



To: All Members of the Town Council

**Meeting of Seaton Town Council
on Tuesday 2nd January 2018 at 7.30pm**

22nd December 2017

You are hereby summoned to attend the above meeting to be held at 7.30pm or immediately following the Planning Committee Meeting, whichever is sooner, at Marshlands, Harbour Road, Seaton. If the Planning Committee finishes before 7.30pm the Council meeting will start before 7.30pm. It is proposed that the matters set out on the agenda below will be considered at the meeting and resolution or resolutions passed as the Council considers appropriate.

Yours faithfully,

Amy Tregellas

Town Clerk

This meeting has been advertised as a public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media or members of the public. Please be aware that whilst every effort is taken to ensure that members of the public are not filmed, we cannot guarantee this, especially if you are speaking or taking an active role.

AGENDA

The Deputy Chairman will say a prayer at the start of the meeting

- 17/COU/01 Apologies for absence**
To receive any apologies for absence
- 17/COU/02 Declarations of Interest**
To receive any Members' declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda
- 17/COU/03 Minutes**
To agree the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 4th December 2017

- 17/COU/04 Chairman's Report**
- 17/COU/05 Public Question Time**
To allow any questions or reports from members of the public.
- 17/COU/06 Police Report (to follow after end December)**
- 17/COU/07 County Councillor Report**
- 17/COU/08 District Councillors' Reports**
- 17/COU/09 Reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies**
- 17/COU/10 Town Clerk Report**
- 17/COU/11 Grant Funding Applications**
To consider the grant funding applications that have been received from:
- Seaton Netball Club
 - Gentle Moves
 - Seaton Majorettes
 - The Bellini Bathers
 - Axe Valley Heritage Association
- 17/COU/12 Budget 2018/19 to 2022/23**
To consider the draft budget for the period of 2018/19 to 2022/23
- 17/COU/13 Pedestrian Crossing in Harbour Road**
To consider a proposal for a pedestrian crossing in Harbour Road
- 17/COU/14 Tourism Signage**
To consider progress in funding the proposed scheme for new tourist signs around the town and to consider contributing a further £1,000 to the project
- 17/COU/15 Update on Actions arising from previous meetings**
To receive an update report from the Town Clerk covering the following updates (dependent on what is relevant at the time):
- **X52 Bus Service**
 - **Axe Valley High Schools consultation**
 - **South Western Trains consultation**

17/COU/16 Confidential Items

The Chairman will move that in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 1 (c) press and public will be excluded from the meeting during the discussions of item 17 on this agenda as there is likely to be disclosure of information as matters are being discussed which could identify an individual.

17/COU/17 Marshlands proposal

To consider a proposal for rental of part of the Marshlands Centre



Minutes of the Council Meeting of Seaton Town Council On Monday 4th December 2017

Present

In the chair: Cllr J Rowland

Councillors: K Beer, P Burrows, C Chadwick, M Pigott, S Read, K Rye, H Sanham, M Shaw, D Squire and R Webster.

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: No members of the Public

142. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Hartnell

143. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Shaw declared a personal interest as a Councillor with Devon County Council (DCC)

Cllr Burrows declared a personal interest as a Councillor with East Devon District Council (EDDC).

Cllr Beer declared a Personal Interest for agenda item 15 as he is a member of the Seaton & District Twinning Association

Cllr Rowland declared a Personal Interest for agenda item 15 as he is a member of the Community Speed Watch Team

Cllr Sanham declared a Personal Interest for agenda item 15 as she is a Seaton Jurassic Volunteer

144. Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes of the meeting on the 6th November 2017

(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Squire)

145. Chairman's Report

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the Chairman's report.

(moved Cllr Shaw; seconded Cllr Squire)

146. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting

147. Police Report

As PC Adam Spears was not able to attend the meeting the statistics for November had been circulated.

Discussion took place around:

- A recent post on social media which concerned allegations of local children taking drugs and that as a result of the social media response a meeting had been scheduled to take place at Pebbles Café on Wednesday 6th December to discuss young people using drugs and whether youth facilities are required i.e. a youth club.

The Council **RESOLVED** to review the social media policy to take into account social media postings.

(moved Cllr Squire; seconded Cllr Sanham)

The Council **RESOLVED** to record its support for the work that the Police are doing in the town.

(moved Cllr Burrows; seconded Cllr Squire)

148. County Councillor Report

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the County Councillors report.

