

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

APPROVED MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Offices on Monday 28 October 2019 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.21pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt (Town Mayor)

Cllr M C Hilliar (Deputy Town Mayor)

Cllr P W R Duke

Cllr Mrs L D Evans

Cllr D J Hayward

Cllr A L Jones

Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis

Cllr H L Riddell

Cllr R D Sherriff

Town Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: County Cllr Mrs C Channon, District Cllr A J Dent, District Cllr P M Jarvis, District Cllr T D Wright and two representatives of the press

PART A

19.276 Public Speaking Time

Mrs C Channon spoke as a Trustee of Budleigh Community Youth Project Trust (BCYP). She explained that the Venture Hall had been jointly owned by the Royal British Legion (RBL) and the Girl Guides (GG). In 2008 it had come on the market because, nationally, RBL was selling its assets and GG were not in a position to buy it outright. She said she had managed to get a Devon County Council grant to enable BCYP to purchase the Hall – this funding was partly from the sale of Exeter Airport. She then explained that BCYP had a mortgage of £75000 which had been reduced to £45000 and this was the sum now to be repaid.

She explained the building was let on a regular basis and “washed its face” – it was regularly used by Scouts and Cubs, Guides, Brownies and other groups who used the Hall on an ad hoc basis. Two youth workers who attended the Thursday Youth Club were paid, all the other helpers were volunteers.

She concluded by asking that the Council considered making a grant towards this project.

19.277 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received Cllr Mrs M P Lewis (holiday).

19.278 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

- Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone declared a personal interest in Min 19.287 – two of the Trustees are close friends.
- Cllr D J Hayward declared an interest in Min 19.288 – he is the Town Council’s representative on the Knowle Village Hall Committee.

19.279 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 23 September 2019 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

19.280 Reports of Committees

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- (i) the Community Gardens Committee held on 14 October 2019
- (ii) the Public Hall Committee held on 14 October 2019

19.281 Chairman's Report

The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt said the last month had been fairly quiet and she had nothing to report.

19.282 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- A replacement post box had been installed at Upper Stoneborough Lane following its removal earlier in the year after a collision with a motor vehicle. She would write to Royal Mail thanking them.
- She had received numerous reports that one of the posts at the War Memorial had been damaged. She had reported this to East Devon District Council (EDDC) and hopefully it would be repaired before Remembrance Sunday.
- She had attended the Devon Association of Local Councils AGM and Conference on 23 October. There had been some interesting speakers and two informative break-out sessions on Governance and Employment issues
- Devon Association of Local Councils had offered to give in-house training for new councillors and as there were quite a few new councillors, she would make arrangements for some training in the New Year, which might be a joint session with another parish(s).

19.283 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

Exmouth Local Action Group

Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone advised that Insp Weeks wanted to come and speak to the Council and give feedback about the various incidents which had occurred in the town. She said it was vital that every incident be reported and if anyone had any concerns, Cllr Mrs Kenneally-Stone was happy to take them to the next meeting. She asked the Clerk to contact Insp Weeks to make arrangements for a visit to the Council.

19.284 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs C Channon reported:

- Things were moving in a helpful direction regarding Shandford. She was impressed by how the residents of the town had been both concerned and supportive in attempts to keep the home open. She had taken legal advice at Devon County Council (DCC) and it seemed that if the premises were sold, Abbeyfield would be unable to take the asset without providing similar alternative accommodation. She understood there was a view the home could be managed as is and she and others were working to see if it was possible to move forward. She had arranged a meeting with the Chief Executive of Abbeyfield and would report to the Town Council in due course.

Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt asked, if there were only a few residents left living at the home, would Abbeyfield close it completely, considering it unviable. Cllr Mrs Channon explained that whilst vacancies could not be filled by permanent residents, if anyone needed respite care, they could be accommodated. She added that some residents were not well enough to make a move to an alternative home. She concluded by thanking everyone for their support – it was most helpful – but she felt things needed to calm down a little while the legal situation was sorted out.

- She had had a tour of the town with DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer, Emma Stamp, and quite a few of the road issues around the town had been earmarked for repair. These included:
 - The potholes outside the Public Hall and St Peter's Church plus those in West Hill would be filled
 - The dip in Station Road (adjacent to Elmside) was to be filled and repaired
 - The raised inspection cover in the High Street near Macmillans would be repaired

- She had received agreement for two additional bollards in the High Street – one between the two existing bollards and one near Macmillans. She hoped this would alleviate the issues with vehicles mounting the pavements
- On 11 November Bedlands Lane would be closed for resurfacing.
- Northview Road, where the road joined Links Road, would be surface dressed

Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt asked if Greenway Lane, Jocelyn Road, Boyne Road, Clarence Road and Armytage Road were due for resurfacing.

