

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Town Council held online via Zoom on Monday 29 June 2020 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT

Cllr M C Hilliar (Acting 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 Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt
Cllr G Turner

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, eight members of the public and two representatives of the press

Following the resignation of Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt as Chairman/Town Mayor, Cllr M C Hilliar took the Chair.

19.531 Public Speaking Time

A resident of Chapel Hill spoke about the proposals for the High Street. She said she was worried about the amount of traffic which might be tempted to use Cricket Field Lane and Chapel Hill as a short cut. She said a lot of pedestrians used these roads to access the town as well as those using the various games clubs in Cricket Field Lane. She said that by helping one set of pedestrians may cause problems for others. She said a width restriction was in place, but it was not well signed and as a result, oversized vehicles often used these roads. She feared this would only become worse once the Traffic Order was implemented. She wondered if there was a way of not allowing vehicles to use those roads.

A resident of Upper Stoneborough Lane also commented on the High Street proposals. He was concerned that the increase in traffic on Upper Stoneborough Lane would cause problems for pedestrians wishing to cross the road to access the footbridge and old railway line walk. He wondered if some sort of crossing system could be installed at that location.

He said that no mention of other modes of transport had been mentioned (bicycles, mobility scooters etc) and he wondered if they were going to be able to use the High Street. He also wondered if additional cycle storage was going to be installed.

A resident of Knowle Village asked that Members consider the wider impact of the scheme. He advised that when West Hill was closed for gas works, a lot more traffic had been using Knowle Village and Knowle Road. He asked if traffic flow had been studied.

19.532 Apologies for Absence

None, all Members being present.

19.533 Declarations of Interests in Items on the Agenda

- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis declared a disclosed pecuniary interest in Min 19.535 (20/0632/FUL and 20/0633/LBC) – her husband is the applicant
- Cllr Mrs M L Kenneally-Stone declared a personal interest in Min 19.535 (20/0632/FUL and 20/0633/LBC) – she lives in a neighbouring property
- Cllr Mrs L D Evans declared a personal interest in Min 19.540 – she is the Town Council's representative on Budleigh in Bloom

19.534 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held online via Zoom on 1 June 2020 had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was unanimously agreed they be signed as a true record at the next physical meeting.

19.535 Planning Applications

Application No: 20/0632/FUL
Location: 26 West Hill, EX9 6BU
Proposal: Construction of replacement fence along North and East boundary and replacement metal handrails to front door
Letters Received: None at the time the observations were made
Observations: This Council supports the application

Application No: 20/0633/LBC
Location: 26 West Hill, EX9 6BU
Proposal: Construction of replacement metal handrails to front steps
Letters Received: None at the time the observations were made
Observations: This Council supports the application

Application No: 20/1178/FUL
Location: 3 South Parade, EX9 6NR
Proposal: Construction of replacement gate and boundary fencing
Letters Received: None at the time the observations were made
Observations: This Council supports the application

19.536 East Devon District Council: Planning Decisions – Approvals

Application No: 20/0538/FUL
Location: Flat 1 Heathgate, 7 Lansdowne Road, EX9 6AH
Proposal: Insertion of French doors to the existing rear bay windows

Application No: 20/0660/FUL
Location: 6 Fountain Hill, EX9 6BX
Proposal: Demolition of conservatory, two storey extension and replacement roof on existing single storey extension

Application No: 20/0663/FUL
Location: 25 Meadow Close, EX9 6JN
Proposal: Replacement of existing porch and balcony

Application No: 20/0886/FUL
Location: 8 Fountain Hill, EX9 6BX
Proposal: Construction of single storey rear extension, dormer window, veranda, detached car port and store with alterations to associated hard-standing

19.537 East Devon District Council: Planning Decisions - Refusal

Application No: 20/1027/CPL
Location: 5 East Budleigh Road, EX9 6HF
Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed rear extension and replacement of garage

19.538 Reports

Acting Chairman

Cllr M C Hilliar said he had nothing to report but wanted to take the opportunity of bringing everyone up to speed with the High Street. A lot of businesses had re-opened and seemed to be doing well – the town had been busy. He thanked the staff at Tesco, Spar, Co-op, Lloyds Chemist, High Street Fruit & Veg and the Crusty Rolle for staying open throughout lockdown and doing such a splendid job – he was very grateful. He was sorry that two shops had decided not to re-open but was delighted a new shop, The Gingerbread House, was opening on 4 July and he wished them luck. All in all, the High Street was returning to a bit of normality.