(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Squire)

149. District Councillor's Reports

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the District Councillor report

(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Pigott)

150. Reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies

There were no updates from representatives on outside bodies

151. Town Clerk Report

The Council noted the report from the Town Clerk

(Moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Squire)

152. Townsend Avenue

Cllr Rowland explained that he and Cllr Shaw had met with local residents regarding the condition of the road in Townsend Avenue. The whole road was meant to be resurfaced in the previous financial year but that only half of the road was completed at the time due to access issues. Devon County Council had then removed the remaining works from the schedule.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve formally writing to Devon County Council to request that the remaining works to Townsend Avenue are completed as soon as possible.

(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Beer)

153. Youth Facilities

Cllr Rowland updated that Council that the Council carry out a consultation on youth facilities in the new year following meeting with relevant officers from East Devon District Council to gain an understanding of the S106 monies available and the best way to do the consultation.

Discussion took place around:

- What is the point of the consultation and the need to be very clear about what we are trying to achieve
- What do we want to see?
- How much will the consultation cost?
- How much money is in the S106 pot?

- Do we have a budget line for youth facilities?
- Any consultation would need to be time focused i.e. not have a long lead time between consultation and delivery
- What parameters are there for spending the money?
- The need to manage expectations
- The need to focus on the youth facilities that there are already in the town

The Council **RESOLVED** that a report come back to Council once the Chairman and Town Clerk have met with officers from EDDC regarding S106 and consultation (moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Shaw)

154. Tourism Signage

Cllr Sanham gave Council an update on the current situation in terms of the Brown Tourism signs project. The designs are all ready to go and Devon County Council (DCC) are willing to contribute to the funding. Currently there is a short fall in funding. The Council has written to East Devon District Council to ask for funding and are awaiting a response.

The Council **RESOLVED** to contribute a further £1,000 to the Brown Tourism signage project, if required.
(moved Cllr Sanham; seconded Cllr Beer)

155. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (2018 – 2022) Consultation

The Council **RESOLVED** to respond to the consultation and that Cllr Rowland would produce a draft and email to all Councillors for comment
(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Shaw)

156. Applications for free room bookings for Marshlands

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve applications for free room booking hire at Marshlands from Seaton Jurassic Volunteers, the Grizzly Committee, Seaton & District Twinning Association and the Community Speed Watch Team.
(moved Cllr Burrows; seconded Cllr Chadwick)

Cllr Beer declared a Personal Interest for agenda item 15 as he is a member of the Seaton & District Twinning Association

Cllr Rowland declared a Personal Interest for agenda item 15 as he is a member of the Community Speed Watch Team

Cllr Sanham declared a Personal Interest for agenda item 15 as she is a Seaton Jurassic Volunteer

157. Update on actions arising from previous meetings

Improving the vitality of the Town Centre

The Town Clerk confirmed that the request had been sent to Devon County Council's traffic team and that a response has not yet been received from them in terms of opening up the town centre to traffic.

Safety Issues re Harbour Road/Underfleet Cycleway

Cllr Rowland updated Council that he and Cllr Shaw had met with officers from Devon County Council (DCC) to discuss the Cycleway. The current design was a compromise

between DCC and East Devon District Council (EDDC) based on 4 years of discussions and the need to use funding up before losing it.

The Council **RESOLVED** to write to Devon County Council to ask that they communicate with Seaton Town Council to avoid detrimental costly projects for the town.
(Moved Cllr Squire; seconded Cllr Sanham)

Fisherman's Gap

There was no update from the Environment Agency regarding the gate at Fisherman's Gap

Underfleet Road Layout

In light of the response from officers at DCC, the Council **RESOLVED** to facilitate a meeting between DCC and EDDC to see if a solution can be found
(moved Cllr Sanham; seconded Cllr Rowland)

20 mph speed restriction on the Underfleet

Cllr Shaw confirmed that whilst the speed survey may come through from DCC before Christmas they are unlikely to agree to any requests for reduced speed limits in the foreseeable future. This is due to a national report on speed limits due out in February 2018 and once received DCC will need to consider the contents and then update their policy before any further requests are considered.

Hospital Working Group

Cllr Rowland updated Councillors that meetings have been taking place with representatives from Seaton and updates have been provided in previous Chairman's reports and Cllr Shaw's DCC Councillor reports.

Cllr Rowland confirmed that the proposed joint workshop with representatives from Seaton and Axminster has not taken place yet. This may be because the NHS Property Services Strategy paper is due to be published in January 2018.

