Present

In the Chair  Councillor T Woodman

Councillors  K Beer, A Bessford, P Burrows, M Hartnell, J MacDougall, M Pigott, S Polloni, H Sanham, D Squire, R Webster,

In attendance  Town Clerk
26 x Public
1 x Press

Councillor P Burrows offered prayers

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
There were no apologies for absence

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Councillor P Burrows declared a non-pecuniary interest as a dual-hatted member in his capacity as a District Councillor

Councillor M Hartnell declared a non-pecuniary interest as a dual-hatted member in his capacity as a District Councillor

Councillor J MacDougall declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12 – Town Hall Ownership

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED that  i) the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 6 July 2015 be taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record

ii) the minutes of the Planning committee held on Monday 3 August 2015 be taken as read, agreed and signed as a correct record

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
The Mayor began his report by mentioning the great Seaton Carnival week. The Mayor was invited with his partner to attend the Friday variety night and it was a night to remember, including a Britain’s Got Talent entrant juggling with chainsaws. The Saturday procession was a huge success and Councillor Burrows and the Mayor walked around the route with collecting buckets and meeting people. It was a superb night, at the end of which the Mayor presented awards to the Carnival Queen and Princesses. He stated that Seaton is very lucky to have such dedicated people to organise this really fabulous event.

The Mayor went on to say that the Great Outdoor Festival was another huge success for Seaton and all those involved deserve our thanks for the effort they put in, including a number of town councillors. The Mayor joined our town crier to open the event and have received many
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compliments about it, in particular the fantastic fireworks display at the end, which would be good to repeat, perhaps on New Year’s Eve.

Another enjoyable event for the Mayor was opening the searchlight building on the seafront. It was a lovely event and again there was a great deal of work by a few to bring it to fruition, including former town councillor Sharon Bruce. The Mayor said that hopefully many people will enjoy looking at the beautiful interpretation board and learning a little about Seaton’s past.

A really colourful event was the annual Town Criers competition, organised by our own Town Crier, Mr David Craner. It was a lovely day and it was great to meet such interesting and jolly people. The competition attracted a great deal of interest throughout the day. Well done David!

The Mayor also had the pleasure of judging the fancy dress competition for the Pirate’s Day as part of the Devon Air Ambulance Week. It was lovely to see so many youngsters having fun and enjoying themselves, as well as very proud parents. The group brought the town alive as they walked down Fore Street to the tram station for a special tram ride. The series of summer events for youngsters seemed to go very well and thanks must go to the organisers. The Mayor visited several of these events and everyone seemed to be having a fun time.

The Mayor visited the Artisan markets held in Windsor Gardens and it was good to see such a variety of stalls offering superb merchandise. All of the events brought people into Seaton and at times the town was buzzing. The Mayor said the town is very lucky to have dedicated people who give their time to organise all these events and nobody can say that nothing happens in Seaton and if they do then clearly they didn’t visit any of the above.

The Mayor began his one-to-one surgeries to allow people the opportunity to and express any concerns they might have. The first was due to start at 10.00am but the first people were through the door at 9.30am and there was then a steady stream of residents throughout the morning. The second surgery was not as successful and the Mayor said he will see what happens with the final one of the initial three, scheduled for next week.

At the surgeries, people raised a variety of matters with the most common being problems relating to gulls and this will be something the Council will need to look at when setting its budget for next year. The Council has spent £10,000 over the last two years on a falconer to try and keep the gulls off the seafront but the biggest complaint the Mayor received was, as he forecast two years ago, that all it has done is move the problem inland and not solve it. Other issues of concern included parking and the future of Beer Road due to erosion. The Mayor has taken up issues for residents but with those not within the Town Council’s remit, he was able to offer advice and possible contacts.

The judging of the local Britain in Bloom competition fell to Councillor Burrows and the Mayor as an appeal for help at the last council meeting produced no response. The Mayor thanked Councillor Burrows for presenting the awards in his absence and said that he had received several positive comments about a really good evening. The Mayor said that the In Bloom competition was something the Community Committee must look at and suggested to the
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Chairman that it should be on the next committee agenda. The whole issue of Britain in Bloom, both local and regional, needs to be addressed and a committee formed to run it. The Mayor believed that any committee should be of interested people and not just councillors and his ideal committee would be one councillor on an otherwise resident committee and one resident has already said she would be willing to be involved.

The Mayor stated that at recent meetings, particularly full council, one or two councillors have not waited to be asked to speak and this has to stop. The Mayor did not want to make a backward step and ask councillors to stand when speaking, but said that there must be respect for each other and there has to be some order. Councillors should note that if they wish to speak they must raise their hand which will be acknowledged by the Town Clerk or the Mayor who will then ask councillors to each speak in turn.

