

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 27 January 2020 on the rising of the Planning Committee.

Meeting commenced at 7.07pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt (Town Mayor)

Cllr M C Hilliar (Deputy Town Mayor)

Cllr A F Chaplin

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 G Turner

Town Clerk: Mrs J E Vanstone

Others Present: District Cllr A J Dent, District Cllr P M Jarvis, District Cllr T D Wright, three members of the public and two representatives of the press

19.393 Public Speaking Time

A resident spoke about the closure of Shandford. He said that he had been a Trustee prior to the transfer of the home to Abbeyfield. He knew the Town Council was willing to support the reversal of the decision to close the home if necessary but following an in-depth review to see if it was feasible to take on the running of the home, the decision had been taken, with great reluctance, that it was not viable.

The Home would close on 31 March 2020 and any funds would revert to benefit the elderly residents of the town.

The current management team was working hard with the Home's residents to ensure new accommodation was found.

The Chairman of Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club spoke about the request for Grant Aid. She explained that the Club, one of the oldest sports clubs in the country, would be celebrating its 150th anniversary later in the year and a major summer reception was being planned for June.

She said that the Club hosted many tournaments each year, both national and international, and these attracted a lot of visitors into the town.

The reception would involve a drink and celebration cake and she asked that the Council contribute towards the cost of the drinks.

She said that whilst the Club was not visible it always welcomed visitors.

19.394 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone (family commitments) and County Cllr Mrs C Channon.

19.395 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

- Cllr Mrs L D Evans declared a personal interest in Min 19.404 – she is the Deputy Chairman of Exmouth & District Community Transport Group.
- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis declared a personal interest in Min 19.403 – she is a member of Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club.

19.396 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 9 December 2019 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record.

19.397 Chairman's Report

Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt reported:

- On 25 January she had attended an event at the Fire Station where local firefighters were walking 50 miles in full breathing apparatus kit to raise funds for Prostate Cancer. They had been joined by the local MP, Simon Jupp, who had walked a little way. She understood the well-attended event had raised £600 to date.
- She said it had not been an easy few weeks for the local Fire Station, but she was arranging a Thank You evening for retired and current fire fighters in place of the usual Chairman's Reception.

19.398 Clerk's Report

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- She had received notification from East Devon District Council (EDDC) that a number of horse chestnut trees on The Green were going to be felled because of disease (bleeding canker and horse chestnut leaf minor). The remaining horse chestnuts would be inspected on a regular basis as part of the EDDC tree management policy. EDDC would be undertaking a replacement planting scheme to ensure long-term tree cover in the area.
- She had been advised that a new flagpole was being erected near the Lime Kiln Car Park. Residents were concerned that this was a replacement for the main seafront flagpole. She had been notified by EDDC that it was not, it was an additional flagpole. The seafront flagpole will be replaced as previously reported, but will be on a different plinth
- She had been made aware of an abandoned car in the Upper Station Road Car Park. This had been reported to EDDC and the officer was waiting for a response as to who was the registered keeper.
- A replacement index sheet for the Standing Orders was in Members' files – she had noticed an error when researching the Press and Media Policy.

19.399 Reports of Council Representatives on Other Bodies

Budleigh in Bloom

Cllr Mrs L D Evans reported that the two round beds on The Green had been cleared. They would be replanted with sustainable planting which would mean slightly less work for helpers.

The Annual General Meeting would be held in the Norman Centre on 7 February at 7.00pm and all were welcome to attend.

19.400 Reports of County and District Councillors

County Councillor

District Cllr T D Wright reported on behalf of County Cllr Mrs C Channon:

- The patching in Barn Lane would be carried out in February
- Patching and pot hole repair in West Hill was scheduled to be carried out but she had not been advised of the date when this work would be done.
- Damage to the verge in Dalditch Lane had been caused by the tractor at Dalditch Farm and the Neighbourhood Highways Officer was in talks with Clinton Devon Estates regarding its reinstatement.
- She had forwarded a report on the closure of Shandford but most of the information had been covered during the Public Speaking session. County Cllr Mrs C Channon had been speaking to the Adult Social Care section at Devon County Council to ensure suitable accommodation was found for all the Home's residents.

District Councillors

District Cllr A J Dent said much had been reported/said about the office move from Sidmouth to Honiton. He explained that the sale of the Council Offices at Knowle had completed on 14 January 2020. The relocation to Honiton and Exmouth had cost in the region of £7.5m which meant a surplus of £1.5m.

He then reported:

- The annual budget setting meeting had taken place and a budget of £14.7m had been set for 2020/21. This was a £5 increase per household (approximately 3.5%). He explained that government grants had reduced by 60p in every £1 over the last ten years and this reduction meant EDDC was looking at huge shortfalls in future years. There was now a need to generate more income or face loss of services and/or jobs. A commercial investment strategy had been undertaken which would generate some income.
- As Chairman of Scrutiny he was now in charge of the Car Park review. He said that there had not been a change in hourly rates for ten years and any change/increase would create a lot of opposition.
- An internet questionnaire had been created called "Careful Choices" asking what EDDC should do to save/create money. He asked that residents responded as it was vital that as many views were received as possible. He said a random sample had been sent around the District but the questionnaire was also online.
- The main focus of the District Council was Climate Change. EDDC was producing a strategy called "Act Locally, Think Locally" which set out what everyone could do to make a contribution. He said that EDDC hoped to be carbon neutral by 2040 but the major task was the cost in altering all EDDC properties.
- The Queens Drive redevelopment in Exmouth was entering its third phase. The results from the Hemingway Design consultation would be discussed by Cabinet in the next week or so. The document was 139 pages long, so he anticipated a lengthy debate!