158. Confidential Items

Cllr Rowland moved, and the Committee **RESOLVED** that in accordance with the Councils Standing orders the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of agenda items 4 to 8 as there was likely to be disclosure of confidential information as matters were being discussed that could identify individual(s).

159. Marketing Contract

The Council **RESOLVED** to award One Voice Media & PR Ltd the Marketing Contract for the period of 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2020, subject to contracts being agreed
(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Beer)

The meeting ended at 8.55pm

Chairman: _____

Dated: _____

Seaton Town Council – Full Council 2 January 2018
Chairman Report

This report only covers the period from 5 December to the date of writing this report, 19 December, as, due to the Christmas and New Year Period, the report needs to be issued with the agenda for the 2 January Council meeting before Christmas.

Seafront Enhancement Scheme – 5 December

On 5 December I attended a meeting where we took advantage of a free half day presentation from a Company that specialises in finding sources of raising funds via charitable donations. The meeting was also attended by Architectural Thread, our Town Clerk and Cllrs Beer, Burrows, Sanham and Shaw.

Meeting at Pebbles – Youth Club – 6 December

On 6 December I attended a meeting that was arranged by Julie Legg after she posted her concerns on social media as she witnessed a group of young people allegedly taking drugs on the seafront. The meeting was attended by PC Adam Speers who spoke about the importance of calling 999 in those circumstances as opposed to the non emergency 101 number. Other speakers were Rob Robinson, a drugs addiction worker based in Exeter and Siobhan Pickering who chairs the Axminster Youth Club based in The Pippins.

I also spoke to provide some of the history surrounding the financial support given by Seaton Town Council in the past for youth activities and clubs and to offer space in Marshlands for a youth club albeit on a temporary basis dependent on the outcome of current negotiations regarding a prospective tenant. A club operating at Marshlands in the evening would have to be attended and run by volunteers who have received the appropriate training and passed the relevant checks.

The meeting was also attended by Cllrs Beer, Burrows, Rye and Shaw,

Meeting with EDDC Officers on 14 December

I attended this meeting along with our Town Clerk and Cllrs Hartnell and Shaw. The purpose of the meeting was to find a way forward concerning the Moridunum and the associated redevelopment of Fosseway Court. The outcome of the meeting was that the EDDC Solicitor agreed to write to the developer, Paul Mooney. As at the date of writing this report I do not know whether the letter has been sent.

Meeting with Doug Rudge on 15 December

Doug, as recent Chair of the Seaton Martial Arts Club, asked to meet me to seek approval, in principle, for an idea to assist both the Martial Arts Club and Testudo. I asked the Town Clerk to also attend and, in principle, we did not have concerns with the proposal. Doug will formally make a request, once they have carried out more preliminary work, for consideration by a future Estates Committee meeting dependent on when the formal request is received.

Additional information

I also attended the following meetings:

- On 11 December the Planning and Finance Committee meetings.
- On 18th the Estates Committee meeting.
- On 19th the Personnel Committee meeting

Jack Rowland
19 December 2017

County Councillor's Report, January 2018

Community meeting on health services in the Honiton area

Crucial decisions on the future of the community hospitals are expected from the CCG in January. In the meanwhile, the following event has been announced. I would encourage parishes near Honiton to take part. It is hoped to have something similar in Seaton shortly.

Honiton's Health Matters - Going Forward Together

Thursday 18th January 2018, Beehive Main Hall, 9.30 for 10am start – 1.30pm

Context: This event is the start of a community conversation with key stakeholder organisations around the future health and wellbeing of residents in response to the new landscape affecting Honiton and its environs as a result of NHS and Government policies advocating placed-based health provision and cross-sector collaborative working.

The aim: To discuss what we know, where there are gaps/challenges and how, as a community we will address these to ensure collaborative approaches to co-design and co-produce local health services/activities that meet the needs of all the people in our communities.

Invitees: Management and senior level employees / volunteers / trustees across the public, private, community, voluntary and social enterprise sector.

Speakers:

Ø Professor Em Wilkinson-Brice – Deputy Chief Executive / Chief Nurse RD&E

Ø Dr Simon Kerr – Chair, Eastern Locality New Devon CCG

Ø Julia Cutforth - Community Services Manager, Honiton and Ottery St Mary

Ø Ways2Wellbeing - Social Prescribing, Speaker to be confirmed

Ø Charlotte Hanson - Chief Officer, Action East Devon

Ø Heather Penwarden- Chair, Honiton Hospital League of Friends

*If you're reading an electronic version of this report, you can **book a place here***

Road repairs and pothole policy

I have at last made progress on two longstanding issues which I inherited when I was elected:

- Northern Lane, Branscombe, has been comprehensively patched
- Townsend Avenue, Seaton, has been put into the resurfacing programme for 2018-19.

