Minutes of the Full Council Meeting on Monday 20th February 2017

Present

In the Chair: Cllr Marcus Hartnell

Councillors: K Beer, P Burrows, C Chadwick, M Pigott, K Rye, J Rowland
H Sanham, M Shaw, D Squire, R Webster

Present: Town Clerk
Committee Secretary
10 members of the public
1 member of the press

17/COU/061 Apologies for absence.
Cllr S Polloni’s apology for absence was not accepted because no
reason for the absence had been provided.

17/COU/062 Declarations of Interest.
Councillor Marcus Hartnell declared a non-pecuniary interest as a
dual-hatted Member of East Devon District Council (EDDC).
Cllr P Burrows a non-pecuniary interest as a dual-hatted Member of
EDDC.
Cllr H Sanham expressed a non-pecuniary interest in item 12 (1) in
respect of her role as a volunteer at the TIC.
Cllr J Rowland declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12 (8) in
respect of his membership of the Speed Watch Team.

17/COU/063 To agree the minutes of the Full Council Meetings held on
Monday 23rd January 2017 and the amended minutes of the
meetings held on Monday 9th January 2017 and Monday 12th
December 2016.
The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2017 were
agreed subject to the following amendment: item 040 to read
‘Arrangements for the asset transfer in respect of the Underfleet Play
Park will be overseen by the Community & Open Spaces Committee.’
The amended minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th January
2017 were agreed.
The amended minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12th December
2016 were agreed.
Chairman's report.
The Chairman had welcomed Amy Tregellas, Town Clerk to the Council on 2nd February 2017. The Town Clerk had been given a tour of Seaton with the Chairman and Cllr J Rowland as part of her induction.
Members noted that the Chairman had attended the Seaton & District Lion's Club 33rd Charter Anniversary Dinner on 10th February where he was warmly welcomed. The Chairman has donated £100.00 from the Seaton Town Council (STC) Mayor’s Allowance to help fund future projects. The Lion’s Club have sent thanks for the donation.
Members noted that the Chairman had attended a meeting at Seaton Jurassic (SJ) with SJ’s Chief Executive to introduce our Town Clerk and to receive an update on progress which the Town Clerk would expand on as part of Item 12 (1) on the agenda.
Members noted that the Chairman had met with council officers, including the Marketing and Events Specialist.
Members noted that the application for Seaton’s Seafront Enhancement has been submitted.
Members noted that the Chairman had presided at an awards’ ceremony for five successful grant applicants where cheques had been presented. STC will publicise the grants via our website and a Press Release.

Public Question Time.
Mrs Hilary Arnold raised concerns about the location and service provided by the Tourist Information Office (TIC) and the provision of signage.
It was noted that the Town Clerk would provide an update on progress made by the TIC as part of item 12 (1) on the agenda.

Mr Graham Hutton from Baker Estates raised concerns about the decision made by the STC Planning Committee on Monday 20th February in respect of agenda item 12; Complaint about East Devon District Council’s decision-making on an application for 26 houses at Rowan Drive, Seaton, Devon. Mr Hutton made a request that a meeting of STC Full Council be convened to review the decision which in his view confused aspects of design and principle. Mr Hutton explained that the development was vital to housing provision in Seaton and the financial viability of Baker Estates.

Mr Ian Baker of Baker Estates reiterated the issues raised by Mr Graham Hutton and added that in his view, the Planning Committee decision had understated the consequences.

Police Report.
PC Richard Jenkins provided an update on crime statistics to date in February, including minor assault, theft, vehicle crime and criminal damage.
PC Jenkins explained that 5 youths had been apprehended for taking part in applying graffiti and that a cleaning day was being arranged for the youths concerned to make good the damage.
PC Jenkins explained that the Seaton Heights Development was giving cause for concern with young people entering the site, raising issues of health and safety. The padlock on the site had gone missing. Three, 15-year old girls had been apprehended on the site. PC Jenkins is in direct communication with the owner of the site. PC Jenkins explained that there is unlikely to be a replacement for PCSO Chris Bolsover who has moved to Axminster although the vacancy is extant. PC Jenkins explained that decisions on location, in respect of placements has to do, in part, with what is practicable for police colleagues in terms of their own circumstances. PC Jenkins did not think that the departure of PCSO Bolsover would adversely impact on the service provided with two police representatives providing cover. He confirmed that sickness and holiday absence reduces capacity.

