

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Budleigh Salterton Climate Change Group held online via Zoom on Monday 5 February 2024 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs C M Cunningham
Cllr M C Hilliar (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs M P Lewis
Cllr W K Wood
Ms J Moore (St Peter's School)
Mr P Fletcher (Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton)
Mrs C James (Clinton Devon Estates)

Mrs J E Vanstone (Town Clerk)

CC/53 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from the Town Mayor, Cllr D J Hayward, District Cllr Ms C Fitzgerald, County Cllr Mrs C Channon, Mr R Wiltshire (Otter Valley Association) and Mrs K McDermott-Darley (Budleigh Community Workshop Trust).

Cllr J Tresidder (East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council) and Mr M McGlade were not present.

CC/54 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 January 2024 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

CC/55 Water Pollution on our Beaches

Jemima updated members on the use of water testing kits provided by Cllr D J Hayward and Mark McGlade. She explained that the results to date had not shown any major issues; they would continue with sea testing and were going to start river water testing soon. The School would be joining with other schools at an event at Seachange. She added that the children were enjoying the testing.

Clare advised that, whilst not in Budleigh Salterton, there were issues at Sidmouth Rugby club's training ground in Sidford, where there had been a possible sewage leak. It was likely that the junior teams would have to stop their activities for the foreseeable future.

Jo read an email from Christine regarding the issues with South West Water currently being experienced in Budleigh Salterton and Exmouth.

Christine was deeply concerned about the poor condition of the sewerage system in East Devon and the amount of raw sewage which was being flushed into the sea. Budleigh Salterton and Exmouth are coastal resorts, which attract wild swimmers and other water sports and polluted water cannot be accepted. She and Simon Jupp had regularly contacted South West Water with no results. She felt it would be helpful if the towns joined together in a concerted effort with East Devon District Council (EDDC) and the County Council to persuade Government to really tackle SWW.

CC/56 Plastic Free Status

Jemima advised members that she had not made any progress with this. She had however spoken to the Shop Budleigh team regarding the Refill project and hoped they could get some of the town's businesses on board.

CC/57 Beach Cleans

Peter advised that the Lions were still carrying out beach cleans and he understood that the local lady was around the town in January.

Jemima said she was pleased to hear this and that the school Eco Champions would like to join in again.

There was some discussion on better signage and it was suggested that when the new seafront toilets are finished, a notice board is installed which could house some posters created by the Eco Champions.

Jo updated Members on the response from EDDC regarding disposable barbecues. She will contact the Beach Safety Officer again as there are new District Councillors who may have different views.

CC/58 Parking outside St Peter's School

A discussion took place on possibility of signage for the school to place on their fences to discourage idling cars.

It was suggested that the children could create a notice (perhaps on an old sheet). Jo will ask the PCSOs to attend and pass on information to parents.

CC/59 Tree Mapping

Jemima explained that a tree mapping project was on the school Eco Champions' agenda. Penny said that when this was originally discussed, the issue was the ownership of the various pieces of land was not known.

Clare advised that all publicly-owned land should have had a survey for health and safety purposes; Jo will request this information from the EDDC Tree Officer.

CC/60 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

- Jemima said that the school still needed volunteers to help with St Peter's Planting Day on 14 March. She will circulate the group with the details.
- Jemima advised that the OVA had donated some bird/bat boxes to the school.
- Clare updated members that the current Defra grants system was being phased out. The submission of a Landscape Recovery proposal to Defra for funding under the government's new Environmental Land management Schemes (ELMS) had been successful.
- Jemima said the children had forwarded some questions on the Action Plan:
 - Were there plans to put solar panels on all public buildings in Budleigh?
 - Does Budleigh contribute anything to the National Grid from existing solar panels?
 - Are there any plans for solar farms in any of the fields near Budleigh?
 - There was not a lot of scope for large areas of solar panels. Clare advised there is a solar park at Liverton Farm but connectivity is a major problem. There were plans for a battery reserve site at Blackhill Quarry but this would not be up and running until 2027.
 - The roof of the Public Hall is too delicate to take solar panels. Possible locations were the Football Club and Library.
 - Could there be more recycling bins rather than just litter bins to encourage recycling?
 - This question will be put to the district councillors.
 - Could more water fountains be installed so people could refill their water bottles rather than buying new ones?
 - There is already a water fountain on the seafront at the Jubilee Shelter and an additional water fountain is being installed at the Public Hall.
 - Will there be more EV charging points?
 - There are no plans at the moment.

CC/61 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on Zoom on Monday 22 April 2024 at 6.00pm.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.07pm.

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Chairman

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Date

Approved