I will have a Pothole Action Fund of £47,000 in 2018-19 for the 9 parishes in the division. I also expect to see the County's review of its widely-criticised 'safety defect' policy (only filling holes which are 300 mm wide and 40 mm deep at the edge), early in the new year.

Change in bus services from Seaton, Beer and Colyford to Exeter

First Wessex will stop running the X52 from Lyme Regis to Exeter on 21 January 2018. DCC have agreed to subsidise Axe Valley Buses to run one bus per day to Exeter and return (in July they turned down my request to support a fuller service, but I believe that pressure may have helped in securing support for the new service).

Once the timetable, etc., become clear, it may be useful to have discussions on the future of services in the area, involving parish councils and other interested parties.

Impact of Brexit on Devon

As the Brexit talks move to the future economic relationship with Europe, Devon County Council will be discussing the possible impacts on Devon. At the December Council, the Leader, Cllr John Hart, said that 'Until details emerge, it is not possible to answer whether the risks outweigh the opportunities.' I argued against this that the Council should not wait to see what Government produces, but should tell Government what kind of Brexit which would be In Devon's best interests. I agree with Neil Parish MP that 'it's crucial the UK retains a close relationship with the EU market'. The dependence of agriculture on EU exports (7/8 go to the EU), the fact that 70% of Exeter's and 68% of Plymouth's exports go to the EU, the loss of doctors and nurses to Devon's NHS, and the importance of EU staff and students to Exeter University, are some of the reasons why Devon needs close economic links with Europe.

I therefore proposed a motion that Devon should tell Government that the UK needs to remain in the Single Market and Customs Union. This was remitted to Cabinet and will return, with their recommendation, to the next Council meeting at the beginning of February. I recognise that the majority of voters locally and in Devon supported the UK leaving the EU. The current argument is about the terms of Brexit. I am aware that there has not been sufficient discussion locally of the options and I would welcome constituents' views.

Devolution and the link-up of Devon and Somerset

On December 7, Council endorsed controversial proposals to set up a formal Joint Committee Devon with Somerset, with a view to forming an extra layer of bureaucracy, a Combined Authority for the so-called 'Heart of the South West'. I moved an amendment to place the proposals on hold so as to give further consideration to

1. Whether a combination with Somerset is the best framework. I argued that there is no reason for this apart from the 'benefits' of the HInkley C nuclear project, which are unlikely to come to most of Devon, and that we should consider other options including Devon-only devolution.
2. A more realistic and inclusive economic strategy, which would offer something to the rural, coastal areas of Devon and our small towns as well as to Exeter.
3. How devolved arrangements can secure democratic consent. I argued that people don't know they live in the 'Heart of the South West' and have never been asked their views on the proposals.

Liberal Democrat and Green councillors joined Independents in voting for my amendment, but most Labour members joined the Conservative majority in voting it down.

EDDC Ward Member Report – December 2017

EDDC Meetings that I have attended:

28th November – Beach Management Plan Stakeholder Group Meeting

13th December – Council

Report

I am pleased to report that we are now progressing with a Green Waste service across East Devon that is scheduled to be operational in the Spring of 2018. This will be an opt-in chargeable service for residents across the district. More details will follow in the new year.

On 14th December, I met with EDDC officers and Town Councillors to discuss the Moridunum in relation to the Seafront Enhancement scheme.

At the BMP meeting on 28th November we discussed a long list of options for the BMP and a public consultation is now live for members of the public to have their say. It can be downloaded online at <http://eastdevon.gov.uk/coastal-protection/beach-management-plans/seaton-beach-management-plan/> Responses need to be sent back by 2nd January 2018.

