



Minutes of the Seaton Town Council Meeting On Monday 5th November 2018

Present

In the chair: Cllr P Burrows

Councillors: K Beer, C Chadwick, M Hartnell, D Ledger, S Read, J Rowland, K Rye, H Sanham, M Shaw and D Squire

Officers: Town Clerk

Public: 4 members of the public
PC Speers (Devon & Cornwall Police)

136. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies

137. Declarations of Interest

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

Cllr Burrows declared a personal interest in agenda item 12(5) as his family is involved with the Majorettes

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

Cllr Hartnell declared a personal interest in agenda item 12(1) as a member of Seaton Health Matters

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

Cllr Shaw declared a personal interest in agenda item 12(1) as a member of Seaton Health Matters

Cllr Rowland declared a personal interest in agenda item 12(1) as a member of Seaton Health Matters

138. Minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Council meeting on Monday 1st October 2018.

(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Burrows)

139. Chairman's Report

The Council considered the Chairman's Report. Cllr Burrows updated the Council that he would be attending the opening of Grandpa's Gallery on Friday 9th November.

The Council **NOTED** the Chairman's Report

140. Public Question Time

Mrs June Millman spoke in respect of agenda item 12(5), as a representative from Seaton Majorettes. Mrs Millman said that she had started the Majorettes about 15

years ago and now there are 46 girls and 2 boys, ranging from 5 to 17 years old in the troupe. The young people are not just from Seaton but from other towns in the area including Colyton, Beer, Axminster, Sidmouth, Ottery St Mary and Exeter. At the moment we are attempting to equip the troupe with new batons. We already have 15 of these batons which the senior girls use but the junior girls have to use inferior batons which do not show up as well. The batons come from America and cost £130 - £140 each and we need 30 of them. Income is raised from weekly fees, donations and fund raising events. We would be very grateful for any support you could give us.

Mr Paul Grint spoke in respect of agenda item 12(3), confirming that he was unhappy about the sale of the Searchlight Emplacement. He confirmed that he had spoken to Adrian Priest at East Devon District Council and that whilst he knew about the interpretation board at the front of the building he was not aware of the blue plaque. Mr Grint said that he felt the building is important to the town as it is a reminder of what Seaton faced in World War 2. He wants the Town Council to consider asking EDDC to hold off on the sale for the time being.

121. Police Report

The Council considered the Police Report.

Discussion took place around:

- The shoplifting statistics being mostly down to one individual
- Cllr Burrows offered to speak to Age UK to see if they would be interested in PC Speers talk on scams
- Cllr Rowland asked where does Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) vehicle confiscation come under the crime statistics. PC Speers confirmed that they don't fall under the statistics as they are as a result of a Section 59 notice being served

The Council **NOTED** the Police Report
(moved Cllr Burrows)

122. County Councillor Report

The Council considered Cllr Shaw's County Councillor Report and discussion took place around:

- The Dorset and East Devon National Park consultation and whether the Council could respond to it.

The Council **NOTED** the County Councillor's Report
(moved Cllr Burrows)

123. District Councillors Reports

The Council considered Cllr Hartnell's Report and discussion took place around:

- Holyford Woods and the picnic area needing to be patched and the signage cleaned
- The EDDC Survey and Cllr Rowland asked how people were randomly selected to take part in the survey. Cllr Hartnell confirmed that he would find out
- Cllr Beer asked how much recycling goes to landfill and is it the 40% that isn't recycled? Cllr Hartnell confirmed that landfill waste goes to the Energy from Waste incinerator in Exeter and that about 1% of waste that now goes to landfill.

The Council **NOTED** Cllr Hartnell's District Councillors Report
(moved Cllr Burrows)

124. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

The Council considered the minutes from the Beer, Branscombe and Seaton Traffic Group and discussion took place around:

- Subsidence in Queen Street and Fore Street and when this is going to be rectified

The Council considered the report from the Seaton Area Health Matters Group and discussion took place around:

- Cllr Rowland confirmed that he had met with the Royal Devon & Exeter (RD&E) Trust earlier in the day and the tone of the meeting was very positive
- Cllr Rowland thanked Cllr Ledger for his time and assistance in setting up the Seaton Health Matters website
- Cllr Shaw said that the Seaton Health Matters group has really taken off and credit to Cllr Rowland for this and for putting forward a good case for the hospital to be used for health and wellbeing services

The Council **NOTED** both reports
(moved Cllr Burrows)

125. Town Clerk Report

The Council considered the Town Clerk's Report and discussion took place around:

- Whether there had been any update in terms of the ceremony for the Devon Air Ambulance Night Time Landing Strip. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had been in touch with the DAA and Cricket Club and that a date would be circulated to all Councillors shortly once it had been confirmed

The Council **NOTED** the Town Clerks Report
(moved Cllr Burrows)

126. Committee meeting minutes

The Council **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes for:

- Planning Committee 10th September 2018
- Finance & General Purposes Committee 10th September 2018
- Planning Committee 24th September 2018
- Communities & Open Spaces Committee 24th September 2018
- Communities & Open Spaces Committee 1st October 2018
- Personnel Committee 2nd October 2018
- Planning Committee 8th October 2018

(moved by Cllr Burrows; seconded Cllr Sanham)

127. Motions

Cllr Burrows proposed that the motions were taken in the order of number 3 first then number 5 (so that the members of the public waiting to hear those items could then leave if they wished to) before reverting back to motions 1, 2 and 4. This was agreed.

