

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 23 June 2025.

The Meeting commenced at 8.36pm.

PRESENT

Cllr S Cook – Chair
Cllr A Chaplin
Cllr P Jones
Cllr P Lewis
Cllr P Manfield
Cllr D Walsh

In attendance: Mrs A Gater-Wildgust (Town Clerk) and Cllr R Doorbar.

25.111 Public Speaking Time

No member of the public wished to speak.

25.112 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

25.113 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

There were no interests declared.

25.114 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held on 9 December 2024 has been circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that they be signed as a true record.

25.115 Chair's Report

The Chair, Cllr Cook began by thanking members for their support in electing them to the role and expressed their intention to ensure all members are engaged and feel encouraged to contribute fully to discussions. Thanks were also recorded on behalf of the Committee, to the previous Chair, Alan Chaplin, for their dedication, enthusiasm, and ongoing involvement as a committee member.

Handover and Contractor Update:

The Chair reported that a handover meeting had taken place with Alan Chaplin. The Chair had also met twice with the Town Council's independent contractor, who works 12 hours per week on a rotating 2–3 week cycle covering the following high-traffic areas:

- The seafront (Rosemullion to Budleigh Club)
- 19 Steps
- Area outside the old Telephone Exchange
- The High Street
- Footpaths linking the High Street and seafront
- Mackerel Place
- Victoria Place seating area
- The War Memorial
- Other ad hoc areas reported to the Council

Three areas were identified as needing urgent attention and a long-term maintenance plan:

1. Seafront and cliff face (Rockfish to 50 Degrees)
2. Madeira Walk
3. Footpath to the War Memorial

The Chair recommended initial engagement with EDDC to clarify:

- Their intended resource allocation

- Communication protocols to avoid overlap with BSTC
- Pros and cons of strimming versus herbicide use

Memorial Benches:

The Chair had been in contact with EDDC Streetscene to clarify funding responsibility for existing bench repairs. No new bench commissions were currently being accepted. Enquiries were made about whether this policy may change, and further details were sought regarding:

- The maintenance plan for existing wooden benches
- Benches still within the original 10-year lease period

The Foreshore and Footpath Committee (F&F) agreed to review benches during their next F&F walk. The Clerk agreed to obtain the new EDDC contact regarding memorial benches and to ascertain what benches are within the memorial time span.

The Chair also shared details of their work outside the committee that may be relevant or useful for the committee to note.

Meeting with South West Water:

The Chair reported a positive meeting with South West Water to discuss:

- Progress of the pipe relining project
- Discharges from the Lime Kiln Pumping Station
- Pollution issues in Kers Brook

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for August/September.

Cllr Lewis left the meeting 9.00pm

25.116 Matters arising

Path adjacent to Budleigh Library

It was noted that improvements to this space had been previously discussed by the F&F committee [Min 24.355] and subsequently rejected. As the space does not have a designated owner or overseer, it was suggested that sponsorship could be sought to fund its enhancement. Cllr Walsh agreed to consult with Budleigh in Bloom regarding the appropriate mechanism for securing sponsorship.

25.117 Terms of Reference (ToR)

Consideration was given to the draft ToR . It was:

Resolved: the draft ToR were accepted and will be submitted for the full Town Council for approval.

25.118 Foreshore & Footpaths Meeting with EDDC Officers (Cycle and Dog Signage)

Consideration was given to the actions from the meeting that took place on 25 May 2025 with Pete Blyth, Beach Office, EDDC. It was:

Resolved: to schedule a Foreshore walk with the new F&F committee and use this as a method of checking actions from the 25 May meeting. This was agreed to take place on 30 June 2025 at 10.30am

25.119 Priority Areas for 2025/2026

Consideration was given to the priority areas for the committee to address. It was:

Resolved: The committee would develop a list of priority areas during the Foreshore walk on 30 June 2025

25.120 Seafront Benches

Consideration was given to a previous quotation for works to improve benches. It was

Resolved:

- (i) to carry out a further audit on the benches during the Foreshore walk of 30 June – Committee Action
- (ii) to follow up with EDDC Streetscene regarding how many benches have been repaired since the last Foreshores Walk – Town Clerk Action

Valuation and Community Benefit of Benches:

It was suggested that an assessment of the importance of seafront benches to the town would be beneficial, particularly in recognising their value as an asset to both residents and visitors. The committee also discussed the potential of capturing the intangible benefits of Foreshore Benches through a simple public poll. Cllr Jones agreed to draft a short questionnaire for consideration at a future meeting.

Bench Repair and Replacement Costs:

It was noted that, as of December 2024, repair costs were quoted at £95 per bench, with replacement benches in recycled plastic costing approximately £300–£350.

Future Discussion Proposal:

A further suggestion was made to hold a round-table discussion on the wider importance of benches—particularly those on the seafront—as part of the town's public realm. The committee may bring forward a proposal to Full Council to formally recognise benches as a community asset, subject to further discussion.

25.121 Any Other Business at the Chair's Discretion

The date of the next meeting was agreed to be 18 August 2025

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 9.34pm.

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Chair

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Date

Cllr Steve Cook (Chair)

Cllr Alan Chaplin

Cllr Phil Jones

Cllr Penny Lewis (Chair of Town Council and Town Mayor)

Cllr Peter Manfield

Cllr David Walsh