

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held online via Zoom on Monday 1 June 2020 at 7.00pm.

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 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: County Cllr Mrs C Channon, District Cllr T D Wright, two members of public and two representatives of the press

19.520 Public Speaking Time

Mr A Tilbury, President of the Budleigh Salterton & District Chamber of Commerce, spoke about the proposed one way system in the High Street. He told Councillors that Chamber members were not happy with the lack of parking in the proposal. He said there were spaces on the High Street (outside Carters), on The Lawn (outside the Crusty Rolle) as well as spaces in Rolle Road and he wondered if they could be used. He said a survey carried out many years ago had shown that on average cars stopped in the High Street for 4.5 minutes which equated to approximately 84 cars per day per space. That meant a lot of trade could be lost. He also reminded Councillors that traders were trying to make a living.

He asked that any widening of the pavement on the southern side had gaps to allow pedestrians easy access from one side to the other.

He said he had heard comments from residents of East and West Terrace who were concerned the roads would be used as diversions and had been reminded that some of the houses in East Terrace had cellars which went right under the road.

A resident also spoke about the proposed one-way system. He said he lived in West Terrace. He had not seen a lay-out of the proposal but if it was to create a one-way system along the High Street, he was concerned traffic would go up The Lawn and along the Terraces. He and his wife had carried out a survey on Sunday 31 May and had counted 10 cars per minute entering the town with many travelling along the Terraces which were already fairly narrow because of parked cars. He asked that Councillors remember many residents have children who walk along the road due to the lack of pavements.

19.521 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from District Cllr A J Dent and District Cllr P M Jarvis.

19.522 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

- Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar declared a personal interest in Min 19.528 – he works in a High Street shop

19.523 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held online via Zoom on 11 May 2020 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record at the next physical meeting.

19.524 East Devon District Council: Planning Decisions – Approvals

Application No: 19/1366/TRE
Location: Wainholme West, 13 Knowle Village, EX9 6AL
Application: T1 Beech: i) Crown raise canopy to one even height of 4 metres above corner of drive (approximately 5 metres over lawn).
ii) Reduce lowest 8 metres of southern corner of canopy by up to 1.5 metres to approximately the edge of the drive (retaining crown radius to south of 6.5 metres).
iii) Clear BT line by 1 metre. Majority of pruning cuts to be approximately 25 mm in diameter, with one or two cuts up to 60 mm in diameter. See photographs for approximately extent of reduction

Application No: 20/0157/TRE
Location: 21 Woodlands, EX9 6AT
Application: T1 Holm Oak: Reduce height by approximately 3m. Shorten back side branches over neighbouring property by 2 - 3m leaving a radial spread of approximately 7m, to leave as natural a form as possible. Reason - pruning to encourage better form.
T2 Sweetgum: Prune second and third order branches to a suitable pruning position to leave a natural form. Reason to formative prune as a result of broken branches and poor form

Application No: 20/0535/FUL
Location: 5 The Lawn, EX9 6LT
Application: Construction of rear extension and alterations; bin store situated at the front of property

Application No: 20/0616/FUL
Location: 16 Bridge Road, EX9 6
Application: Construction of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and garage

Application No: 20/0690/FUL
Location: 32C Fore Street, EX9 6NH
Application: Erection of glass canopy to rear south elevation

Application No: 20/0669/FUL
Location: The Old Clink, 38 Fore Street, EX9 6NJ
Application: Construction of replacement garage and infill single storey side extension

Application No: 20/0755/FUL
Location: 13 Meadow Close, EX9 6JN
Application: Proposed single storey front extension (east), single storey side extension (south) and loft conversion

Application No: 20/0528/VAR
Location: 5 Northview Road, EX9 6BY
Application: Variation of condition 2 (plans condition) of planning permission 19/1875/FUL (erection of 2 no. four bedroom dwellings) amended house designs and parking arrangements

Application No: 20/0876/FUL
Location: 16 Greenway Gardens, EX9 6SW
Application: Construction of single storey side and rear extension

Application No: 20/0655/FUL
Location: 11 Northview Road, EX9 6BZ
Application: Construction of two storey front and rear extensions, including balcony to the rear.
Construction of first floor extension to the side and single storey extension to existing garage.
Provision of cladding to main house and insertion of new first floor window to SW elevation

19.525 Reports

Chairman

The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt was pleased to report that one local child had completed the Book Track Challenge but sadly she had been unable to carry out the usual presentation at the library, instead presenting the book token and chocolate in her front garden (at a safe distance!).

She then advised the Clerk had been inundated with emails over the weekend. She had suggested to the Clerk that she only read emails on her usual working days (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday) and non-urgent emails would get a response within 48 hours. She explained the Clerk was finding it difficult to keep up with normal council work due to the change in working procedures and this new system would help a little.

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis said that Councillors were asked to keep the Clerk in the loop with ideas and wondered if it would help if they did not copy her in.

The Clerk said it was vital she be kept up to date with ideas etc and asked Councillors to keep including her but not to expect an immediate response!

County Councillor

County Cllr Mrs C Channon reported:

- She had received some representations from residents of Blueberry Downs who were concerned about the broken railings on Salting Hill. Cllr Mrs Channon thought they were East Devon District Council (EDDC) responsibility but they were in fact Devon County Council (DCC). She had informed the Neighbourhood Highways Officer who had organised a temporary tape to be put up until such time as a replacement railing could be installed.
- St Peter's Church was now open for private prayer. Access was via the disabled entrance.
- She was very pleased to report that there were very few cases of Covid-19 in Devon's care homes.
- DCC had been allocated £36.7m to fight the virus but so far had spent £42m. However Devon was one of 11 local authorities which had become a beacon authority to track and trace Covid-19.