Motion 3, Cllr Sanham – To discuss the proposal by East Devon District Council (EDDC) to auction the WW2 searchlight emplacement on the West Walk; to request information from EDDC on the background to this decision; what discussions have taken place with Ward Members; and what plans EDDC have for the retention of the interpretation board and Blue Plaque in the event of a sale

Discussion took place around:

- The fact that Cllr Rowland had written to Richard Cohen at EDDC in March asking about plans for the Searchlight Emplacement and never received a response
- The lack of recent communication and correspondence from EDDC regarding the Searchlight Emplacement
- The Town Council should be doing what it can to retain the Searchlight Emplacement as an asset
- The Town Council should be asking EDDC to consider transferring the asset to Seaton Town Council
- The fact that EDDC had been in discussion with Seaton Town Council in 2015 but there wasn't a desire to take the asset on at that point
- A section on this in Cllr Hartnell's Report
- For an asset transfer the Council would need to put together a business case for the asset and be able to demonstrate community value
- The ongoing issues with vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour which would cost the Council to maintain
- Whether there are planning issues and whether the Searchlight Emplacement is in the built-up area boundary
- The need for the interpretation board and blue plaque to be retained
- The Council mustn't forget that this is a historical site for the town
- The gap of nearly 4 years between EDDC deciding to sell and the sale taking place and the feeling that EDDC should have consulted the Town Council again
- The possibility of obtaining a grant for maintaining historic assets
- The fact that the Council could bid for the asset in the auction on Wednesday 7th November
- Whether, realistically, it would be too late to stop the auction
- The need to write to the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, relevant Service Lead and all Cabinet Members to ask EDDC to put a hold on the sale
- Cllr Burrows also agreed to speak to the EDDC Chief Executive

The Council **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk write to East Devon District Council first thing tomorrow morning to ask them to put a hold on the sale of the Searchlight Emplacement to enable discussion as to whether transfer of the asset to the Town Council is the way forward.

(moved Cllr Sanham; seconded Cllr Shaw)

Motion 5, Cllr Burrows – That Seaton Town Council support the Communities Together fund bid put together by the Seaton Majorettes group to provide new batons for the whole group

Discussion took place around:

- Whether the proposal by the Majorettes would be covered by the Communities Together Fund
- Would replacement batons be classed as new in terms of this fund?
- The need to consider all projects for the Communities Together fund at the same time – Majorettes, Hoppa Bus and Axmouth Guide
- Cllr Squire confirmed that she had met with the Town Clerk and Cllrs from Sidmouth Town Council regarding extending their Hoppa Bus and that they would

be coming back to her within a month to confirm either way. Cllr Squire would provide an update to the next meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** that a paper scoping out the projects for the Communities Together Fund would come back to the next meeting of Council
(moved Cllr Squire; seconded Cllr Shaw)

Motion 1, Cllr Rowland – Seaton Town Council agrees to support an initiative by Seaton Area Health Matters (SAHM) to operate a help line telephone number for people in the Seaton area to use where they are seeking advice on what help may be available in the area from voluntary organisations that are involved in health and wellbeing. The installation and running costs of the separate telephone line and number (to be answered as Seaton Area Health Matters) to be paid by SAHM together with a fee of 50p per incoming call as each call to be logged on a spreadsheet with basic information (no details of the caller). The Council would then invoice SAHM on a monthly basis for the preceding month.

The Council considered Cllr Rowlands paper and discussion took place around:

- It was hoped that most people would use the website rather than telephoning
- Being unable to predict at the current time how many calls would be anticipated and the length of the calls
- Whether a mobile telephone could be purchased and be set up with a landline number instead of installing a new telephone line at Marshlands
- The impact this additional work would have on Seaton Town Council staff
- A basic spreadsheet would be used to record non personal information
- Training to be provided to staff and the cost of this to be met by Seaton Health Matters
- Whether people could be signposted to voluntary groups with a telephone message
- Whether the Doctors surgeries could field the calls instead of the Town Council
- Was it worth contacting Care Direct to see if they could field the calls
- To consider this on a trial basis and then review after a certain time period

The Council **RESOLVED** to proceed with Cllr Rowland's proposal for a one month trial using a mobile telephone and in addition to this to engage with the Doctors Surgeries to see if they will take it on.

(moved Cllr Hartnell; seconded Cllr Ledger)

Motion 2, Cllr Rowland - In view of the response from EDDC to decline our request to register Seaton Community Hospital as an asset of community value, Seaton Town Council is asking for this decision to be reconsidered as a business plan is being drawn up by Seaton Area Health Matters to create a Health Hub in Seaton and the hospital site may have a vital role to play in creating a hub that would house existing and additional clinics as well as additional services involved in health and wellbeing initiatives.

