

## **BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 27 January 2025 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.33pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr C A Sismore-Hunt (Town Mayor)

Cllr J Billington

Cllr S Cook

Cllr S J Horn

Cllr P Lewis

Cllr D Walsh

Cllr W K Wood

Cllr G Woodcraft

**In Attendance:** Mrs A Gater-Wildgust (Town Clerk), Mrs J E Vanstone (Responsible Financial Officer) and 11 members of the public.

### **24.393 Public Speaking Time (15 minutes max)**

A member of the public shared their concerns regarding ongoing issues with sewage discharges into the sea at Budleigh Salterton. The member of the public is requesting that the council take further action on this issue. Specifically, they are asking for the council to:

- Engage with South West Water to address the problem and seek further clarification on their plans.
- Push SWW to provide a full and transparent schedule of works related to sewage management at Budleigh Salterton.
- Advocate for the completion of the necessary works before May 2025 to ensure the safety of the local environment, particularly during the summer season.

A second member of the public addressed the meeting on behalf of a group of concerned residents to express concerns about the proposed housing development, EXMO20, identified in the East Devon District Council (EDDC) Emerging Local Plan. The key points raised included:

- The group's significant concerns about the size of the proposed development in relation to its proximity to Budleigh Salterton and the fact that a new access point on the B3179 has recently been proposed which would route all traffic into and out of the site onto this road, rather than Dinan Way which was previously muted.
- Anxiety over the potential impact on local resources and the overall well-being of the community, particularly in Budleigh Salterton.
- The group's uncertainty regarding how to effectively raise their concerns and what steps to take moving forward.

The speaker requested that the Town Council provide direction and support to help them engage with the planning process. They are seeking guidance on how best to proceed with their concerns, and how they can influence the development plans.

### **24.394 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A F Chaplin, Cllr R J Doorbar and County Cllr C Channon.

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

No interests were declared.

#### **24.396 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 9 December 2024 were circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed that they be signed as a true record.

#### **24.397 Report of Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held on 9 December 2024 were noted.

#### **24.398 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, Cllr Sismore-Hunt reported that it had been a quiet January and had nothing to report.

#### **24.399 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk advised that the second candidate for the Town Councillor position had confirmed their availability to attend an interview on 10 February 2025.

A site visit with our contractor, Tamar Security, is scheduled for 28 January 2025. This is to discuss extending Town Council CCTV to include the Station Road Toilets,

The Clerk reported that there is currently £51,127.01 available in Section 106 (S.106) grant funds. A communication is being drafted to inform local groups about the availability of these funds and the process for accessing them. East Devon District Council (EDDC) has updated their protocol for the use of S.106 funds. The key update is that Town Councils (TCs) are now expected to take ownership of the application process, rather than having EDDC manage it, as was the case previously.

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

##### Exmouth Ring and Ride

It was noted that Exmouth Ring and Ride does not currently have a representative from the Town Council attending their meetings. Lynda Evans kindly prepared and shared a report on behalf of the service as follows: Exmouth Ring and Ride expressed their thanks to the Town Council for their continued support over the past year.

The positive impact of the service on the wellbeing of individuals in the community who use the service was highlighted. The service has received positive responses regarding their timetables. Following a review of costs and assets, it was noted that Exmouth Ring and Ride is beginning to fundraise for a new minibus. The cost of the new vehicle is estimated at £70,000.

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

##### County Councillor

Cllr C Channon had kindly shared the following report:

The Closure between the Rolle Arms and Budleigh Hill, due to works being completed by Wales and West, is expected to be completed by 29th January. It was noted that Wales and West failed to book a road closure agreement with Devon County Council (DCC).

Devon County Council have responded to The Government White Paper on Devolution and await a response on their request to delay the County Council Elections for twelve months in order to allow for further examination of the matter.

The Budleigh Health Centre has produced a leaflet on Care Navigation, which appears to advise patients to contact various services other than their GP. Christine noted that this is part of a national campaign. She will be sending a copy of the leaflet to the local MP to seek advice and clarification on the matter.

### District Councillors

Cllr C. Fitzgerald provided an update on the Government's White Paper on Devolution from the perspective of East Devon District Council (EDDC). The White Paper was received on 16 December, with both EDDC and Devon County Council (DCC) given until 10 January to submit suggestions regarding the proposed changes. Cllr Fitzgerald reported that EDDC held a full council meeting at the beginning of the month. The Leader of EDDC has met with leaders from other districts in the area, and they have put forward a proposal to form a grouping of 500,000 people, which is now under consideration.

Cllr Fitzgerald confirmed that the Regulation 19 consultation is now due to start in the week commencing 10 February. This will be the next formal opportunity for individuals and groups to make representations regarding planning matters. It was noted that the EXMO20 proposal was added to the plan at the very last moment as it helped solve several issues for EDDC. Currently, there is no master plan in place for this site. Cllr Fitzgerald also mentioned that there are other routes available for people to make representations if they wish to address concerns or offer feedback and she was happy to make contact directly with any concerned parties.

