

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Budleigh Salterton Climate Change Group held online via Zoom on Wednesday 9 April at 6.00pm

PRESENT

Cllr J Billington
Cllr MP Lewis
Ms A Spence
Ms K McDermot-Darley
Mr B Wiltshire

Mrs Alice Gater-Wildgust – Town Clerk

CC/77 Election of Chair

Penny proposed, Abi seconded, and it was unanimously agreed that Jan be appointed Chair.

CC/78 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from District Cllr C Fitzgerald and Mr P Fletcher.

CC/79 Minutes

The minutes of the Meeting held on 23 September 2024 has been circulated prior the meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record

CC/80 Water Pollution/South West Water Issues

The following update was received from Cllr Alan Chaplin, BSTC liaison with SWW.

- The works discussed in the October meeting with SWW have been completed.
- Additional infiltration areas have been identified, requiring further sealing works.
- Some locations will need traffic management; South West Water (SWW) will coordinate with Devon County Council (DCC) Highways.
- SWW plans to conduct work on traffic-sensitive roads outside of peak hours.
- Specific Areas and Planned Works:
 - Station Road – Relining works.
 - The Green (by the Bus Stop) – New section of pipework needed.
 - Knowle B3178 – Cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) under design.
 - West Hill – Further investigations required.

Programming details to be provided after coordination with Highways.

The groups discussed the appropriateness of raising a vote of no confidence in South West Water (SWW) or East Devon District Council, in light of the poor quality of the water and water systems in the locality.

A number of the group plan to attend the forthcoming SWW meeting being hosted on 10 Apr 2025 by David Reed MP (in Exmouth) and will feed back at a later date to consider which action, if any, this Group can take regarding the current issues.

CC/81 Plastic Free Budleigh

Abi provide an update on the work of Plastic Free Budleigh

The group encouraged both individuals and organisations to make a formal pledge to reduce single-use plastics and commit to becoming plastic-free. As part of this initiative, the group considered approaching local festival organisers to ask them to join the effort by making the pledge themselves and working toward being recognised as 'Plastic Free Champions.' This recognition would also extend to their suppliers, encouraging a wider network of environmentally responsible practices.

The pledges are:

Plastic Champion – A pledge to remove three pieces of single use plastic from the business

Plastic Advocate – a personal pledge to reduce waste.

A discussion followed about the noticeable increase in the use of single-use milk cartons. Members explored more sustainable alternatives, particularly the use of reusable glass milk bottles. It was noted that milk in glass bottles is available for home delivery, although typically at a higher cost. Further, the increased cost of using compostable goods was noted. Plastic Free Budleigh will meet again mid May.

In Exmouth, a reusable coffee cup scheme had been implemented as part of broader efforts to reduce single-use waste. The group noted that feedback on the scheme's performance and impact was still awaited, including data on its uptake, community engagement, and overall success.

It was also reported that Budleigh Salterton Town Council had formally signed up to become a Plastic Free Champion in October 2025. This was recognised as a positive and commendable step. However, it was acknowledged that further work was required to ensure this commitment extended to users of the Public Hall. Efforts would need to be made to communicate the initiative's goals and encourage sustainable practices among all hall users.

The contributions of The Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton were also acknowledged with appreciation. In particular, their continued and dedicated efforts in litter picking around the town and its surrounding environment were praised as an important part of maintaining a cleaner community.

CC/82 Update from Previous meetings Temporary BBQs

Due to safety concerns and the environmental impact of disposable BBQs, there is a strong commitment to reduce their use locally. It was agreed that Abi would explore the possibility of engaging with students at St. Peter's Primary School, encouraging them to write to local businesses to request they stop selling these items.

This led to a broader discussion about creating opportunities for young people to express their views on environmental issues that matter to them. One suggestion was to establish a dedicated noticeboard on the beach for this purpose. While there is an existing board on the seafront that could be investigated for use, the group felt it would be a positive initiative to procure a dedicated noticeboard specifically for youth-led environmental messaging.

CC/83 Water Fountain

Jan shared information about a potential grant available from Bunzl Inc. and it was noted that the Town Council had previously agreed in principle to support a water fountain initiative.

It was agreed to secure costing for water fountains (AGW action) and to further investigate if the Town Council, as an entity, could apply directly for this grant.

CC/84 Any Other Business at the Chair's Discretion

CC/85 Date of next meeting: 18 June 2025 at 6.00pm