

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Offices on Monday 25 February 2019 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.10pm.

PRESENT

Cllr T D Wright (Town Mayor)
Cllr S V Hall (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr A J Dent
Cllr A N Gooding
Cllr M C Hilliar
Cllr A L Jones
Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone
Cllr C Richards
Cllr R D Sherriff

Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: County Cllr Mrs C Channon, four members of the public and one representative of the press

18.429 Public Speaking Time

Mr T Waddington spoke in his capacity as member of the Otter Valley Association (OVA) Local Heritage Asset Team and as Chairman of the Trustees of Fairlynch Museum. He said that no doubt Royal Mail would consider post boxes a costly liability and had jumped at the opportunity to remove the box at Upper Stoneborough Lane following its damage.

He explained the OVA believed that the box was worthy as listing as a Local Heritage Asset as together with a group of four Hatchard-Smith houses built in the 1920s, the George V post box added history and character to this part of the town. He asked that the Town Council write to Royal Mail to reconsider its decision and reinstate the box. He added that if this request was refused, perhaps as an act of good will, Royal Mail would consider donating the box to Fairlynch for display in the museum garden.

The Town Mayor, Cllr T D Wright said he and the Clerk would draft a suitable letter and see what the response was, adding that he thought the box might be difficult to repair.

Cllr A J Dent added that the box was in a really good location and was well-used and its loss to the community was widely felt. He thought it was worth asking Royal Mail if there was anything they were willing to do.

18.430 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr C A Kitson (holiday), Cllr Mrs L D Evans (recovering from an operation) and Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt (husband unwell).

18.431 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr S V Hall declared an interest in Min 18.442 – he is a member of the Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton.

18.432 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meetings of the Town Council held on 28 January 2019 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

18.433 Reports of Committees

- (i) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Public Hall Committee held on 11 February 2019 were noted.
- (ii) The Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Gardens Committee held on 11 February 2019 were noted.

18.434 Chairman's Report

The Town Mayor, Cllr T D Wright reported:

- He had attended the opening and blessing of the new Catholic Church Hall in Clinton Terrace. He said that the town was lucky to have such a number of halls available for hire.
- He had recently spoken to David Eaton from the Police & Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Office about the CCTV programme. He said the PCC still supported CCTV programmes and the Town Council initiatives. Mr Eaton had asked for an update on the Budleigh Salterton project. Cllr Wright had advised that the Clerk was still waiting for a response from the Chamber of Commerce with assurance that they were interested in proceeding with the project.

Cllr M C Hilliar confirmed the Chamber of Commerce was waiting for a response from the shops and landlords involved with the project.

18.435 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- Following the closure of Lloyds Bank, she and the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Cllr C Richards, had discussed the Council's procedure for obtaining Petty Cash. They had come to a sensible solution and she had drafted a note to be held on file for Audit purposes.
- The Council's Internal Auditor, David Hinchliffe, had informed her that he would be retiring and no longer able to carry out the annual Internal audit. She had canvassed other Councils for recommendations for a replacement Auditor and had discussed their suggestions with the Chairman of the Finance Committee. They had agreed on one firm of accountants who she had contacted. When a response was received, she would update Cllr Richards, as well as the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.
- She had received information from Wales & West with regard to the gas work which was going to be undertaken in West Hill from March to May. If there were any problems during the work, she had a contact name!
- She had received notification from Clinton Devon Estates that work to remove a dangerous section of the cliff, near Steamer Steps, would be carried out in the next week or so.
- She was still waiting for the Lease for the Jubilee Shelter and as in previous reports, she advised that the hold-up was with Every's Solicitors.
- The agenda for the Annual Town Meeting, to be held on 18 March, was in Members' folders as well as the Minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting.

18.436 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

Devon Association of Local Councils – Larger Councils Sub Committee

Cllr A L Jones reported he had attended a recent meeting of this committee at which Brian Henley from Devon Highways had spoken about Development Management and the various changes which had been brought in by the government. He handed a copy of his notes to the Clerk who will keep them in the office if anyone wants further information.

Cllr A J Dent added that East Devon District Council (EDDC) had been frustrated by Highways as pressure was there to build houses and it was becoming increasingly harder to refuse on Highways grounds. He said that if no comments had been received from Highways, EDDC was “stuck” because if the application went to appeal, it was likely the Inspector would allow the appeal.

The Town Mayor said another side effect was that the District Council would not receive any financial benefits from a planning application if it went to appeal.

18.437 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs C Channon asked for Cllr Jones’ report adding that as a County Councillor she and her colleagues were often in a difficult position regarding Development Management applications. She said the only people they could lobby to change this were MPs. It also made matters very difficult for Neighbourhood Highway Officers.

She then reported:

- She had received a message from the Clerk at East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council that it looked as if someone had tried to enter the lay-by on East Budleigh Road. She would investigate this and if necessary, ask the local farmer to add more soil to both entrances.
- She had spoken to Meg Booth regarding the West Hill road closure. She suggested that small sections of the road could be closed rather than the entire road and had explained that the road was on the Exmouth to Sidmouth bus route. She thought that the use of Bedlands Lane needed to be carefully looked at.
- She asked to speak about the application from Tesco to add a loading bay and make changes to parking in Fore Street when that item came up on the agenda.

District Councillors

Cllr S V Hall reported:

- He had attended a full meeting of the Licensing Committee at which Members had discussed amendments to the Street Trading Policy. He said that commercial traders were easily-identified and these applications would now attract a charge of £500 per annum. Traders would also be instructed not to use any plastics.
- New guidance for Peddlers had also been discussed. He said these traders were usually controlled by the police but EDDC would be taking on this in future.
- Changes were also being brought in for Taxi and Hackney Carriage Drivers. All drivers would need to show that a Safeguarding Awareness Course had been undertaken – these changes were being adopted with immediate effect.
- To help with animal welfare, EDDC would be introducing more licence conditions and fees for those keeping and selling animals.