Cllr M. Martin confirmed that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme will continue. She emphasised that this scheme remains in place to support residents. Cllr Martin has a busy schedule with several meetings in the coming weeks. She hopes to provide a broader update at the next meeting, including insights from these discussions.

Cllr H Riddell confirmed that he was now aware that the previously agreed weekly report regarding South West Water was now reaching the Clerk at the Town Council and being shared with the Town Councillors (since 27 Jan 2025)

#### **24.402 Finance Inspection**

- (i) Payments for the months of December 2024 and January 2025, in accordance with Appendix A, were approved.
- (ii) It was noted that Cllr G Woodcraft had carried out the internal finance inspection for December 2024.

#### **24.403 Audit 2024/25**

It was noted that the Council's Internal Auditor, Westcotts, had undertaken the interim audit and that no issues were raised.

#### **24.404 Request for Grant Aid 2025/26: Exmouth & District Community Transport Group**

- (i) Consideration was given to making a grant towards Exmouth & District Community Transport

**Resolved:** A grant will be made.

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

**Resolved:** A grant of £861.96 will be made.

#### **24.405 Station Road Toilets: Contract Documents**

- (i) The Contract, Transfer and Schedule of Condition relating to the purchase of the Station Road Toilets had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**Resolved:** The documents were signed on behalf of the Town Council by the Town Mayor and one Town Councillor and witnessed by Mrs J Vanstone.

8 members of the public left the meeting

#### **24.406 Station Road Toilets: Bin Store**

Details of the draft licence to regularise the bin store between the Community Workshop and the toilet block had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed that this course of action was acceptable.

#### **24.407 Station Road Toilets: Cleaning Contracts**

A discussion took place, and it was agreed that the Clerk would source additional costings for the cleaning of 6 cubicles and extended pricing, to be included on the next Town Council agenda.

#### **24.408 Deputy Chairman**

The appointment of a Deputy Chairman (& Deputy Town Mayor) was considered

**Resolved:** It was agreed that further clarification of these roles would be beneficial and also any succession plan for the roles of Town Chairperson & Town Mayor. The members discussed the roles of the Town Council Deputy Chairperson, Chairperson and Town Mayor. It was noted that there is a need to better understand the distinctions between the two positions, and to understand how these roles could be held by separate individuals.

A decision was made to prepare a communication outlining the specific duties and responsibilities of both the Town Council Deputy Chairperson, Chairperson and the Town Mayor, as well as the responsibilities of the Town Council as a whole. The Clerk will take the lead in drafting the communication and distribute it for comments and review.

Three District councillors left the meeting

#### **24.409 Acceptable Use Policy**

**Resolved:** The Acceptable Use Policy was circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed and adopted.

#### **24.410 Heath to Sea Project**

The project and route to identify objectives for the Town Council to contribute to the forthcoming Clinton Devon Estates consultation were discussed.

**Resolved:** It was proposed that the Town Council would benefit from forming a working party to focus on this matter. The working party's objective will be to discuss the project in greater depth and identify the Town Council's objectives in good time to contribute meaningfully to the Clinton Devon Estates consultation process, which is set to conclude at the end of April 2025. It was noted that numerous opportunities exist for the Town Council to collaborate with the Pebblebed Heaths, Clinton Devon Estates, and other relevant stakeholders.

The working party will initially consist of Town Councillors. Cllr Cook and Cllr Walsh will join Cllr Billington in developing the initial plans for collaboration.

Following the development of initial plans, the Working Party and the Clerk will reach out to other local groups to invite them to join the working party, fostering broader community involvement.

**24.411 Correspondence Received**

- Budleigh Salterton Methodist Church via Sue Bond: Letter of thanks for grant
- Libraries Unlimited via Mark Cornfield, Finance and Stock Services Manager: Letter of thanks for grant
- St Peter’s PTA: Letter of thanks for grant
- South West Museum Development: 2023/24 Impact report
- The Clerk: January 2025
- Clerks & Councils Direct: January 2025
- Devon County Council:
  - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Rolle Road: 27 to 31 January 2025 (patching and lining works)
  - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic & Parking – Chapel Hill: 3 to 14 February 2025 (patching and lining works)
  - Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic – Victoria Place: 4 to 6 March 2025 (to renew frame and cover)

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

No other business was raised

**24.413 Dates of Next Meetings**

Planning Committee:	10 February 2025 at 7.00pm
Community Gardens Committee:	10 February 2025 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Staffing Committee:	10 February 2025 on the rising of the Community Gardens Committee
Planning Committee:	24 February 2025 at 7.00pm
Public Hall Committee:	24 February 2025 on the rising of the Planning Committee.
Town Council:	24 February 2025 on the rising of the Public Hall Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.35pm

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Chair

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Date