District Cllr P M Jarvis reported:

- For the first time EDDC had observed Holocaust Memorial Day with representatives from the Jewish Community and local synagogues attending. It was hoped it would become an annual event.
- He would be attending two meetings of the Police & Crime Panel in February. These would be interesting meetings in what was an election year!

19.401 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payment of cheques for the month of January 2020, in accordance with Appendix A.
- (ii) It was noted that the Chairman of the Finance Committee had not been able to carry out the internal finance inspection for January 2020 as she was out of the country for family reasons.

19.402 Town Council Policy Documents

A Press and Media Policy, based on the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Model, had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was

Resolved: The Policy should be adopted with no amendments.

19.403 Request for Grant Aid 2019/2020: Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club

Consideration was given to making a Grant towards the Club's 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

Resolved: A Grant will not be made as Members felt it was not an appropriate use of tax-payers money.

19.404 Request for Grant Aid 2020/21: Exmouth & District Community Transport Group

(i) Consideration was given to making Grant to the Group.

Resolved: A Grant will be made

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

Resolved: A Grant of £1500 will be made, split between the Community Bus and Ring & Ride.

19.405 Notice Boards – Knowle Village

Consideration was given to the purchase of a replacement notice board in Knowle Village (at the junction with Dalditch Lane) and a new notice board to be located in the vicinity of Dark Lane/Knowle Road (subject to the necessary permissions).

After some discussion it was

Resolved: A replacement notice board will be purchased for Knowle Village. Members felt it was not necessary for an additional new notice board in the vicinity of Dark Lane/Knowle Road.

19.406 Devon Pension Fund: Consultation draft Funding Strategy Statement Consultation

The draft Funding Strategy Statement was received and considered.

Resolved: No response was required.

19.407 East Devon District Council: Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation

The Draft Affordable Housing SPD was received and considered.

Resolved: No response was required.

19.408 East Devon District Council: Beach Hut Review

Correspondence from East Devon District Council regarding the colour of beach huts was received and considered.

Resolved: EDDC continue to request pastel colours be used and current procedures to deal with non-compliance should remain in place.

19.409 75th Anniversary of VE Day – 8 May 2020

Consideration was given to ideas for commemorating VE Day in the Town on the weekend of 8 to 10 May 2020. After some discussion as to the focus of the Commemorations it was

Resolved: An event should be held on The Green with residents who were living in the town during that time invited as honoured guests. The Clerk will liaise with the local Branch of the Royal British Legion to ascertain the most suitable date for the event.

19.410 Budleigh Salterton Fire Station Closure

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis advised that a letter, detailing this Council's concerns about the proposed closure had been sent to the local MP, Simon Jupp. The Clerk confirmed that to date, no response had been received.

A lengthy discussion then took place to agree the Town Council's opinion on the proposed closure of the Fire Station and changes in services to be provided to the town and outlying areas.

The following points were raised:

- Does this Council still wish to express its unhappiness with the consultation process
- Should the closure be postponed until such time as the correct figures are on record
- More residents should have had access to the consultation – the number of paper copies of the questionnaire was low, the timing of the drop-in sessions was not ideal
- Residents should know that the Town Council did fight to keep the station, even though there was no statutory power to stop the closure
- Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton both need night cover and that was what the Town Council should be focusing on

Consideration was then given to what action the Town Council should take next and what, if any, communication there should be with residents, businesses and agencies. It was

Resolved: The Clerk should write to the Chief Fire Officer (with a copy to Simon Jupp MP) asking for reassurance that 24-hour cover remains and current fire personnel based in Budleigh Salterton are redeployed to Exmouth. It should be a positive letter but should also reiterate this Council's unhappiness about the way the consultation was carried out.

19.411 Correspondence Received

- East Devon District Council Environmental Health Department: Response to the Town Council's comments on the recent PSPO Review Consultation
- East Devon Pebblebed Heaths: Feedback from recent Visitor Access Consultation
- Devon County Council: Temporary Prohibition of Traffic Orders:
 - 2 to 8 January 2020 – Vales Road: repair leaking communication pipe
 - 17 to 21 February 2020 – Barn Lane: patching works
 - 2 to 6 March 2020 – Leas Road: repointing of bridge parapet
- Devon County Council (Traffic Management) Permit Scheme Order 2020
- Patient Group: Winter 2019 Newsletter
- OVA: Winter 2020 Newsletter
- The Clerk: January 2020
- Clerks & Councils Direct: January 2020

Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt said a lot of correspondence was received each month, adding that any Councillor could come in and read it before the Meetings.

19.412 Any Other Business at the Chairman's Discretion

- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis asked if there had been any progress by the Climate Change Group since Mr Duke's resignation from the Town Council. The Clerk confirmed that nothing had been done. Cllr Mrs Lewis asked if the Group could reconvene and looked at the EDDC proposals and form some clear action plans to bring back to the Town Council.
- Cllr A L Jones thanked the resident for explaining the process with Shandford. He said Members would have picked up limited information from the press and he was appreciative of all that had been done to try and keep the Home open.

19.413 Dates of Next Meetings

Planning Committee:	10 February 2020 at 7.00pm
Community Gardens Committee:	10 February 2020 on the rising of the Planning Committee
CIL Committee:	10 February 2020 on the rising of the Community Gardens Committee
Planning Committee:	24 February 2020 at 7.00pm
Town Council:	24 February 2020 on the rising of the Planning Committee

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.28pm.

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Chairman

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Date

Approved