The Mayor concluded by saying that he believed this has been a really good summer season for Seaton and many new people have seen what this lovely town can offer. With proposed future developments he believed Seaton has turned a corner and is, at last, beginning to again find its place as a town worth visiting where everyone is friendly and welcoming. Many residents have said to the Mayor how wonderful it has been to see the town so active. There is still much to be done but he now truly believed the future is looking much rosier and whilst we will not please everyone all the time, the Town Council can be proud of what it is achieving.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr E Bowman spoke about his application to fill the Council’s co-opted vacancy

Mrs C Broughton spoke about her application to fill the Council’s co-opted vacancy

Mr J Meakin spoke about his application to fill the Council’s co-opted vacancy

Mr J Rowland spoke about his application to fill the Council’s co-opted vacancy

Mr M Shaw spoke about his application to fill the Council’s co-opted vacancy

Mr B Perryman asked if the Mayor’s surgeries would be continued

Mr J Rowland asked if the Town Council website could contain a section on frequently asked questions

Mrs C Manley spoke about Agenda Item 12 and asked if Standing Orders could be suspended if required, to allow discussion or points of information to be clarified

Mrs T Trapani spoke in favour of the grant application for Devon Senior Voice and gave background information regarding the organisation

Mr D Rudge spoke in favour of the grant application for the Seaton Martial Arts Centre
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Mr S Leach spoke in favour of the grant application for the Seaton Martial Arts Centre. He also spoke about the potential transfer of the Town hall and stated that residents had not been consulted and that the proposed refurbishment had financial implications to Seaton ratepayers and asked how the Town Council would manage the use of the building.

CHANGES TO X53 BUS SERVICE
Members considered a Notice of Motion from Councillor M Hartnell regarding the above.

RESOLVED that the Town Council write to the First Group bus company with its concerns about how the changes to the bus service will affect our community, and in particular those who need to attend appointments at RD&E Wonford and also advise the company that information regarding services is very difficult to find on their company website.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

RESOLVED that the County Councillor’s report be noted.

RESOLVED ii) the request to allocate £500 of the County Locality Budget towards the youth section of Seaton Library be approved.

RESOLVED iii) the repairs to Harepath Road be undertaken as soon as possible as the road is in a poor state of repair.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

RESOLVED i) the reports of District Councillors Hartnell and Burrows be noted.

RESOLVED ii) the request from Councillor Burrows for membership of the Seaton Locality Health and Care Forum be noted.

RESOLVED iii) separate reports be requested from all District Ward Councillors.

TOWN CLERK REPORT

RESOLVED that the update from the Town Clerk be noted.

CO-OPTED VACANCY
Members considered Report 75/15 concerning the above (previously circulated).

RESOLVED i) the applications received for the casual vacancy within the Town Council be considered.

RESOLVED ii) a paper ballot can be undertaken to decide the vote.

RESOLVED iii) further to a paper ballot being undertaken, that Mr Martin Shaw fill the casual vacancy role within the Town Council.

GRANT APPLICATIONS
Members considered Report 76/15 concerning the above (previously circulated).
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RESOLVED that

1047
i) the Devon Senior Voice be awarded a grant of £1000
ii) the Seaton Martial Arts Centre be awarded a grant of £2000 and that the works be undertaken through the Town Council

TOWN HALL OWNERSHIP
Members considered Report 77/15 concerning the above (previously circulated)

RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended at 8.55pm and 9.10 pm to allow information by the Seaton’s Voice organisation to be considered

Standing Orders resumed at 8.57pm and 9.11pm

RESOLVED that

1048
i) the background information regarding the proposed transfer of the Town Hall from East Devon District Council
ii) the details for the public referendum/consultation, up to a maximum of £1000 as previously resolved by the Council be agreed and there be three options within the referendum and these be that
a) the Council take no action and await notice to be served
b) the Council take the Town Hall as an asset transfer from the District Council
c) the Council take the Town Hall as an asset transfer from the District Council and apply for a Public Works Loan to make improvements to the building by installing a lift to all three floors, new heating system, refurbished toilets, refurbished windows, improved foyer, improved Council Chamber and a downstairs kitchen

*Councillor J MacDougall declared a pecuniary interest in this item and did not take part in the voting on any items as resolved under Resolution 1049*

CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED that in accordance with the Council’s standing Order 1 (c), press and public be excluded from the meeting as there is likely to be a disclosure of confidential information

TRANSFER OF COMMUNITY ASSET
Members considered Report 78/15 concerning the above (previously circulated)

RESOLVED that

1051
i) the update regarding the current position in regard to the County Council asset at Marshlands be noted

Unanimous

Meeting closed at 9.36 pm