I spoke at full council on 13th December in support of the following motion:

"To ask the Leader of East Devon District Council to request Sarah Wollaston, Chair of the Parliamentary Health Select Committee, to investigate the effects on Rural Communities of the STP actions and to test if Rural Proofing Policies have been correctly applied to these decisions in order to protect these communities"

The response from EDDC will contribute towards the inquiry. I would urge all councillors to contribute to this inquiry individually by the deadline of 19th January 2018. Link below:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/health-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/inquiry4/>

It has been announced that Devon has been successful in its submission for a retention of 100% business rates for 2018/19 (as a pilot scheme with 9 other authority areas in the UK). This should be a positive outcome for both DCC & EDDC as it will provide us with an incentive to drive growth across Devon, and move away from a reliance on funding from Government. The detail is to be worked through in the new year by the finance teams.

Cllr Marcus Hartnell
20/12/2017

COUNCIL

Town Clerk Update Report – January 2018

Since the last update report the Town Clerk has the following update:

Budget Preparation

The Town Clerk has continued to work on the 5 year budget following discussions at all Committees and the third cut of the budget went to the Finance Committee on 11th November 2017. The draft budget is on this agenda for Council consideration

Cycle Fest

The Town Clerk has submitted the Road Closure application to Devon County Council. The Town Clerk is also working on a communication strategy, the budget for the Cycle Fest and a list of potential companies to approach for sponsorship. The next meeting is on 29th January 2018.

Working Group on Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Internal Controls

Work continues on the Standing Orders and comparing the Seaton Town Council version to the National Association of Local Council's (NALC) Model Standing Orders.

Internal Auditor

The Internal Auditor visited the Council on 11th December to do the Interim Audit. On the whole the feedback was positive but there were some items to address and these will be done once the report has been received from the Auditor.

Updating the Computer System

Following on from the resolution of the Finance Committee, The Town Clerk has now met with two suppliers and is awaiting quotes from them. Also a third supplier is scheduled to meet with the Town Clerk in early January. Once the quotes have been received a report will go to the Finance Committee.

Premier Inn

The Town Clerk met with the Regional Operations Manager and Hotel Manager for the Premier Inn. The hotel is due to open on 8th February 2018.

We have been asked if there is any community work that we would like the Premier Inn staff to do on 22nd January 2018.

One Voice

The Town Clerk met with One Voice to discuss the finer details of how the contract will work and the key areas of focus at the start of their contract.

**COUNCIL
BUDGET FOR 2018/19 TO 2022/23**

Reason for the Report: This report provides details of the Council draft budget for 2018/19 to 2022/23.

Recommendation: That the Council resolves to approve the draft budget

Introduction

One of the priorities agreed by the Council on 3rd July 2017, was to put together a 5 year financial plan. This budget covers the 5 year period from 2018/19 to 2022/23 and in future years that budget will be a 5 year rolling programme e.g. this time next year the budget will cover 2019/20 to 2023/24.

In order to set a realistic precept, the budget has been drafted using the accounting concept of prudence so that likely income streams have not been overstated and likely expenditure streams have not been understated.

The budget has been drafted to increase the level of general reserves that the Council has, as the internal and external auditors commented that the level currently held is too low.

The remaining section of this report will set out the key assumptions that have been used when setting the budget.

Key Assumptions

Income

Code 2083 – Town Guide Sponsorship

As the Council this year made the decision that the contractor would keep any sponsorship money generated for the Town Guide 2018, the income budget has been set at zero for 2018/19 onwards. If the Council decided to produce the Town Guide in a different way for 2019, and income is generated, this can go into the general reserves.

Code 2049 – Artisan Market Income

The income budget for the Artisan Markets has been prudently set at £2,000 for 2018/19 onwards as it is anticipated that the income will be in the region of £2,000 at the end of the 2017/18 financial year.

Code 2150 – Rental Income Marshlands

The income budget for rental income at Marshlands has been prudently set at £5,000 for 2018/19 onwards. The Council currently does not have any tenants renting the offices but there is a potential proposal in the offing. However, in terms of setting a realistic precept, the budget for 2018/19 has been based on the outturn position for 2017/18, i.e. £5,000. If more income is generated this will go into general reserves,

and the situation for future financial years will be revisited for the next round of budget setting.

Code 2089 – Cycle Fest

The income budget for the Cycle Fest in 2018/19 has been set at £6,000. It is anticipated that this will be brought in through sponsorship of the event and this will be with local businesses and through approaching National relevant cycling businesses as well.

Inflationary increases to leases

The rental income for the Scout Hut and the Martial Arts club will assume a 3% RPI inflationary increase for 2018/19

Expenditure

Administration

Code 101 – Salaries

The Personnel Committee resolved to increase the salaries budget by 5% per annum to cover any likely cost of living increases and this increase has been factored into the budget.