County Cllr Mrs C Channon advised that whilst there were issues along these roads, there were no actual defects so they would not be dealt with at this time.

- They had looked at the blocked drain in Jocelyn Road but were unsure how it could be dealt with; she was waiting for Emma's report
- The cobbles in the ford at Halse Hill would be replaced
- She felt they had covered all the areas previously brought to their attention
- They had discussed the paving slabs in High Street and Fore Street and she had reiterated her unhappiness at suggestions that the slabs are replaced with "black top". She had explained to Emma this was unsuitable for dementia sufferers who were unable to cope with large areas of black footway

District Councillors

District Cllr A J Dent reported:

- At the last meeting he had advised that EDDC was looking at the tariffs in all its car parks. This had been "called in" and a Task and Finish Forum had been set up to look at all aspects of the District's car parks. He said EDDC needed to use its assets as best as possible without hurting its communities and High Streets. This subject would be discussed once the TaFF had completed its report which he expected to be in February or March 2020. He said a lot of work had to be done in the meantime.

District Cllr P M Jarvis said there had been a lot of negative reports recently and he felt it was time there was a positive report! He then advised:

- Over 11000 green waste bins had been bought, providing £0.5m income each year, as well as being environmentally friendly!
- 99.82% of rents from social housing had been collected and the team was doing a great job. Even after Universal Credit had been rolled out, the rents were still being collected without problems.

District Cllr T D Wright reported:

- Whilst the green waste wins were generating £0.5m income that figure was being set against losses in that department, so the net income was approximately £50000 per year.

19.285 Finance Inspection

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

Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt thanked Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone for doing a great job after taking over from the former Finance Chairman.

19.286 Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal 2019

Consideration was given to an appropriate donation for the wreaths.

Resolved: A donation of £250 will be made.

19.287 Request for Grant Aid 2019/20: Budleigh Community Youth Project

Consideration was given to making a Grant towards the Project's Appeal to secure the premises for future use and after a lengthy discussion it was

Resolved: A Grant will be made.

Consideration was then given to the amount of the Grant.

Resolved: A Grant of £5000 will be made.

District Cllr T D Wright thanked the Town Council for its generous Grant. He said the Youth Club was the only place for children to meet up in a safe environment. He added that the recent situation in Sidmouth had affected the children and the youth workers would be providing counselling sessions.

19.288 Request for Grant Aid 2020/21: Lions Club of Budleigh Salterton – Gala Week Children's Cycle Competition

Consideration was given to sponsorship of the Children's Cycle Competition. The Clerk explained that the amount requested was more than previous years as the Lions wished to add another category for Parents, Grandparents and Guardians. It was

Resolved: Sponsorship of £200 was agreed.

19.289 East Devon District Council: S.106 Projects

The allocation of additional S.106 funds, totalling £3281, to the Knowle Village Hall Play Area Project was discussed. The Clerk explained that the EDDC Officer had remapped the area which meant that the Hall fell within this new catchment area, hence the increase. It was

Resolved: The allocation of additional funds was approved.

Cllr D J Hayward advised that he had a meeting with Mr Healey on 30 October. The work on the Play Area would be starting soon and the additional funding would be used for landscaping and fencing.

19.290 Bench Maintenance

A suggestion that, due to budget constraints at East Devon District Council, the Town Council funds the re-staining of the town's benches, was considered.

Cllr R D Sherriff, Chairman of the Council's Foreshore & Footpaths Committee, explained that EDDC had only managed to re-stain two of the 150 seafront benches! He thought the seafront was the town's jewel in the crown and felt it was not a great advertisement seeing them deteriorate.

He knew of a resident who was willing to take on the task on an ad hoc basis, weather permitting and at a cost of £10 per bench. After further discussion it was

Resolved: This Council will fund the purchase of materials and Members were happy with the proposed cost per bench. It was further agreed that this will not be a formal contract and any benches in need of repair will be reported to the Clerk who will then pass on the details to EDDC.

