

## **BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**APPROVED MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 22 July 2019 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt (Town Mayor)  
Cllr M C Hilliar (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Cllr A J Dent  
Cllr P W R Duke  
Cllr Mrs L D Evans  
Cllr D J Hayward  
Cllr A L Jones  
Cllr Mrs M P Lewis  
Cllr H L Riddell  
Cllr R D Sherriff  
Cllr T D Wright

**Town Clerk:** Mrs J E Vanstone

**Others Present:** County Cllr Mrs C Channon, District Cllr P M Jarvis, three members of the public and one representative of the press

### **19.149 Public Speaking Time**

A resident spoke about the item relating to Climate Emergency but started by thanking the Town Council for all the work Councillors do behind the scenes.

She then said it was wonderful to see Climate Emergency on the agenda. She said all over the United Kingdom, towns and cities were recognising the problem and setting out plans to try and make changes for the better.

The younger members of the population were eager to see radical action and to be part of the solution.

She said Climate Action was not about giving up things but improving lives. She thought it was important that the local primary and secondary schools were involved plus a cross section from the community. She knew friends and neighbours accepted there was a problem but were unsure what more they could do. She thought this may give them a lead to do more.

### **19.150 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone (holiday)

### **19.151 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda**

No interests were declared.

### **19.152 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 24 June 2019 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

### **19.153 Reports of Committees**

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- (i) the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held on 8 July 2019
- (ii) the Community Gardens Committee held on 8 July 2019

### **19.154 Chairman's Report**

Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt reported she had had a busy time during the last month:

- She had attended Shandford with other Councillors to celebrate with three residents who had all reached 100 years old – a good afternoon was had by all!
- The Civic Service held on 7 July was well attended and everyone seemed to have enjoyed it. The collection for Devon Air Ambulance had raised £260 which had been presented to the local DAAT Shop.
- She and the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar and members of Exmouth Town Council had met with representatives from the Fire Service and Fire Authority at Exmouth Town Hall to discuss the ongoing Consultation. It had been an interesting meeting and it seemed that some things had not been thought about before the document had been drawn up! She felt they needed to fix the important things before the consultation could continue.

### **19.155 Clerk's Report**

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- She had received a report that the water fountain by the Jubilee Shelter was not working. The plumber had repaired the fountain but had advised that it looked as if it had been vandalised.
- She had submitted the insurance claim for the damage to the windows in the Jubilee Shelter. She estimated that the repairs were going to cost in excess of £1200 which would impact on all residents of the town through their payment of Council Tax. She wondered if the perpetrators realised this!
- She then advised that whilst she still did not have the signed Lease for the Jubilee Shelter in her possession, it had been signed and the Shelter was now leased to the Town Council. The hold-up was with the Land Registry.
- The bus shelter opposite the Public Hall had been damaged. She had contacted Devon County Council (DCC) and asked, if at all possible, a replacement shelter could be installed. She had been advised that it was not possible to straighten out the damage.
- An updated Fire Risk Assessment had been carried out in June and she had now received the report. There were a number of items which would need addressing at a future meeting of the Town Council.
- She was pleased to advise that the Post Box on Upper Stoneborough Lane was to be reinstalled. She had not received details of when the work would take place.
- She had received a response to her request for the Police & Crime Commissioner to attend a Public Meeting in the town. Mrs Hernandez was unwilling to attend and the letter-writer had suggested the Council contacted the local Sector Inspector with specific local policing queries.
- An invitation to attend the Friends of East Budleigh Church Fundraiser at the Golf Club on 27 September was in Members' Folders.
- She asked that when responding to emails, Members try not to use the "Reply to All" option as it did result in everyone being inundated with emails which could be a bit distracting at times!

Cllr A J Dent thought the new hand rail by the Gentlemen's Club looked very smart. Cllr Mrs L D Evans thought there were going to be two rails at this location but Cllr R D Sherriff advised that it was just this one, as a replacement to the existing rail which had been made of scaffold poles!