PC Jenkins asked Members for support in finding convenient locations to hold ‘Have your Say’ Community Safety events to maximise engagement on the part of the public. Members discussed the possibility of joint surgeries at Marshlands, to include representatives from Devon County Council (DCC), EDDC and STC.

Cllr J Rowland updated members on a speed check and distracted drivers' exercise due to take place soon across East Devon, including Seaton. Cllr M Shaw requested that the monitoring exercise will include Beer Road.

PC Jenkins asked if STC could provide contact details for beach hut owners in case of need. It was noted that EDDC holds these details and agreed that STC will contact EDDC to help facilitate communication with the police.

In response to a question from Cllr M Pigott, PC Jenkins advised that the decision on the charges to be brought against suspects resides with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).

17/COU/067

County Councillor Report.

Cllr M Shaw welcomed the additional detail in the report but expressed disappointment that plans to transfer funds from elsewhere in the County had not been included.

Cllr Hartnell suggested that a town councillor should attend the DCC meeting to discuss the traffic orders and officers would advise councillors the date and time of this meeting.

Cllr P Burrows asked if the issue of parking in the loading bay in Beer Road could be discussed at the meeting.

Cllr J Rowland asked if Cllr J Knight could be invited to attend the next STC meeting.

Cllr H Sanham said that she would welcome more information about the new Cycle Way. Cllr M Hartnell said that this could be an issue to raise at the next Traffic Group meeting. Members agreed that Seaton Town Council would write to East Devon District Council to ascertain the costs of the Cycle route.

Cllr P Burrows asked that the Cycle Way route from the Underfleet to Harbour Road be discussed at the next Traffic Group meeting because of the blind bend resulting which is dangerous.

The Town Clerk made it known that she will be contacting Cllr J Knight to discuss the issues raised.
Members were also reminded that there is a proposal in hand to invite County Council candidates for election to a meeting of STC Full Council in due course.
Members noted the report.

17/COU/068  District Councillors’ Reports.
Cllr P Burrows asked for more detail on the support provided by the STC Dog Warden and the powers available to the Dog Warden. Members noted that the Town Clerk had met with the Dog Warden and that quarterly reports will be provided to the Community & Open Spaces Committee.
Cllr P Burrows said that residents needed to be encouraged to report dog fouling and that he has met with Janet Wallis from EDDC whose advice will assist Cllr P Burrows in producing a guide to dog management.
Cllr M Pigott asked for more detail on the Beachfront Management Plan. Cllr M Hartnell advised that once the consultant has been appointed there will be an opportunity for a stakeholder meeting and community consultation. It will be a fifteen-year plan and cover flood prevention, coastal erosion, add value to the seafront as an amenity and promote beachfront activity. The date of the next stakeholder meeting will be circulated.
Members noted the District Councillors’ reports.

17/COU/069  Reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies.
Cllr J Rowland updated Members on the recent meeting of the Larger Councils’ Committee on the Devon Association of Local Councils (DALC). The speaker at the meeting, Mr Andy Robertson, had outlined details of healthcare service transformation in hand for all of Devon and the consequences of a funding deficit amounting to five hundred million pounds by 2010 if changes are not made. It was noted that social care provision is a very large part of the considerations under way. Members noted that there was no decision yet on the closure of hospitals in the region.
Cllr J Rowland outlined details of a motion put to the DALC Committee to amend the Local Government Act 1972 to separate the roles of Mayor and Chairman on Town and Parish Councils.