Code 107 – Telephone/Internet

The Finance Committee resolved to increase the budget for the telephone/internet by 5% per annum to cover any likely RPI inflationary increases and this increase has been factored into the budget.

Code 2156 – Accounts software

The Finance Committee resolved to replace the two finance systems currently being used with a single system that does everything that we need it to do. A budget of £4094.40 has been factored in for 2018/19 and this covers the cost of the system and training for staff.

Code 2158 – Payroll Service

The Finance Committee resolved to increase the budget of the payroll service by 3% per annum to cover any likely RPI inflationary increases and this increase has been factored into the budget.

Amenities

Code 601 – Salaries

The Personnel Committee resolved to increase the salaries budget by 5% per annum to cover any likely cost of living increases and this increase has been factored into the budget.

Code 603 – Storage rental

The Finance Committee resolved to increase the budget of the storage rental by 3% per annum to cover any likely RPI inflationary increases and this increase has been factored into the budget.

Code 606 – Bus Shelter Refurbishment

The Communities Committee resolved to increase the budget for the refurbishment of bus shelters to £2,000 for the 2018/19 financial year.

Code 609 – General Maintenance and Cleaning

The Finance Committee resolved to increase the budget for the general maintenance and cleaning sundry supplies by 3% per annum to cover any likely RPI inflationary increases and this increase has been factored into the budget.

Code 2070 – Vehicle

The Finance Committee resolved to increase the budget for the vehicle by 10% per annum to cover any likely RPI inflationary increases for insurance and fuel and this increase has been factored into the budget.

Vehicle Replacement Fund

The Finance Committee resolved to include a budget of £2,000 in the 2019/20 financial year for the replacement of the Council vehicle.

Artisan Market

Code 2049 – Artisan market

The expenditure budget for the Artisan Market has been set at £2,000 to cover the increase in fees that we pay to East Devon District Council for the street trading licence. Whilst EDDC are now offering a concession to Town and parish Councils this is still likely to equate to £150 per market.

Asset Maintenance

Code 2099 – Town Hall

The actual spend for the Service Level Agreement with East Devon District Council has not been as much as budgeted, so the Estates Committee resolved to reduce the budget from £8,000 to £5,000 per annum.

Code 2154 – Insurance

The Finance Committee resolved to increase the budget for insurance by 10% per annum to cover any likely RPI inflationary increases and this increase has been factored into the budget.

Cliff Field Gardens

Code 1301 – Grounds Maintenance Contract

The current contract expires in the 2019/20 financial year. A 10% increase in the contract price has been assumed for when the contract is re-let.

Community

Code 1502 – Summer Activity Programme

The budget for the Summer Activity Programme has been set to zero

Code 2076 – Christmas Lighting

The budget for the next two financial years has been set based on the three year contract with the current Christmas Lights contractor. At the end of the three year period the Council will own the festoon lighting which has a 5 year guarantee. Therefore, the budget for Christmas lighting has been reduced but £5,000 has been added to 2020/21 onwards in case the Council wishes to add to the Christmas lights.

New Code – Snow and Flood Warden

The Snow Warden asked if an amount of £500 could be put into the budget each year and the Finance Committee agreed with this proposal

New Code – Seafront Enhancement Scheme

A new revenue code will be set up for the Seafront Enhancement Scheme and the total of £13583 has been added to the budget. Along with the £6417 in the Ear Marked Reserves the total pot for the Seafront Enhancement Scheme is £20,000.

Elizabeth Road Play Area

Code 801 – ROSPA inspection

The Communities Committee resolved to increase the budget for ROSPA inspections by 3% per annum to cover any likely RPI inflationary increases and this increase has been factored into the budget.

Code 804 – Grounds Maintenance Contract

The current contract expires in the 2019/20 financial year. A 10% increase in the contract price has been assumed for when the contract is re-let.

Footpaths

Code 1101 – Grounds Maintenance Contract

The current contract expires in the 2019/20 financial year. A 10% increase in the contract price has been assumed for when the contract is re-let.

Grants

Code 401 – Grants

The Finance Committee resolved to increase the Grants budget from £5,000 per annum to £8,000 per annum

Local Democracy

Code 202 – Civic Expenses

The Finance Committee resolved to reduce the Civic Expenses budget from £1,600 to £800 per annum based on the level of expenditure during the 2017/18 financial year

Code 206 – Elections

East Devon District Council have confirmed that the price of running an election is now £4,500. The Finance Committee resolved to increase the budget to £4,500 per annum to cover this eventuality.