Cllr Dent also thought the railings by the Gentlemen's Club looked good. Cllr R D Sherriff added that a small section needed welding but this would be done once a suitable contractor could be sourced.

## **19.156 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies**

### Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group

Cllr A L Jones reported he had chaired a recent meeting of the Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group. They had covered a lot with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) but the main items were going to be discussed when County Cllr Mrs C Channon had a tour of the town with the NHO to discuss all the various problems that had been raised at the meeting and following the work carried out by Wales & West.

## **19.157 Reports of County and District Councillors**

### County Cllr Mrs C Channon

- She had attended a recent meeting of the East Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) at which there had been a presentation about asset management at highways. She said that the main lesson the officers had learned was local knowledge!! She had felt compelled to comment at this stage and had remarked on the work carried out by Wales & West when local knowledge would have overcome a lot of problems. The officer had responded with a lot of excuses but two other HATOC Committee members had made the same comment that local knowledge was important.
- At the Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group meeting, they had discussed the idea of repairing pavements in the High Street, particularly outside Co-op and Lloyds Pharmacy. The NHO had suggested using 'black top' but Cllr Mrs Channon had updated her on problems this caused by dementia sufferers. Other options would be discussed at a later date.
- As mentioned by Cllr Jones, she was going to organise a tour of the town with the NHO in the next week or so. She asked that if any Members had any other problem areas to let the Clerk know as soon as possible.
- She said there used to be an 'events book' in the library – this was used by local groups and organisations to advertise upcoming events and was a great way of stopping events clashing with each other. Jane, the Library Manager, thought it would be great to start it up again but it needed publicising! Cllr Mrs Sismore-Hunt suggested using Facebook. The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar added there was a diary of events in the Tourist Information Centre. Cllr Mrs Channon did not think it mattered if there were two books and the Library and TIC could link up as a community asset. Cllr Mrs Sismore-Hunt asked for an update on the dip in Station Road at the junction with Elm side. Cllr Mrs Channon said this was on the list of items to look at with the NHO. Cllr T D Wright reported that a lady had fallen over a broken piece of footpath on the Co-op on Saturday.
- She had requested an additional bollard to be installed by the butchers in an attempt to stop cars mounting the pavement. She was happy to pay for this out of her locality budget. She was also arranging for one outside Vanilla Sky where the first-floor bay window above the shop had been damaged by a delivery lorry.

### District Councillors

District Cllr P M Jarvis reported that it was the first full Council meeting and he would have a lot more to report after that.

He added he had been fortunate to launch the Taxi Driver Safety Campaign – he said it was vital that taxi drivers were able to carry on their work without fear of incident. He said a lot of people relied on taxis, especially in the more rural areas where public transport services were not so frequent.

Cllr T D Wright reported that Cabinet would be discussing Climate Change in future months. He said that District was doing a great deal to address the issue with more electronic charging points being installed and the planting of trees. He said a cabinet member had been appointed for climate change, but it was incumbent on every cabinet member to take the issue into account when making proposals in future. He added that the Cabinet meeting was to be held at Blackdown House in Honiton on 24 July and members of the public were more than welcome to attend. He said climate change was a major item on the agenda.

Cllr A J Dent reported he had attended a recent meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. There had been issues with their new iPads which were not linking up with Members' personal iPads; Strata was working on the problem and he hoped it would be sorted out soon.

In September there would be a joint meeting with the Overview Committee at which all eleven Service Plans for the forthcoming two financial years would be discussed. He said there was a potential £2m deficit for 2020/21 and each Department head had been asked to speak for fifteen minutes to outline their top priorities; this would enable the Committees to know where potential cuts could be made.

#### **19.158 Finance Inspection**

- (i) Payment of cheques for the month of July 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 July 2019.

#### **19.159 Arrangements for Making Payments**

It was agreed that payments, wherever possible, would, in future, be made by BACS or internet banking transfer, as per Paragraphs 6i and 6j of the Town Council Financial Regulations adopted on 23 July 2018.

