

## **BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Town Council held online via Zoom on Monday 27 April 2020 at 7.15pm.

### **PRESENT**

Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt (Town Mayor)  
Cllr M C Hilliar (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Cllr Mrs L D Evans  
Cllr D J Hayward  
Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone  
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 and District Cllr T D Wright

### **19.485 Virtual Meeting Policy**

The Virtual Meeting Policy document, which is to be read in conjunction with the Town Council's Standing Orders, was unanimously approved.

### **19.486 Public Speaking Time**

No members of the public wished to speak.

### **19.487 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received Cllr A F Chaplin, Cllr A L Jones, County Cllr Mrs C Channon and Mr A Tilbury.

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

- Cllr Mrs L D Evans declared a personal interest in Min 19.497 – she is the Town Council's representative on Budleigh in Bloom
- Cllr D J Hayward declared a personal interest in Min 19.496 – he is the Town Council's representative on the Fairlynch Museum

### **19.489 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 24 February 2020 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record at the next physical meeting.

### **19.490 Reports of Committees**

The Minutes of the following Meetings were noted:

- (i) Foreshore & Footpaths Committee held on 9 March 2020
- (ii) Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Committee held on 9 March 2020

### **19.491 Chairman's Report**

The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt had nothing to report.

### **19.492 Clerk's Report**

Mrs J E Vanstone reported:

- She had received £31682.65 of Community Infrastructure Levy funding from East Devon District Council.
- She had downloaded the Lloyds Mobile Business Banking App which meant she was able to bank any cheques received via the App's scanning option.
- All the necessary information had been sent to the Internal Auditor who was getting on well with this year's Audit.
- She had prepared a list of Budleigh Businesses which were still operating and had forwarded this to all the Town's Clubs and Organisations for dissemination to their members. The most up to date version would be on the Council's website.

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

#### County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs C Channon reported:

- On 23 April, the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (RD&E) advised that there had been 581 cases of Covid-19 in the Devon County area and 29 deaths at the Hospital. As of that date 47 beds were occupied for Critical Care cases, but only 16 patients had tested positive for Covid-19. The RD&E was still operating for non-Covid patients but officials were concerned that suspected referrals and attendance were down. The hospital had two weeks supply of PPE. Staff testing was now available at the Honiton Road Park and Ride and was available to Key workers and Care staff. Hospital patients being discharged to care homes were now being tested for Covid-19.
- Approximately 20 children were attending St Peter's School, 15 of whom had a parent who was a key worker and 5 were classed as vulnerable. The school had listed all the children they considered vulnerable when the lock-down began and had made regular contact with these families. The headteacher, Mr S Hitchcock, had expressed concern about the ineffectiveness of the meal voucher scheme and had told her that the company, Red Eden, who the Government had appointed to roll out the scheme were unable to cope and vouchers either arrived late or not at all. She had been told that where this was happening the local group was picking up the tab and providing either vouchers or delivering food parcels. She had contacted Simon Jupp MP to inform him of this problem.
- All the residents of Shandford had been transferred and to the best of her knowledge were content with their new placements. There had not been any cases of Covid-19 infection at the home which was now closed; the furniture had been recycled and Abbeyfield was now awaiting permission from the Charity Commission to place the building on the market. She understood it may be some time before that happened.
- The town's local traders were being most helpful and supportive and the team at the Hub had been exceptional.

#### District Councillors

District Cllr T D Wright reported

- East Devon District Council (EDDC) was concentrating on its duties and was distributing food to sheltered accommodation. Most of its services were being kept up and the StreetScene team were working well.

District Cllr A J Dent reported:

- EDDC had created a Hub which was a focal point for enquiries – the system was working well. Some issues regarding safeguarding (DBS checks etc) had been flagged up and these were being resolved.
- EDDC was still researching the feasibility of holding virtual meetings. He explained that a few trials had been carried out with Exeter City Council using Skype for Business and another was planned for a future licensing meeting. Trials with Zoom were starting but the difficulty was controlling large meetings and sorting out issues with voting.

Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone asked if it was likely that the green waste collections would restart soon and when the recycling centres might reopen.

District Cllr T D Wright said he would find out about the green waste which had been stopped because some drivers were self-isolating. He advised that the recycling centres were run by Devon County Council and he would ask County Cllr Mrs C Channon for an update.

Cllr Mrs Kenneally-Stone also asked if any refunds were going to be paid to green waste customers. District Cllr Wright said he would find out.

Cllr Mrs Kenneally-Stone then asked if there was any possibility of extending the restrictions on dogs being allowed on beaches so dog walkers could use the beaches and remaining at distance from other walkers.

Cllr Wright explained that the restrictions were covered by the new Public Space Protection Orders which would be renewed on 1 May with existing conditions and as such were law. Any alterations would mean the Orders would have to go out for consultation again. He agreed it would be good to temporarily ease the restriction.

Cllr G Turner asked if the Town Council could formally thank the recycling and StreetScene teams for their splendid continued service.

Cllr Wright said he would pass on these thanks, adding that he had seen the local operative and thanked him personally.

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

##### Budleigh Salterton Nursing Association

Mrs J E Vanstone advised that Cllr A L Jones had informed her that the association had donated £1000 to the Budleigh Support Group.

#### **19.495 Finance Inspection**

- (i) Payments for the months of March and April 2020, 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 March 2020.
- (iii) It was agreed that future inspections be suspended until safe alternative arrangements can be made.

Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone confirmed that she and the Clerk were discussing how this could best be carried out.

#### **19.496 Request for Grant Aid 2020/21: Fairlynch Museum**

Consideration was given to making a donation to the Museum.

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

Consideration was then given to the amount of the donation.

**Resolved:** A donation of £500 will be made.

Cllr A L Jones joined the meeting.

**19.497 Request for Grant Aid 2020/21: Budleigh in Bloom - Watering**

Consideration was given to making a donation towards the watering.

The Clerk explained that whilst Budleigh in Bloom would not be undertaking any summer planting, the plants remaining in troughs etc around the town were still flowering and needed watering. She said that the man who would be doing the watering was happy to invoice the Town Council on a monthly basis.

**Resolved:** The Town Council will pay for watering

Consideration was then given to the amount of the payments.

**Resolved:** Payments to a total of £1250 were agreed and the situation will be reviewed in July.

**19.498 Request for Grant Aid 2020/21: Budleigh Support Covid-19**

Consideration was given to making a donation to the Support Fund.

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

Consideration was then given to the amount of the donation.

**Resolved:** A donation of £2000 will be made. The Clerk will inform the Group that further funding is available if required.

**19.499 Annual Meeting of the Town Council**

Consideration was given to when the Annual Meeting of the Town Council should be held.

The Clerk explained that legislation contained in The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 meant the requirement to hold an Annual Meeting had been relaxed until May 2021.

After some discussion it was

**Resolved:** The Annual Meeting will not be held on 11 May 2020. Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt and Cllr M C Hilliar will remain in post as Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor, respectively, for the next three months when the situation will be reviewed again. If circumstances alter drastically before July, Members agreed to discuss this matter earlier.

**19.500 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion**

No other business was raised.

**19.501 Dates of Next Meetings**

Discussion took place on the frequency of future meetings and it was

**Resolved:** The next meeting will be on 11 May 2020 at 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.19pm.

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Chairman

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Date