Cllr T D Wright reported:

- He had taken part in a tree planting session at Clyst Honiton. The team were going to plant a total of 2200 trees including oak, birch and maple and lengths of new hedgerow. This would be better for both the environment and visibility as well as absorbing water, so may help with flooding issues along the Clyst.
- As members would be aware, he was the EDDC representative on the PCC Panel. He had attended a meeting on 8 February at which the Commissioner had stated the policing precept would rise by £24 per band D property. This meant that with the rise of £12 in 2018 the increase for a band D property was 20%. Such an increase should lead to a noticeable policing presence in communities.

When the £12 increase had been announced in 2018, he had asked the Chief Constable to reconsider the reduction in PCSOs and he had modified the planned reduction in PCSO numbers but unfortunately not sufficiently for Budleigh Salterton to keep a dedicated PCSO. The new plans, despite the significant increase in funding, was to further reduce PCSO numbers from 196 currently to 150 from next year.

East Devon enjoyed a very low crime rate but incidents of disorder had increased by 26% in our sector and by over 31% in East Devon as a whole. These were the types of offences that PCSOs, with their close community ties, may have been able to nip in the bud. The offences may not be serious crimes but they had a very negative impact on residents and their ability to go about their lives without fear and anxiety. He had no doubt that the problems experienced in the town last year would not have escalated to the level they did had PCSO Major still been in post, as she would have seen the youngsters getting more and more brazen and would have dealt with it sooner.

He said, after Plymouth, East Devon was the biggest contributor to police funds in Devon, contributing almost £5m more than Exeter and over £6.5m more than Mid Devon. On 27 February, he would be putting a motion to EDDC requesting that the District writes to the Chief Constable seeking an increase in policing resources across the district and explaining that the residents of East Devon will be contributing just about £1.5m more to policing and it was only right that we get a fair slice of the bigger cake. He said that Devon County Council would also be writing to Devon's MPs to see that they pressure the Home Office to get fair funding in the County.

18.438 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payment of cheques for the month of February 2019, in accordance with Appendix A, was approved.
- (ii) It was noted that the Chairman of the Finance Committee had carried out the internal finance inspection for February 2019.

18.439 Town Improvement Fund

The decision made by the TIF Group to fund a replacement handrail on the steps down to the beach (£790) was ratified.

18.440 Request for Grant Aid 2018/19: Fairlynch Museum – Devon's New World Explorers Exhibition

Consideration was given as to whether to make a donation to the Museum.

Resolved: A contribution will be made.

Consideration was then given to the amount of the donation and after some discussion, and additional information received from Mr Waddington, it was

Resolved: A grant of £400 will be made.

18.441 Request for Grant Aid 2019/20: Budleigh in Bloom – Watering

Consideration was given as to whether to make a donation towards the watering.

Resolved: A donation will be made.

Consideration was then given to the amount of the donation.

Resolved: A donation of £2500 will be made. It was further Resolved that watering should be included in the annual budget thus removing the need to use a large percentage of the Donations budget each year.

18.442 Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton: Gala Week 2019 – 25 May to 2 June 2019

Consideration was given a request for a concessionary hire charge to be applied for the hire of the Public Hall (or a grant towards the cost).

Resolved: A nominal charge of £100 will be made.

Consideration was given to a request to use The Green.

Resolved: Recommend approval to East Devon District Council with the condition that no cars be allowed to park on The Green.

Consideration was given to a request that bunting be erected above the High Street for Gala Week and will remain in situ until after the Literary Festival in September (from 16 May to 16 September 2019 approximately).

Resolved: The request was supported.

Finally, it was noted that an application had been submitted to Devon County Council for a road closure for the High Street and part of Station Road on 25 May 2019 to enable the Gala Week parade to take place.

18.443 East Devon District Council: East Devon Area of Special Control of Advertisements

The consultation document was received and considered. It was

Resolved: The proposals laid out in section 7.3 of the consultation document were approved.

18.444 East Devon District Council: Draft Local List Guide

The consultation document was received and considered. It was

Resolved: Members were pleased with the work carried out so far and were happy that officers were working closely with other interested groups around the District.

18.445 Fore Street: Changes to Double Yellow Lines and addition of a Loading Bay

Correspondence, relating to proposals to reconfigure the double yellow lines in Fore Street to create a Loading Bay outside 10 Fore Street, was received and considered.

After a lengthy discussion, it was

Resolved: The request cannot be supported. Members agreed that the current system used by Spar should continue and be used by Tesco when the new shop opens. However, if serious problems are encountered in the future, the Town Council will approach County Cllr Mrs C Channon and request that a loading bay be created.

18.446 Correspondence Received

Fairlynch Museum: letter regarding the post box in Upper Stoneborough Lane

East Devon District Council: Draft Heritage Strategy Consultation – response to the Town Council's comments

Budleigh Salterton & District Hospiscare: Winter Newsletter

Allotment & Leisure Gardener: Issue 1 2019

18.447 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

No other business was raised.

18.448 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning Committee:	11 March 2019 at 7.00pm
Foreshore & Footpaths Committee:	11 March 2019 on the rising of the Planning Committee
CIL Committee:	11 March 2019 on the rising of the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee
Neighbourhood Plan Committee:	11 March 2019 on the rising of the CIL Committee
Annual Parish Meeting:	18 March 2019 at 7.00pm in the Public Hall
Planning Committee:	25 March 2019 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	25 March 2019 on the rising of the Planning Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.12pm.

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Chairman

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Date