Code 2069 – Town Crier Honorarium

The Internal Auditor advised that this should no longer be called an honorarium. As a result of this the Finance Committee resolved to call this Town Crier Expenses.

Marshlands

Code 2123 – Gas

The Finance Committee resolved to increase the budget for gas by 5% per annum to cover any likely RPI inflationary increases and this increase has been factored into the budget. The Council currently has a one year deal with its supplier and will be market testing the cost of Gas during 2018/19, once it has a full years baseline of meter readings and usage.

Code 2124 – Electricity

The Finance Committee resolved to increase the budget for electricity by 5% per annum to cover any likely RPI inflationary increases and this increase has been factored into the budget. The Council currently has a one year deal with its supplier and will be market testing the cost of electricity during 2018/19, once it has a full years baseline of meter readings and usage.

Code 2132 – Electrical PAT testing

The Estates Committee resolved to increase the budget for PAT testing by 3% per annum to cover any likely RPI inflationary increases and this increase has been factored into the budget

New Code – replace doors in function room

The Estates Committee resolved to put in a budget of £5,000 in 2018/19 to replace the function room doors with sound proof doors.

Seaton Down Hill

Code 1001 – Grounds Maintenance Contract

The current contract expires in the 2019/20 financial year. A 10% increase in the contract price has been assumed for when the contract is re-let.

Code 2118 – Gateway Signs

The Finance Committee resolved to add in a budget of £1,600 for a further gateway sign on Seaton Down Hill

Town Development

Code 1601 – Contract

As the Marketing and Events contract came to an end in October 2017, this budget has been removed and replaced with a number of new cost codes for marketing Contract, Advertising Budget and the Event Officer Salary.

New Code – Tour de coast

The Communities Committee resolved that a budget of £4,000 be set in the 2018/19 financial year to cover the cost of the tour de coast project

New Code – Events Officer Salary

A new Events Officer will be appointed in early 2018. The Personnel Committee resolved to increase the event officer salary budget by 5% per annum to cover any likely cost of living increases and this increase has been factored into the budget.

New Code – Marketing Contract

The Council has recently appointed a new Marketing Contractor and the 3 year contract commences on 1st January 2018. A 20% increase in the contract price has been assumed for when the contract is re-let.

New Code – Advertising Budget

An amount of £5,000 has been allocated per annum for the Marketing Contractor to use for marketing and promotion in addition to the cost of their contract.

Underfleet Play Area

Code 901 – ROSPA inspection

The Communities Committee resolved to increase the budget for ROSPA inspections by 3% per annum to cover any likely RPI inflationary increases and this increase has been factored into the budget.

Code 903 – Grounds Maintenance Contract

The current contract expires in the 2019/20 financial year. A 10% increase in the contract price has been assumed for when the contract is re-let

Reserves

As the Internal and External Auditors have confirmed that the Council needs to build its reserves up, a sum of £20,000 has currently been factored into the budget.

Precept

In terms of the precept, taking into account all of the comments above, and if the budget stays as it is, this leaves the Council with a precept requirement of £335,139.20. Taking into account the Council Tax Support Grant, the amount is reduced by £3,809 to £331,330.20.

This means that if the budget stays as it is and a sum of £20,000 is put into reserves, the effect on the precept for a band D property would be an increase of £4.97 or 5.01%

If the Council were minded to reduce the amount paid into reserves to £15,000 this would mean an increase to the precept for a band D of £3.40 or 3.43%

If the Council were minded to reduce the amount paid to reserves to £10,000 this would mean an increase to the precept for a band D of £1.83 or 1.84%.

**Precept
Calculation**

Cost centre	Income	Expenditure	net
Administration	3026.00	100810.40	97784.40
Allotment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Amenities	7500.00	51974.00	44474.00
Artisan market	2000.00	2000.00	0.00
Asset Maintenance	995.20	8195.00	7199.80
Cliff Field Gardens	0.00	9175.00	9175.00
Community	0.00	25073.00	25073.00
Elizabeth Road	0.00	2265.00	2265.00
Footpaths	100.00	900.00	800.00
Grants	0.00	8000.00	8000.00
Local Democracy	0.00	6600.00	6600.00
Marshlands	5000.00	34135.00	29135.00
Parishes Together	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seaton Down Hill	0.00	2575.00	2575.00
Seaton in Bloom	860.00	13900.00	13040.00
TIC	0.00	21000.00	21000.00
Town Development	6000.00	51500.00	45500.00
Underfleet play area	0.00	2518.00	2518.00
General Reserves	0.00	20000.00	20000.00
	25481.20	360620.40	335139.20
Precept	331330.20		
Precept	104.06		
2016/17 precept was	99.09		
difference	4.97		