District Councillors

District Cllr T D Wright advised that the election of the new Leader had taken place with 32 votes for Cllr Paul Arnott and 20 votes for Cllr Andrew Moulding (8 members had abstained). He was very saddened to be advised that the Chairman, Cllr Stuart Hughes had resigned that day.

He then reported:

- Over the weekend, large volumes of litter had been brought back from the beach and was reaching levels seen at the peak of the school holidays. StreetScene officers were meeting to discuss the possibility of increasing the litter collections and the provision of recycling bins on the District's beaches/seafronts.
- The Recycling lorry had been unable to reach Tidwell Road, Tidwell Close, Hayes Close and Salterne Meadows that week – this was because of bad parking. He was pleased the lorry had returned that day and StreetScene were in discussion with DCC as it was vital these vehicles had access to all roads, especially with the amount of recycling that was being produced at present.

Mrs J E Vanstone read District Cllr A J Dent's report:

- During the lockdown, the District Council had been working in the background in a very different way. Thanks to the move from Sidmouth to the new offices in Honiton, the ability to work remotely had been a major factor in continuing essential and new operations.
- Most officers were working from home and the critical factor for getting things done had been the effectiveness of broadband. Fortunately, most areas were receiving a workable signal but some of the more rural areas were not.
- To date, and in addition to maintaining front line services, EDDC had:
 - Successfully supported the large increase in claims for Universal Credit. 6,649 compared to 3,793 in February
 - Distributed 87% of the £50 million grant from central government for some 3,700 local businesses
 - Set up a central community hub which had guided individual calls for help to appropriate local organisations
- Kerbside recycling collections had continued as normal with reduced staff (due to sickness) and a significant increase in tonnage as families had been housebound.
- In the last two weeks the Green Waste service had resumed and was now able to take on new customers.
- There were more challenges to overcome in the forthcoming weeks and months following job losses through business closures (Flybe, Thomas Cook and now the Shearings hotels). The tourist economy was suffering badly and a number of B&B's, Hotels, Campsites, Pubs and Restaurants may close and never open again.
- The recent news that shops were to gradually reopen over the next two weeks would be a great relief to all

The report concluded with a reminder that the virus had not gone away and everyone must continue to respect social distancing for the foreseeable future.

Council Representatives on Other Bodies

- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis reported that the Budleigh Salterton Covid-19 Support Group continued to meet weekly. The latest meeting had been quite quick with the biggest discussion being the reopening of St Peter's School. The Group was supporting 10 households and members were asking that everyone mention to friends and neighbours that help was available. The Hub was hoping to create a film to publicise what had been happening and to thank all contributors.

19.526 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payment of cheques for the month of May 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 April 2020.

19.527 Audit 2019/20

- (i) It was agreed that the Annual Governance Statement, which forms part of the Annual Return, be completed.
- (ii) The Accounts (plus Supporting Notes and Risk Assessment) for Financial Year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, all of which have been the subject of Internal Audit, were received.
- (iii) It was noted there were no matters the Internal Auditor wished to bring to the attention of the Council.
- (iv) It was agreed that the Accounting Statement 2019/20, which forms part of the Annual Return, be completed.

19.528 Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group

The Clerk read a précis of the decision made by the Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group on 28 May 2020. Discussion had taken place on ways to alleviate the issues encountered by pedestrians using the High Street and Dark Lane whilst social distancing measures were in place.

She said that because of time constraints the discussion had centred on the issues in the High Street. Dark Lane would be discussed at a future date.

The decision was:

- Request one way traffic (from east to west) from Rolle Road to The Lawn
- Remove parking from Rolle Road to Ragg Lane
- Widen the pavement on the south side of High Street
- To commit to look at the future of the High Street in a considered way at a future meeting.

Cllr A L Jones added that what had been agreed by the Traffic Group was to be used as guidance for the Town Council. He reiterated that DCC Highways Officers had been in attendance to give guidance and draw from experience in other areas to deal with the problem in Budleigh Salterton.

He said he had read all the emails and letters which had been received over the weekend.

Following a lengthy discussion with input from all Members as well as County Cllr Mrs C Channon, District Cllr T D Wright and members of the public, it was

Resolved: Devon County Council Highways be asked to create a one-way system for the High Street flowing east to west. This is to be a temporary solution which does not burden the side roads, includes parking for disabled drivers and enables the pavement on the south side of High Street to be widened to enable adequate social distancing.

It was further

Resolved: The scheme be reviewed at the end of September 2020.

Cllr Mrs M P Lewis reminded Members that the Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group had also agreed to look at the future of the High Street.

Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt said that further discussions on Dark Lane and Granary Lane must be an agenda item on a Meeting of the Town Council or Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group.

19.529 Any other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Cllr R D Sherriff said he would like to express this Council’s thanks to Neil from StreetScene for his work on the seafront – he had worked tirelessly keeping it clean and tidy and deserved some official recognition.
- Cllr G Turner asked that there be an item on the agenda of the next Town Council meeting to discuss the future of the High Street. It had been included in the Budleigh Salterton Neighbourhood Plan and he thought it would be good to debate whether the subject should be progressed.
- The Clerk said she would like everyone to join her in wishing Cllr A L Jones a very happy belated 80th Birthday.

19.530 Dates of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next Meeting should be scheduled when the report on the proposed One-Way scheme had been received from DCC Highways.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.13pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date

