the town at the Local Plan meeting. His sense of humour had been appreciated.
- She was now a member of the Housing Review Board. She explained that membership included councillors and tenants. She said they had difficulty attracting tenants to join the board. There were only two meetings per year and it was a good way of representing other tenants.

Mrs J E Vanstone read District Cllr C Fitzgerald's report:

- EDDC had had some programming issues with Phase 1 of the toilet works (which included those at Lime Kiln), meaning the work would not start before the end of the summer holidays. With the short delay of a few weeks in getting the approvals in place and then contractors appointed by way of letters of intent, caused by the election period, orders for the steel for the off-site constructed modular units were delayed. This had had a disproportionate impact on the overall toilet programme, now indicating a 10-week delay. EDDC hoped to claw back some of this delay, but bearing in mind that officers wanted to transition as seamlessly as possible from the inevitably disruptive demolition and enabling works to delivery and installation of the modular units, the decision had been made to delay the on-site start date. Officers were still working on precise dates, which will themselves be driven by the steel, but it was looking unlikely that any works would start on site until after the summer holidays. It remained imperative to start as soon as possible to ensure as many works could be delivered before the worsening autumn weather as well as satisfying the funding requirements, so they will be doing all they can to shorten this delay. Officers had been working on updating the site notices and general messaging to reflect this change and she would provide an update when more information was available.

24.122 Finance Inspection

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

24.123 Request for Grant Aid 2024/25: Budleigh Salterton Cricket Club

- (i) Consideration was given to making a donation towards the upgrade of the social area outside the downstairs bar and changing rooms at The Holt.

Resolved: A donation will be made.

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

Resolved: A donation of £10000 will be made from Community Infrastructure Levy funds.

Cllr A F Chaplin wondered whether the Club had considered material similar to the beach matting being installed in the town. The Clerk said she would suggest this to the Club.

24.124 East Devon District Council: Public Spaces Protection Orders

Consideration was given to whether this Council wishes to request any changes to the current Public Spaces Protection Order and it was

Resolved: No changes had been suggested and the current document was approved.

24.125 Blue Plaque Request

Consideration was given to whether this Council wished to support an application for a blue plaque for Miss Bannister.

The Clerk explained that this Council was being asked to act as financial go-between to enable the applicant to gain access to a DCC Locality Budget grant.

It was

Resolved: This Council will act as financial go-between, as long as the application fits the relevant criteria.

24.126 East Devon District Council: Street Trading Application

It was noted that no objections were raised to the following event:

- Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival – Street Trading Application for 6 x trading units, including caterer, bar, books sales and ticket sales – 18 to 22 September 2024

County Cllr C Channon left the meeting

24.127 Lithium Battery Disposal

Consideration was given to whether this Council wishes to support the campaign to improve the safety of lithium batteries and their disposal. It was

Resolved: This Council will support the campaign.

24.128 Public Hall Committee

The decision made by the Public Hall Committee at a Meeting held on 15 July 2024 to replace the stage lighting and audio system in the Public Hall plus associated structural work was ratified.

24.129 Correspondence Received

- Shop Budleigh: Letter of thanks re: Budleigh Business Awards
- Mr M Dobbins: Letter of thanks re: Tide Times
- District Cllr H L Riddell: Report following a meeting with South West Water officials
- The Clerk: July 2024
- Clerks & Councils Direct: July 2024
- Devon County Council:
 - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Station Road (between Westfield Road and Elmside): 11 to 12 September 2024 (CCTV, Survey and Cleansing of CSO Chamber – Kier)
 - Temporary Prohibition of Parking – Coastguard Hill (3 bays near Longboat Café): 11 to 16 September 2024 (New Gas Connection – Wales & West)
 - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Westfield Road: 20 to 27 September 2024 (Replacement Poles – National Grid)
 - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Granary Lane (between Raleigh Road and Vales Road): 30 September to 2 October 2024 (Boundary Box Renewal – Kier)
 - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Station Road (between Moor Lane and Clinton Terrace): 1 to 4 October 2024 (Provide new water connection – Kier)
 - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic & Parking – Upper Stoneborough Lane/East Budleigh Road/Coastguard Road/Fore Street/High Street/Station Road: 5 October 2024 (Budleigh Salterton Carnival)
 - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – The Lawn (between High Street and Brook Road): 4 to 7 November 2024 (Safe access of underground structures – Sunbelt Rentals)

Cllr Sismore-Hunt commented that there were a lot of impending road closures!

24.130 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Cllr R J Doorbar commented that the Budleigh Business Awards was a great idea and it was good to see the winners’ trophies displayed in the shops/library. He felt it was right for the Town Council to support the initiative
- Cllr A F Chaplin had seen Cllr Hilliar’s list of jobs for the Town Handyman but felt he should be asked to concentrate on the seafront, especially around Steamer Steps.
- Cllr G Woodcraft reported that the new town calendar was available from Budleigh Information Centre and included a photograph of Dark Lane taken by the Town Mayor!
- Cllr W K Wood said he had been trying to get EDDC to cut the pitch along side the main pitch at the Football Club. The grass had been cut but EDDC were insisting the cost to re-install the goalposts would be £900. It was suggested that the Club applies to County Cllr Channon for a Locality Budget grant.
- The Clerk reported that she had been honoured and privileged to represent the Town Council at the recent Service of Thanksgiving for Lord Clinton which had been held at Exeter Cathedral on 15 July. It had been a very moving ceremony attended by 1000 guests and she was sorry the Town Mayor had been unable to join her.
- Cllr M C Hilliar reported that at the Local Plan meeting at EDDC he had raised concerns about the lack of infrastructure, especially the sewer system.

24.131 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning Committee:	19 August 2024 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	19 August 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Community Gardens Committee:	19 August 2024 on the rising of the Town Council
Planning Committee:	9 September 2024 at 7.00pm
CIL Committee:	9 September 2024 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Finance Committee:	9 September 2024 on the rising of the CIL Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.32pm.

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Chairman

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Date