

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held in the Council Chamber on Monday 7 March 2016, on the rising of the Meeting of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.17pm.

PRESENT

Cllr T D Wright (Chairman)
Cllr C Richards (Town Mayor)
Cllr C A Kitson (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr A N Gooding
Cllr S V Hall
Cllr D J Harrison
Cllr A L Jones

Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: Cllr Mrs L D Evans, Cllr M C Hilliar, Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone and one representative of the press

15.480 Public Speaking Time

No members of the public wished to speak.

15.481 Apologies for Absence

None, all Members being present.

15.482 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held on 13 July 2015 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

15.483 Chairman's Comments

The Chairman, Cllr T D Wright, reported that after putting pressure on Devon County Council (DCC) for some years, there had been some success and the railings on the road side of Coastguard Hill had been repaired/repainted. It was good to have this work done. He added that it was unfortunate that County representatives did not accompany the Committee on the Foreshore Walk as there were a number of items which were clearly DCC responsibility – the Clerk will have to write again.

He said that Nick Christo from East Devon District Council (EDDC) was a breath of fresh air and had revised quite a few of the StreetScene team's working policies. All the team were now equipped with mobile phones which helped a great deal when reporting problems.

He then reported on the beach hut situation. He said that the price increases were significant but the majority of tenants were "happy" with the increase. He said that many tenants at Steamer Steps were finding it difficult to get a contractor to remove their huts and he had raised this issue with the Chief Executive. He felt this caveat needed some relaxation. The Town Council was concerned about the tunnel effect at the Eastern end of the beach, but at Steamer Steps it was not such an issue.

The Town Mayor, Cllr C Richards said he had seen an email advising that the huts would be spaced further apart (2 feet) and he was very concerned that this would mean an increase in the total length of huts on the seafront.

He then reported that following his meeting at EDDC at the beginning of February, the promised information had still not been received. He had spoken to Mr I Tait at the Tourist Information Centre about the situation, as he did not want him hearing second hand about EDDC's plans. He said that the Town Council must think long and hard if it were to take on the administration of the beach huts.

Cllr D J Harrison advised that EDDC had already started re-spacing the beach huts at Steamer Steps and the kiosk now had very little space.

The concerns about the tunnel effect had been pointed out to EDDC officers during the recent Foreshore Walk.

15.484 Clerk's Report

The Clerk had nothing to report.

15.485 Foreshore Walk

Details of the walk carried out on 2 March 2016 had been circulated prior to the Meeting; these were received and noted (Appendix A).

Cllr S V Hall apologised for not being able to attend as he was Chairing a Traffic Group meeting at the same time. Cllr Richards also apologised for his non-attendance – there had been a mix up with his diary!

Cllr Wright said he had had difficulty writing any notes due to the weather conditions and hoped he had not forgotten anything important! Members agreed the report was an accurate record.

Cllr Hall said that the tree mentioned in item 5 was a tamarisk.

Cllr Richards said that the railings on the Jubilee Shelter were the Town Council's responsibility even though the lease had still not been received from EDDC. The Clerk will ask Bagwells to repair the railings.

The Clerk was also asked to write to DCC about the railings on the cliff side of Coastguard Hill which were in a bad state of repair.

The Clerk will chase up Skinners regarding a start date for replacing the railings at Steamer Steps. She will ask if they can repaint the new lamppost which has been erected at the rear of Mackerel Square.

Cllr Wright advised that the labels on the recycling stations would be amended after a spelling mistake had been spotted.

15.486 Clothing Optional Beach

Two letters relating to this part of the beach were received and considered.

Cllr Wright said that the erosion of the beach meant there were no pebbles on the clothing optional section and would Members consider approaching EDDC to amend the area. After a full discussion it was

Agreed: The main beach is used by more and more families, therefore no change should be made and EDDC should re-erect the sign the correct distance from Steamer Steps (500m).

15.487 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

1. Cllr D J Harrison said that he had mentioned his worries about the erosion of the beach to Nick Christo and Martin McGuire. Clinton Devon Estates (CDE) own the beach and so nothing was going to be done about this.