#### **19.160 Office Security**

Quotations for the provision and installation of an Intruder Alarm for the offices plus annual monitoring costs were received and considered.

The Clerk explained that Company B had installed and maintained the Fire Alarm System whilst Company T had installed and maintained the CCTV system. It was

**Resolved:** Company B will be instructed to install the system.

#### **19.161 Brook Road Toilets**

A quotation from East Devon District Council (EDDC) for the continued cleaning and maintenance of the Brook Road toilets was received and considered.

For the benefit of the newest Members, the Clerk outlined the reason why the Town Council had been paying for the cleaning, maintenance and insurance. It was agreed that these toilets were in a poor state of repair and it was

**Resolved:** The quotation will be accepted but the Clerk was instructed to ask EDDC if they were prepared to carry out some repairs/improvements to the toilets. She was also instructed to find out if EDDC would be willing to hand over the toilets to the Town Council, as had happened in East Budleigh, amongst other places.

#### **19.162 Mayor's Board**

A quotation for a replacement Honours Board for the Council Chambers was received and considered. It was

**Resolved:** The quotation was accepted with the new board being ordered before May 2020.

#### **19.163 Request for Grant Aid: St Peter's Burial Ground**

- (i) Consideration was given to a making a donation towards the creation of a Wildlife and Wild Flower Sanctuary in the Burial Ground.

**Resolved:** A grant will be made.

- (ii) Consideration was then given to the amount of the donation.

**Resolved:** A donation of £250 will be made.

#### **19.164 Committee Membership**

It was agreed that Cllr H L Riddell may sit the following Committees:

- Foreshore & Footpaths
- Finance

Consideration was then given to appointing an additional Member to sit on the Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group.

**Resolved:** Cllr Mrs M P Lewis volunteered to sit on this Group.

#### **19.165 Climate Emergency**

Consideration was given to a motion from Cllr P W R Duke that the Town Council declares a Climate Emergency and also creates a Climate Emergency Task Force.

Cllr P W R Duke thanked the residents for speaking in support of this motion and he was pleased to hear from Cllr T D Wright that EDDC were supporting the DCC declaration. After a lengthy discussion it was

**Resolved:** Budleigh Salterton Town Council declares a Climate Emergency and the Clerk will arrange for a suitable statement to be published on the Council website.

A Climate Emergency Task Group will be set up with Terms of Reference to be agreed at the augural meeting. The Group will present its report to the Town Council in January 2020. The following Councillors volunteered to sit on the Group:

- Cllr P W R Duke
- Cllr D J Hayward
- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis
- Cllr H L Riddell
- Cllr R D Sherriff
- County Cllr Mrs C Channon

#### **19.166 Correspondence Received**

Otter Valley Association: Letter of thanks for donation

Budleigh Salterton Festival of Jazz and Blues: Letter of thanks for donation

Lieutenancy Office of Devon: Letter with details of Queens Award for Voluntary Service

Letter (sent to Cllr Mrs M P Lewis and Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone) with concerns about the introduction of 5G

Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt and Cllr P W R Duke advised that they had received a similar letter

Devon County Council: Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic & Parking (1) Knowle Road – 23.9.19 to 4.10.19 (2) Dalditch Lane – 30.9.19 to 4.10.19

St Peter's Mini Mag: July 2019

Otter Valley Association Newsletter: Summer 2019

The Clerk: July 2019

Clerks & Councils Direct: July 2019

#### **19.167 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion**

- Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt asked that all Members check their emails an hour before each meeting in case the Clerk had sent anything of any importance pertaining to the meeting.

**19.168 Dates of Next Meetings**

Planning Committee:

12 August 2019 at 7.00pm

Town Council:

12 August 2019 on the rising of the  
Planning Committee

Planning Committee:

2 September 2019 at 7.00pm

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.37pm.

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Chairman

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Date

Approved