



## Minutes of the Council Meeting of Seaton Town Council on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017

### **Present**

**In the chair:** Cllr Jack Rowland

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

**Officers:** Town Clerk  
8 members of the public

### **85. Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Stephen Read made his declaration of acceptance of office.

### **86. Apologies for absence**

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Hartnell which were accepted.

### **87. Declarations of Interest**

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

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

Cllr Burrows declared a personal interest in item 13: Post Office consultation. Cllr Burrows was advised by the Assistant to the Town Clerk that in declaring a personal interest he would be able to take part in the discussion and vote should that prove necessary. Cllr Burrows stated that he would leave the meeting during the discussion of the item.

### **88. To agree the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the minutes of the meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August subject to the following amendments:

Minute 70: should read 'Diana Nason'

Minute 74: to clarify that Cllr Sanham had attended the President's Lunch at the Yacht Club.

(proposed by Cllr Rowland, seconded by Cllr Beer)

### **89. Chairman's Report**

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

### **90. Public Question Time**

Several Members of the Public spoke in Public Question Time:

Mr John Chilcott spoke against the Harbour Development scheme and its visual impact on a world status Jurassic Coastline. Mr Chilcott asked who pays for what would be a multi-million-pound scheme and is of the view that berthing income would cover annual costs but not a return on capital or a sinking fund for repair and renewal. In Mr Chilcott's opinion a private developer would seek to build apartments adjoining a marina which will require sea views to be attractive to buyers and are, typically, three or four storeys and cited Exmouth of an example of this kind of development. Mr Chilcott feels that even a public sector funded, minimal development would adversely overwhelm and dominate the coastline.

Hilary Arnold spoke against the Harbour development as she considers the harbour a wonderful asset with the best beach around. The development will change the dynamics of the harbour and spoil the environment. She considers groins to be environmentally damaging. Mrs Arnold referred positively to extending walking from the Chime to Seaton Hole and an extension of Mackerel fishing.

Mr Eric Bowman spoke in support of Cllr Chadwick's motion at item 19 (i), particularly as traffic is increasing and the road is an access route for town traffic and buses. Mr Bowman referred to the deteriorating quality of drivers and the actions of boy racers.

Mr Bowman spoke on the issue of graffiti in Seaton, that it moves from one part of the town to another and depicts foul language on occasion, in particular near to a play area and a cycle path. Mr Bowman called for more education, CCTV and police enforcement and asked what the Council is doing to combat graffiti. Mr Bowman advised that he had reported a piece of graffiti near his home and has received a crime log number.

*The Chairman advised that if graffiti occurs in areas within the Town Council's responsibility it is dealt with by our maintenance team. Otherwise it is reported to East Devon District Council.*

Mr Daniel Ledger spoke on the issue of youth funding and referred to a historical referendum held by Seaton Town Council (STC). Mr Ledger also said that historically, an amount of STC's Council Tax precept had been ring-fenced for youth provision and asked if this was still the case.

*Cllr Sanham explained that precept ring-fencing had been for one year.*

*The Chairman said that STC will look into the history of the youth funding and respond to Mr Ledger.*

Mr Matthew Tyne asked about the possibility of a Beacon to commemorate the ending of WW1.

## **91. Police Report**

Council **NOTED** the Police Report.

**92. County Councillor Report**

Council **NOTED** the County Councillor Report.

**93. District Councillors' Reports**

Council **NOTED** the District Councillor Report from Cllr Hartnell.

**94. Reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies**

Council **NOTED** that Cllr Beer had supplied reports for this item which were not included on the agenda for the meeting. Cllr Beer's reports will go on the agenda for the Full Council meeting in October.

**95. Appointments to Council Committees**

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Hartnell to the Community & Open Spaces Committee.

(proposed by Cllr Rowland, seconded by Cllr Shaw)

Council **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Read to the Planning Committee and the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

(proposed by Cllr Rowland, seconded by Cllr Squire)

**95. Seafront Enhancement**

Cllr Sanham explained that this report followed on from discussions on 21<sup>st</sup> August and sought Council support to move forward. Cllr Sanham proposed that Council receive the proposals in the Town Development Team's Working Party Report on the Sea Moorings for Seaton and agree points a) to e) in the report in one go.

(seconded by Cllr Rowland)

Cllr Shaw proposed an amendment to the proposal taking each item separately.

Cllr Sanham agreed to accept the amended proposal.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the amended proposal.

Cllr Shaw was of the view that the Council cannot insist that the findings of the report be incorporated into the work of the Seaton Beach Management Plan Group.

