BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Foreshores & Footpaths Committee held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 8 June 2026.

The Meeting commenced at 8.39pm.

PRESENT
Cllr S Cook – Chair
Cllr A Chaplin
Cllr P Manfield
Cllr G Woodcraft

In attendance: Mrs A Gater-Wildgust (Town Clerk) and four members of the public.

26.77 Public Speaking Time
There were no public speakers.

26.78 Apologies for Absence
There were no apologies.

26.79 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations
There were no interests declared.

26.80 Minutes
The minutes of the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee meeting held on 9 March 2026, having been circulated, were approved and signed as a true record.

26.81 Chair's Report
The Chair confirmed that the items they wished to discuss were covered in the agenda.

26.82 Seafront Benches
It was noted that works by BSTC's contractor are nearing completion. EDDC has been requested to replace two missing benches at the top of Steamer Steps. It was further noted that an additional seven benches are missing from the foreshore path. Clarification on their whereabouts will be sought from EDDC.

26.83 Abandoned Boats
It was noted that, at the time of writing, confirmation from EDDC was still awaited regarding the following actions in relation to vessel licensing on Budleigh Salterton Beach:
• What action has been taken to contact the known owners of unlicensed vessels on Budleigh Salterton Beach?
• What budget has been allocated for the removal of abandoned vessels on Budleigh Salterton Beach where no owner can be identified?
It was suggested to make further representations to EDDC. Members offered to support with the progression of this work.

26.84 Foreshore Path Signage
Details of the Foreshore signage audit were received and considered. It was noted that the section between Rockfish and Lime Kiln was identified as the priority area requiring attention. The Town Clerk will share this section of the audit (photos 1-7) with the relevant teams at EDDC, with a request that the signage be reviewed and corrected and/or replaced where necessary.

26.85 Maintenance of Cliff face between Rockfish and 50 Degrees

Approved

Following concerns regarding vegetation on the cliff face between Rockfish and 50 Degrees Café, EDDC has confirmed that a Health and Safety Assessment will be required before the area can be accessed for inspection. This action remains outstanding.
Members received an update that the matter had been raised with Cllr Jung and Alexanders. It was noted that similar issues have arisen at other locations, including Sidmouth, where existing arrangements have been allowed to continue. BSTC have been advised not to remove any vegetation in this area, whatsoever.
Cllr Jung reported that the matter had also been raised with the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) coastal management team, who have experience of dealing with similar situations. Advice is expected regarding whether the vegetation contributes to cliff stabilisation and maintenance or constitutes a nuisance.
It was noted that, pending further advice no further action will be taken at this time.

26.86 EDDC Seafront Schedule

It has been observed that, due to recent weather conditions, vegetation and weeds have grown rapidly, including through benches and along sections of the foreshore path. It was:
Resolved: To recommend to the Town Council that additional resources be allocated to undertake ad hoc strimming of the foreshore path, potentially up to three times per year, between EDDC maintenance visits, in order to support the upkeep of the area.

26.87 Madeira Walk

It was noted that Devon County Council maintains the public right of way and undertake an annual clearance each June. BSTC's contractors will continue to manage routine vegetation growth throughout the year, avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring the most effective use of resources.
Members further noted that there is no known private owner of the lane and that Devon County Council's responsibility is limited to maintaining the public right of way.

26.88 Road Warden scheme

It was noted that a proposal is required for consideration by full council. Following discussion at the Traffic Group recently it was agreed that a report would be brought forward.

26.89 Jubilee Shelter Maintenance

It was noted that consideration will be given to the appointment of a contractor at the full town council meeting in June, to carry out remedial works on the shelter. Further consideration was given to how any works to this space could be funded,

26.90 Cliff Fall Warning Signs

Consideration was given to the continuing cliff falls beyond Steamer Steps and the importance of ensuring that visitors are adequately warned of the associated risks. Members discussed the potential need for additional warning signage and considered appropriate locations, including at the top of Steamer Steps and at beach level. The Town Clerk will contact EDDC regarding this.

26.91 Terms of Reference (ToR)

The ToR were reviewed with no amendments.

26.92 Annual Parish Meeting

The community responses received at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) were noted. The F&F committee will review the responses to develop a shortlist of F&F actions to consider.

26.93 Issues and Opportunities

Approved

It was noted that this item connects to Min 26.91 and no further actions are needed.

26.94 Blue Flag

Members discussed the ongoing issues relating to bathing water quality and noted that recent meetings with South West Water had not been productive. It was reported that sewer relining works are planned in High Street and Fore Street with the aim of reducing overflow incidents at Lime Kiln. However, an update on these works had been difficult to obtain. The Committee considered what further role Budleigh Salterton Town Council can take in supporting efforts to improve bathing water quality. It was agreed that the F&F Committee further considers the matter and, following additional enquiries, makes a recommendation to the Town Council regarding the appropriate level of involvement and any proposed way forward.

26.95 Any Other Business at the Chair's Discretion

It was noted that a number of years ago it was indicated that a capital budget was allocated to remedial works at Steamer Steps. A query was raised regarding the availability of these funds.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 9.45pm.

……
Chair

……
Date

Approved