We feel that the hospital site does also meet the definition of "social wellbeing" in view of the proposed additional activities that could operate from the site and should not be solely considered on the basis of the current use. EDDC has already agreed that health hubs are needed in East Devon and by agreeing to register Seaton Community

Hospital as an asset of community value this will potentially aid the business plan for a health hub to serve the area

Cllr Rowland withdrew his motion as he had attended the last Full Council meeting of East Devon District Council and asked the question

Motion 4, Cllr Squire – To consider how the Town Council moves forward in a professional and productive manner regarding recent behaviours and social media issues

Discussion took place around:

- The need for clarity in terms of the Council's Communication and Social Media Policy
- The Council had previously agreed that Cllrs Burrows and Hartnell would respond to social media posts as and when appropriate
- The need to respond to comments and to correct facts, where appropriate
- Disappointment relating to a recent post where staff and Councillors were criticised
- Whether there should have been a statement from the Council to refute the claims made
- The disconnect between the Council and the public through social media
- The need to show the positive side of the Council e.g. postings about decisions that the Council has made
- The need to tighten up how we work, in terms of social media, going forward
- Whether the Policy needs to be changed
- The need to drip feed information to the public
- Social media being all about the timing of posts

The Council **RESOLVED** to bring the Communication and Social Media Policy back to a future meeting
(moved Cllr Shaw; seconded Cllr Sanham)

128. Update on Council Priorities

Discussion took place around:

- Priority 2 and why the Service Level Agreement for the Tourist Information Centre is in the plan
- Priority 2 and why Marketing is in this section
- The need for websites to be included in Priority 4

The Council **RESOLVED** that websites be included as part of Priority 4
(moved Cllr Sanham; seconded Cllr Hartnell)

The Council **RESOLVED** that the plan goes back to Committees to be reviewed and for them to consider the details and progress against actions
(moved Cllr Hartnell; seconded Cllr Shaw)

129. Committee Membership

Discussion took place around:

- Cllr Beer was thanked for his contributions during his time on the various Council Committees

- The need for the election of a Vice Chairman to go onto the next agendas for the Planning Committee and Finance Committee

The Council **RESOLVED** that Cllr Burrows go onto the Personnel Committee in his capacity as Chairman of the Council
(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Shaw)

130. External Funding

Discussion took place around:

- Communities Together funding being covered under minute 127
- Whether a bid could be submitted to the Investing in Devon Fund for funding towards the Seafront Enhancement Scheme
- The need for a specific project to be drawn up to bid for
- Whether a bid could be submitted to the Locality Fund for funding for the Seafront Enhancement Scheme

The Council **RESOLVED** that they agree in principle to making an application to the Investing in Devon Fund for funding for the Seafront Enhancement Fund and that a worked up proposal comes back to the next Council meeting
(moved Cllr Sanham; seconded Cllr Hartnell)

The Council **RESOLVED** that they agree in principle to making an application to the Locality Fund for funding for the Seafront Enhancement Fund and that a worked up proposal comes back to the next Council meeting
(moved Cllr Sanham; seconded Cllr Rowland)

131. Baker Estates Proposal

Cllr Squire outlined that Baker Estates wish to locate two units in the allotment grounds (accessed from their development) with them proposing to pay the Council £5,000 for a one year period. The Allotment Holders were in favour of this.

Discussion took place around:

- The need to negotiate with Baker Estates over the cost of using the land
- £100 charge per day for every day they go over 1 year
- Baker Estates meet the cost of the legal agreement
- Whether the money would be ringfenced to the allotments

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree that the Town Clerk in conjunction with the lead Councillor for Allotments are delegated responsibility to negotiate with Baker Estates to bring this matter to a conclusion
(moved Cllr Shaw; seconded Cllr Rowland)

131. Allotments Report

Discussion took place around:

- The need for a bigger Allotments Committee
- Whether this should be a function of Full Council rather than having a separate Allotments Committee
- Whether a small Working Group could attend the half yearly Allotment Holder meetings

- The need for a Lead Councillor for Allotments
- Council could review policies, the statutory rules, risk assessment and procedures for eviction and the Finance Committee could monitor bad debts

The Council **RESOLVED** that Allotments becomes a function of Full Council, that a working group meets with the Allotment Holders and that there is a Lead Councillor for Allotments.

(moved Cllr Hartnell; seconded by Cllr Sanham)

132. Grants Policy Review

This item of business was deferred to the December meeting

133. Town Crier

The Council **RESOLVED** that the former Town Crier be invited to attend the Christmas Light Switch on event on 1st December 2018

(moved Cllr Shaw; seconded Cllr Ledger)

134. Confidential Items

The Chairman moved and the Council agreed that in accordance with the Council's Standing Order 1 (c) press and public will be excluded from the meeting during the discussions of items 21 and 22 on this agenda as there is likely to be disclosure of information as matters are being discussed which are commercially sensitive/could identify an individual

135. Seafront Enhancement

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the report from the Seafront Enhancement Scheme Working Party

(moved Cllr Burrows)

136. Personnel Committee

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the staffing matter from the Personnel Committee

(moved Cllr Sanham; seconded Cllr Rowland)

The meeting ended at 22.00

Chairman: _____

Dated: _____