Town Clerk

Mrs J E Vanstone reported on the possible re-opening of the Public Hall. She said she would be reading all the relevant guidance but until the dry rot issue was resolved, the Hall would remain closed, probably until September. She would keep Members updated of her progress regarding Risk Assessments etc.

Council Representatives on Other Bodies

- Cllr Mrs M P Lewis reported on the Budleigh Salterton Covid-19 Support Group. The main focus was on the re-opening of St Peter's School, with the children staying in 'bubbles'. A large proportion of children were not receiving formal education which was a concern. The Headteacher was still having to remind parents about being careful. The Group was financially supporting between eight and ten households at present but was aware this may increase when the furloughing scheme stops. She said The Hub was matching up volunteers with individuals needing help by encouraging them to return to shopping etc with "Community Champions" accompanying them.
- Cllr M C Hilliar reported on the Exmouth & District Community Transport Group. The Group had been active throughout lockdown and had contacted all customers to check if they needed any assistance. They had carried out many acts of kindness. They were still operating a temporary timetable taking customers on trips to the seafront etc – for some it was the first time they had left home for three months. The new bus was still in Italy but the Committee was hopeful it would soon be delivered. The Group had applied for grants and whilst some had been successful, they were always grateful of donations!

County and District Councillors

- County Cllr Mrs C Channon reported:
 - The recycling centres were now taking a wider range of recycling and were accepting vehicles with trailers.
 - She was concerned about The Hub and thought they would need to look at their marketing to ensure it included Woodbury and Exmouth. Some sort of re-branding may be required, which would mean a new name but that in turn may mean different organisations using the facility.
 - The Covid-19 situation in Devon was improving. There had been a total of 830 cases and sadly, 208 deaths. During the last week, only one death had been reported in East Devon (in a care home) and no deaths had been reported in either Exmouth or Budleigh Salterton. PPE stocks were good (67 days of stock) which was comforting. She was concerned that many people were not attending hospital appointments and said they should be encouraged to attend, wherever possible, to avoid problems escalating.
 - She had received notification that Granary Lane was to be closed for a whole day on 13 October to enable Western Power to undertake essential work.

- District Cllr A J Dent reported
 - The District Council was undergoing some challenging changes following the recent annual Meeting. He and his colleagues were still waiting to learn which Committees and Outside Bodies they had been appointed to sit on.
 - He advised that Pooh Cottage, Ladram Bay and Sandy Bay were all re-opening on 4 July. He knew there would be a rush of visitors and reminded all attendees that Covid-19 was still out there, and everyone should remain alert.

- District Cllr P M Jarvis advised that he had nothing to report

- District Cllr T D Wright reported:
 - The Steamer Steps toilets would be re-opening soon but unfortunately would close for maintenance soon after!
 - New water pipes had been installed on the seafront which would be a relief to residents and visitors alike as it had been found that the old pipes were made of lead.
 - The new District Council Leader was trying to put cabinet members on to Committees which would have a great impact on all district residents. It had been suggested that four cabinet members would sit on the Planning Committee which he felt was wrong. A similar suggestion had been made for the Licensing Committee. He was sorry to see that District Cllr P M Jarvis had lost his job as Chairman of the Licensing Committee – Cllr Jarvis had been an excellent chairman with a wealth of knowledge from previous experience at Plymouth City Council. He apologised if his report was overly political, but unfortunately, that was the way things were going at East Devon District Council.

Cllr R D Sherriff asked when the Beach Huts might be installed.
 Cllr Wright said no decision had been made. He added that refunds had been paid to those who had paid their tenancies and those who had not yet paid, would not be expected to pay just yet. He was pleased that Budleigh Salterton had not attracted the large crowds which had been congregating on Exmouth beach recently. He added that no decision had been made on re-opening the play areas and skate parks. He would update the Council as soon as he had the date.

One member of the public joined the meeting.

19.539 Finance Inspection

- (i) Payments for the month of June 2020, in accordance with Appendix A, were approved.

- (ii) It was noted that the Chairman of the Finance Committee had carried out the internal finance inspection for May 2020.

19.540 Request for Grant Aid: Budleigh in Bloom - Watering

Consideration was given to making a donation to cover the cost of watering the planters and boats, as detailed in the quotation from Mr James.