Council considered each of the elements in the report as follows:

- a) Support the principle of increasing water-based activities as part of the town's 'Year-Round Adventure' branding.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal

(proposed by Cllr Beer, seconded by Cllr Burrows)

- b) Agree that the Town Council is represented at any on-going discussions on Sea Moorings with the Axe Yacht Clubs and other interested parties.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal

(proposed by Cllr Burrows, seconded by Cllr Sanham)

- c) Agree that the findings of the report be incorporated into the work of the Seaton Beach Management Plan Group

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal  
(proposed by Cllr Burrows, seconded by Cllr Read)

- d) Support any undertaking of a feasibility study into the provision of a deep- water harbour for the town

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal  
(proposed by Cllr Sanham, seconded by Cllr Chadwick)

- e) Agree that the findings of any feasibility study form part of future funding applications to deliver the Council's seafront enhancement plans as appropriate

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal  
(proposed by Cllr Sanham, seconded by Cllr Rowland)

#### **96. Post Office Consultation**

*Cllr Burrows left the room at 19.50*

Council discussed the extent of progress with the consultation, the effect on parking facilities in the proposed new location and the importance of retaining a Post Office facility in the Town  
Cllr Beer proposed that the Council should respond positively to the proposals as advantageous to the Town  
(seconded by Cllr Rowland)  
Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal)

*Cllr Burrows re-joined the meeting at 19.54*

#### **97. Member Officer Protocol**

Cllr Rowland proposed that the Council adopts the Member / Officer Protocol recommended by the Personnel Committee  
(seconded by Cllr Rye)  
Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal.

#### **98. Youth related facilities**

Cllr Rowland relayed suggestions for improvement arising in discussion with users of the Skate Park which could be incorporated into any forthcoming redesign and to support bids for prospective sources of funding.  
Cllrs discussed a historic referendum and the deployment of Section 106 monies to create the Adventure Golf Course. Cllr Sanham suggested contacting EDDC to ascertain the amount of any remaining Section 106 funding  
Council discussed the cost and benefits of a consultation and managing expectations arising and the demographic of those to be consulted.

Cllr Rowland proposed an in-principle agreement to hold a public consultation to establish the priorities for spending on youth related facilities for incorporation into the 2018/2019 budget

(seconded by Cllr Burrows)

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal.

#### **99. Fisherman's Gap**

Council discussed a proposal from the Environment Agency (EA) for prospective works to the Fisherman's Gap gate to address health and safety issues. Cllrs were made aware of an historic Royal Charter which governs what can be done reference the size of the gates and that it would require an Act of Parliament for the Charter to be altered. Cllr Sanham asked if the EA is aware of plans in hand reference the Seafront Enhancement Scheme.

Cllr Read advised Council that one way forward could be to extend the aprons slightly by the slipway. This would negate the need to change the gate size.

Cllr Burrows proposed responding to the EA to the effect that STC are averse to extending the size of the gate but suggesting that the EA looks to extend the aprons by the slipway as described by Cllr Read.

(seconded by Cllr Rowland)

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal.

#### **100. Adventure Golf Course**

Cllr Squire proposed contacting EDDC to make known concerns to do with the general appearance of the Adventure Golf Course, the extent of the facilities, the state of signage and advertisements and if public money is being properly used in the maintenance and management of the site.

(seconded by Cllr Rowland)

Council discussed evening opening times and the availability of staff to hand out equipment as well as the possibility of light refreshments being made available and an improved welcome for those using the course.

Cllr Sanham described work in hand with EDDC and Leisure East Devon (LED) to improve signage and a consideration of longer opening hours for 2018.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree Cllr Squire's proposal.

#### **101. Christmas and New Year Opening Arrangements**

Cllr Rowland moved acceptance of the proposed Christmas and New Year opening arrangements.

(seconded by Cllr Shaw)

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal.

#### **102. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE**

Cllr Rowland moved acceptance of the motions put forward by Cllr Chadwick and proposed consideration of both motions together.

(seconded by Cllr Sanham)

Cllr Chadwick accepted the amendment.

Council discussed problems arising from increased traffic.

Cllr Shaw volunteered to bring the issues to the attention of DCC Highways with the possibility of arranging a meeting on site. Cllr Shaw highlighted a Traffic Management meeting scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Cllrs discussed a point of information reference ascertaining bus stop ownership and that this might impinge on efforts to have bus-stops relocated.

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the following motions:

*The Council supports requesting a 20mph restriction along the Underfleet, particularly near the dropped kerb opposite the playpark and also the possibility of citing a pedestrian crossing here; and,*

*The Council supports some action to have the bus stops on the Underfleet relocated into the coach park subject to confirmation of bus stop ownership.*

### **103. Update on Actions arising from previous meetings:**

#### **Cycle Way measures introduced at Harbour Road / Underfleet**

##### **Roundabout: safety issues**

Council revisited ongoing health and safety issues to do with the Cycle Way and responses received from DCC to date. DCC had clarified the cost of installing the Cycle Way. Cllr Rye stated that he would not feel safe using the route as a Cyclist. Cllr Sanham volunteered to speak with Axe Valley Pedlars for their input and will copy the response to Cllr Shaw in his capacity as a Devon County Councillor. Thereafter STC will revert to DCC with more detail.

##### **STC Top 5 priorities:**

An update on progress will be provided at the October meeting of Full Council.

##### **Speeding issues: Seaton Down Hill and Road**

Cllr Rowland confirmed that formal complaint letters have been sent to DCC and the Police and Highways.

Council **NOTED** the update on actions arising

The meeting ended at 8.45pm

**Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_