19.291 Climate Change

Cllr P W R Duke reported on progress made by the Council's Climate Emergency Task Force:

- The Task Force was formed in July and since then its Members had met three times and had produced Terms of Reference and an Action Plan, both of which had been emailed to Council Members.
- The Terms of Reference, compiled by Cllr R D Sherriff, were consistent with the aims of the Devon Emergency Climate Response Group (DECRG), and is a model adopted by EDDC and DCC.

- The Action Plan had evolved over the past three months and he thanked Cllr H L Riddell for the initial draft. The Plan now needed to be reformatted from the text-only document into a chart showing current and proposed actions and delivery and timing options. This version was being prepared by the Task Force and would be refined at the next meeting in November.
- Some of the proposals in the Plan had already been addressed, and there were many ongoing threads. Cllr Riddell had researched and reported on the availability of water refill points, the technology that was available to identify them, and he would also be asking the Chamber of Commerce for their advice.
- Cllr Sheriff had examined the possibility of extending the hugely popular Woodland Trust tree planting proposals and had investigated the possibility of dedicating trees as part of a bereavement memorial, or anniversary/event commemoration, with dedication plaques being a further option.
- County Cllr Mrs C Channon had suggested that existing and proposed charging points for electric vehicles be identified, and research possible new ones. Cllr Channon had also made enquiries about installing solar panels on the Public Hall.
- The group would like, with the participation of the local community, including schools and colleges, to present an Open Day, perhaps called “Climate Change Day”, in early 2020 totally focused on the Climate Emergency, and showing what had been achieved, what was being done, and what everyone could further achieve to collectively attempt to avert what was a worsening Climate situation.
- The group would attempt, as much as possible, to involve the local community, the wider hinterland of Budleigh Salterton, and would endeavour to work alongside other local town and parish councils, EDDC and DCC.

Consideration was then given to signing the Devon Climate Declaration and it was

Resolved: This Council will sign the Devon Climate Declaration.

It was further

Resolved: Neighbouring parishes will be invited to join the Town Council in declaring a Climate Emergency and if they are agreeable a joint Climate Action Plan will be created.

19.292 Meeting Dates 2020

The suggested meeting dates had been circulated prior to the Meeting and were agreed.

19.293 Office Opening Hours: Christmas/New Year

It was agreed that the office will close at 1.00pm on Monday 23 December 2019 and will re-open at 10.00am on Friday 3 January 2020.

19.294 Correspondence Received

- Royal British Legion (Budleigh Salterton, East Budleigh & Otterton Branch): details of Remembrance Sunday Service 10 November 2019
- OVA: Autumn 2019 Newsletter
- Devon County Council:
 - (1) Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic: Thursday 24 October to Sunday 27 October 2019 – Sleaf Hill, between Sandy Cross and Brick Cross, East Budleigh (Bicton Arena International Horse Trials)
 - (2) Temporary Rolling Road Closure: Sunday 10 November 2019 – Coastguard Hill, Marine Parade, Fore Street, High Street and The Lawn (Remembrance Parade)
 - (3) Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic: Sunday 17 November 2019 – High Street from the junction of West Hill to Fore Street (Christmas Light Installation)

(4) Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic: Friday 6 December 2019 – High Street, Fore Street and The Lawn (Late Night Shopping)

(5) Temporary Prohibition of Through Traffic: Sunday 5 January 2020 – High Street from the junction of West Hill to Fore Street (Christmas Light Removal)

- The Resilience Project: details of the Project

19.295 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

No other business was raised.

19.296 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning Committee:	11 November 2019 at 7.00pm
Finance Committee:	11 November 2019 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Planning Committee:	25 November 2019 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	25 November 2019 on the rising of the Planning Committee
Planning Committee:	9 December 2019 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	9 December 2019 on the rising of the Planning Committee

19.297 The Deputy Town Mayor to Move that:

Under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the Meeting as exempt information is likely to be discussed.

PART B

19.298 Staffing

(i) Consideration was given to increasing the Clerical Assistant's salary with effect from 1 April 2020.

Resolved: The Clerical Assistant will be given an additional day's leave each year rather than an increase in her salary. Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone assured members that Mrs Harrison was happy with this arrangement.

(ii) Consideration was then given to increasing the Caretaker and Deputy Caretaker's salaries with effect from 1 January 2020.

Resolved: The hourly rate should be increased, as suggested by the Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt and full details are held in the Confidential Minutes.

The Clerk advised that any changes to the National Minimum Wage (National Living Wage) will be reported to the Town Council if these affect the sums paid to the Caretaker and Deputy Caretaker.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.26pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date