Resolved: The Town Council will pay for watering.

Consideration was then given to the amount of the donation.

Resolved: The Town Council will pay the full amount requested, namely £1575.

19.541 Public Hall: Surveyor's Report/Damp and Dry Rot Report

- (i) The Report from Mr S Mills, Surveyor on the condition of the Public Hall roof and main Hall floor was noted. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should obtain quotations for the remedial work to the roof at the northern end of the Hall (above the offices and chambers).
- (ii) The Report from Heritage Preservation on the condition of the floors in the inner and outer foyers, cloakroom, gents' toilet, disabled toilet and bar was noted.
- (iii) It was agreed that Heritage Preservation be appointed to carry out reinstatement works to the foyer, cloakroom, toilet and bar floors and preservation work to the same areas plus the floor in the main hall and chair store.

19.542 Jubilee Shelter

Consideration was given to the suggestion that the windows on the western side of the shelter remain glass-less following the recent vandalism. The Clerk advised that MPS had been instructed to remove the damaged glass but unfortunately the company had no available glazers due to furloughing. It was

Resolved: The windows will be left unglazed for the time being and ideas for replacement glazing (toughened glass, Perspex etc) will be considered in the autumn.

19.543 High Street – Social Distancing Measures

The Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and the application for a Temporary Traffic Regulations Order had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

Further representations had been received from both traders and residents which highlighted potential problems in Cricket Field Lane and Chapel Hill, as well as issues on Upper Stoneborough Lane and East Budleigh Road.

Cllr M C Hilliar advised that when reading the TMP, he had noticed no mention was made in Section 2.2 of advice received from the Neighbourhood Highways Officers (NHO) and he had asked the Clerk to include this.

Resolved: The TMP was approved with the following additions:

- Cricket Field Lane and Chapel Hill will be closed to traffic
- Advice received from NHO will be included in section 2.2

Once the additions have been agreed, the TMP and application should be submitted to Devon County Council.

Agreed: Signage signposting visitors to the High Street should be located in the town's car parks and on the on-street parking machines on Coastguard Hill/Marine Parade.

Agreed: A request for a crossing on Upper Stoneborough Lane for pedestrians using the footbridge and Railway Amenity Walk will be discussed at a future meeting of the Budleigh Salterton Traffic Group.

Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt left the meeting.

19.544 Annual Meeting of the Town Council

Consideration was given to holding an Annual Meeting of the Town Council following the resignation of Cllr Mrs C A Sismore-Hunt as Chairman/Town Mayor. It was

Resolved: An Annual Meeting will be held on Monday 20 July to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman and agree Committee Membership. The Clerk will send out nomination forms by 3 July 2020.

County Cllr Mrs C Channon, eight members of the public and two representatives of the press left the meeting.

19.545 Local Government Association: Consultation on the Code of Conduct

The Consultation document had been circulated prior to the Meeting. Members agreed there was very little difference between the Consultation document and the current Code of Conduct adopted by the Town Council in August 2012. It was

Resolved: The document was agreeable except for the change from “treating others with courtesy and respect” to “treating others... with civility”; Members preferred the original wording.

The Clerk was also asked if Code of Conduct Training could be arranged; Members felt this would be beneficial for all Councillors.

19.546 Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner: Councillor Advocate Scheme

Information on the Councillor Advocate Scheme had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was

Resolved: No Councillors were interested in this Scheme and therefore a nomination will not be submitted.

19.547 HM Lord-Lieutenant of Devon: HM The Queen’s Birthday Honours

Information from HM Lord-Lieutenant of Devon had been circulated prior to the Meeting. It was

Resolved: Nominations will be forwarded to the Clerk. She will find out the closing date for nominations.

19.548 Any Other Business at the Chairman’s Discretion

- Cllr Mrs L D Evans asked that a letter of thanks be sent to two members of Budleigh in Bloom who were retiring from the group.
- Cllr R D Sherriff said that he had noticed a Facebook post about some residents who had been clearing rubbish from the beach. He wondered if it would be possible for the Town Council to organise a regular volunteer group to carry out a beach clean and whether some litter pickers could be purchased.

The Acting Chairman suggested that this could be a project for the Foreshore & Footpaths Committee.

- Cllr R D Sherriff also commented that, following a lack of supplies, the bench painting scheme was back on track.

19.549 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20 July 2020 via Zoom and it will be the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 9.09pm.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date