Cllr Wright said that in Budleigh the sea encroaches in a different way to Sidmouth and Exmouth and the steep bank of pebbles does protect the seafront. Marine Parade could be affected during storms, but this does not happen very often.

Cllr Harrison said that the erosion had started and he was worried it would continue along the beach.

Cllr Richards said he was not sure what could be done as it is all part of the Jurassic Coast.

Cllr Wright added that the funding for coastal protection projects is only available if there is a threat to homes, jobs or livelihoods.

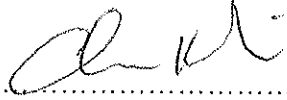
2. Cllr Richards said he had received correspondence advising that a parcel of land at the cliff top near Northview Road had been fenced off for private use. The landowners, CDE, had been contacted and would be dealing with this.



3. The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr C A Kitson, asked if there were other areas that could be included in the Walk or perhaps have a separate town walk. If not, should the committee be renamed?

Cllr Wright said that this was perhaps something which could be discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in May. He said that the seafront was the jewel in the town's crown and that was why the focus was always on that part of the town.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7.45pm.



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Chairman

11/1/16

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Date

FORESHORE WALK WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2016.

Present, Cllrs Gooding, Harrison, Jones and Wright (chairman). Nick Christo Area Manager EDDC and Martin McGuire Senior Technical Officer EDDC.

1. We started at the western end of the sea front.
2. There has been erosion of the cliffs in the Rosemullion area but the fence, although not attractive, is still sound.
3. There has been no further damage to the concrete area to the west of the shelter but a small hole was found to the east of the shelter and the EDDC officers said they will attend to this. The shelter was in basically good order but signs of some vandalism.
4. Steamer Steps are still very uneven but there is a problem identifying responsibility for this.
5. The wall near the overhanging tamarisk tree, has tree root growing into it and the structural integrity could be affected. Nick Christo said he would find out who the council tax payer is for the house and have it checked.
6. Martin McGuire said that the litter bin near the fishermen's area was being used to dump fish, hooks and tackle. Dave Perkins was at his boat and he said he had seen householders putting things in the bin and he doubted it was the 'proper fishermen'.
7. The wooden gates in the wall near the snooker club are still in poor condition. SWW are the owners.
8. The county council railings on the seaward side of the path leading up from the Longboat area need repair. 2 railings are rusted through at the ends so are vulnerable if a child or a mobility scooter were to run into them.
9. The railings on the roof of the Jubilee shelter have come loose, mainly at the north west corner and need firming up.



10. The site of the ground left when beach huts are removed was pointed out. It was mentioned that over the years EDDC had collected many thousands of pounds but had never done anything to repair the mess left. Nick Christo stated he would put in train the process to get funding for this next year.
11. The seat edges in the shelter had become damaged, probably by skate board activity. The benches had only been painted last year. Martin McGuire said that studs could be fitted to the seat edge at an appropriate distance to prevent such activity but that would not stop people sitting comfortably. The excellent repair work to the shelter was noted.
12. The railings leading up to the westernmost raised sitting area, near the kiosk had been replaced with new galvanised railings but the railings on the other raised area needed repair or replacement. Many were rusted through. MM did say that if we were able to supply the paint he could get the galvanised railings painted Budleigh Green.

General Matters.

The litter stations had been used for glass bottles and when the glass gets crushed it breaks the sacks. It was suggested to change to recycling stations to cans and bottles and have plastic put into the normal bin. We all looked at the signs on the recycling stations but no-one noticed that plastic had been spelt 'plastic'! This was pointed out by a member of the public.

MM said that he would get a 'deep cleaning' job done on the sea front toilets prior to the season. I did mention our dissatisfaction with the standard of cleaning in Brook Rd toilets and this will be looked into.

The sea front was in good condition. We all had concerns about the edging to the pathway from Steamer Steps to the Budleigh in Bloom boat but despite our concerns being expressed to the county, nothing has been done.