COUNCIL

Update on actions arising from previous meetings

X52 Bus Service

The Council has received a further update from Mr Morgan in terms of the X52 Bus Service, as follows:

Dear Councillor Rowland,

I thought I would send you a quick email to update you on the current situation regarding the X52 Jurassic Coaster bus service operated by First Wessex.

As you may be aware, the current winter service now operates just two return services between Lyme Regis and Exeter from Monday to Saturday. However, I have been advised that from Sunday 21st January 2018 the service will cease to operate at all, with the last service likely to run on Saturday 20th January. I believe the reasons behind this are due to factors such as poor reimbursement for the bus pass, no external funding and a further decline in the number of passengers operating it. As a regular user of this bus the summer service had fewer passengers than ever using what was then a five-times-a-day service. This was possibly not helped by increased competition from other bus operators linking Seaton with other destinations in East Devon and West Dorset.

This is very sad news and will mean the loss of what has undoubtedly been one of our best public transport assets providing both a regular direct link with Exeter and a cross-county service into Dorset since its introduction in late 1998.

May I take this opportunity to thank Seaton Town Council for its interest and efforts in trying to raise awareness of the need to support the X52 Jurassic Coaster bus service. As both a passenger on this route and also a campaigner to try and maintain frequent public transport links for Seaton and other parishes in the lower Axe Valley, it has been greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
David Morgan

Axe Valley School Sixth Form Consultation

The Council's comments were submitted before the closing date for consultation and were as follows:

Dear Axe Valley,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on your consultation.

Seaton Town Council's response is as follows:

Whilst we appreciate that funding has been, and is still being, squeezed, the provision of a sixth form at the Academy has given children in the Axe Valley the same opportunities for further education as those in surrounding areas and was a welcome decision. As a result, the school has grown in reputation over the years.

If the Axe Valley or even the surrounding towns provided a sixth form college, the impact of closing the Academy's sixth form would not have such a detrimental effect, but with our children potentially only have the option of travelling to Exeter or Tiverton if they wish to continue in education, they are going to be penalised with long journeys and higher costs, meaning many are not going to make post-16 education a choice. This becomes even more of a problem with the reduction in bus services to and from Exeter. It is highly likely that the timetable will not fit in with the timetables of students having to go into Exeter college. Going to Tiverton college becomes even more problematic because presumably this will be a further journey after going into Exeter.

Housing is increasing in the area and is expected to continue to do so over the coming years with the government requiring additional homes to be provided across East Devon. Our local school needs to be able to meet the inevitable increase in demand for school places that will go with the increase in house building.

We believe that by closing the Academy's sixth form, parents may make the decision at year 7 to send their children elsewhere where they can have continuous education until year 13. We do not want our local school to return to the days when it was not the first choice for many. To do so is likely to result in falling teaching standards and lower attainment levels for the students.

We therefore strongly oppose the proposed closure of the sixth form and urge the school and governors to take whatever steps they can to seek a re-think, and find a way to secure the long-term future of the Academy to ensure the continued provision of the same level of good education for our young people that they have been enjoying and have come to expect, and which those from neighbouring towns enjoy.

South Western Railway Consultation

The Council's comments were submitted before the closing date for consultation and were as follows:

Seaton Town Council strongly oppose the changes to the timetable regarding Clapham Junction.

We strongly believe that Clapham Junction is an important stop on the line for local people. A high proportion of passengers get on and off at Clapham – particularly those travelling outside the peak periods.

The Clapham Junction stop should be included in all Exeter services as this is a very important interchange for many passengers from Devon to a number of key destinations including the London Airports, Victoria Station, Twickenham, Wimbledon

and Croydon as well as other parts of South and South West London, the London Overground and Kent.

Clapham Junction is a busy hub on the rail network for people accessing the west side of London rather than having to go into Waterloo and back out again. This service is particularly popular for leisure users going both into and out of London and it is especially valuable as an easy interchange for passengers with mobility problems or passengers with bulky luggage.

The Council welcomes the proposal for more morning and evening services to and from Exeter as well as a later train from Waterloo at 9.25pm.