17/COU/070  Town Clerk Report.
Members noted that the Parishes Together application had been jointly submitted on the part of STC, Axmouth Parish Council and Branscombe Parish Council. Visit Devon and Sidmouth Town Council will provide letters of support. If a grant is awarded it will go toward the cost of a Seaton Town app and the costs of distributing the Town Guide 2017.
It was confirmed the amount of money available through the Parishes Together fund for 2015/2016 would remain the same in the 2017/2018 financial year.
The Council had received a letter from H Bates concerning the services provided by the TIC particularly on the matter of supporting the accommodation industry in Seaton. The Town Clerk confirmed that there will be a meeting for all Seaton accommodation providers.
with the Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) in due course. The Town Clerk explained measures in hand with the DWT to enhance its role including the employment of a Visitor Experience Officer, training for volunteers, greater prominence for the TIC within SJ with a discreet podium, leaflet racks, and improved signage to the DWT inside and outside SJ with a flag and board. The Town Clerk will meet regularly with the DWT.

The Town Clerk is reviewing STC governance arrangements and our policy on press, PR and social media.

The Town Clerk met with Committee Chairman during the week commencing Monday 13th February.

The Town Clerk explained that she is seeking a meeting with EDDC Safeguarding colleagues and a Planning Officer to address issues at the Seaton Heights site. The Town Clerk will continue to liaise with PC Jenkins on the issue.

Members noted the report.

17/COU/071 Updates on Actions arising from Full Council Meetings.

It was agreed that an item on making Seaton a Dementia Friendly town would be added to the template as per a previous agreement.

It was agreed that from now on, the actions arising template would be provided to Members via email with one copy available at meetings to reduce photocopying costs.

Members noted the report.

Members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to enable Mr James Semple to speak to item 13 on the agenda.

17/COU/072 To discuss the installation of the Interpretation board at the Honey Ditches site.

Mr James Semple summarised the decision on the part of STC Full Council taken on 6th June 2016 to support the installation of an Interpretation Board at the site and the role of the Seaton Devon Trust (SDT) in managing the project. Mr Semple confirmed that the SDT will cover the cost of the board.

Standing orders were resumed.

It was agreed that STC maintenance staff would be asked to erect the sign at Honey Ditches.

It was agreed that once the level of funding which may be available from EDDC was known, the Council will consider further promotional activity for Honey Ditches.

Members noted that the minute of the Full Council meeting on 6th June 2016 should not have referred to STC undertaking ownership of the Honey Ditches site.

Standing Orders were resumed.
Motions for Debate.

1. Cllr P Burrows: That this Council looks again at the provision of the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) facilities at the Jurassic Centre in the light of the lack of space afforded. Different locations should be investigated so that a proper service can be provided.

Seconded by Cllr R Webster.

Cllr P Burrows raised concerns about the services currently provided by the TIC in respect of its situation, staff levels, opening hours and the quality and quantity of information available, particularly for older people.

Members discussed the services provided currently by the TIC and Cllr P Burrow's suggestions for improvement.

Members noted that the Service Level Agreement between STC and the Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) is for three years, reviewed annually and this is one means of ensuring continuous improvement in the service offered by the TIC. The next review is due in April 2017.

Members were advised that the Town Clerk has regular meetings with the DWT scheduled to motor progress and that the DWT is in the process of recruiting a Visitor Experience Manager to further enhance the services available.

The motion was defeated.

2. Cllr M Pigott: To provide an update on Devon Air Ambulance Community Night Time Landing Site and to ask the Finance & General Purposes Committee to look into any money left over from Community Grants to go towards it as soon as possible.

Seconded by Cllr P Burrows.

Cllr M Pigott updated Members on meetings with Devon Air Ambulance and Seaton Cricket Club. The community must raise £4,000 to support this initiative. Donations amounting to £500.00 are already on offer and Cllr M Pigott has made contact with Seaton Air Ambulance to make this initiative known.

The motion was carried. Members resolved to put this issue on the agenda for the Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting on Monday 6th February 2017.

3. Cllr H Sanham: To propose that the Council approaches Councillor Jim Knight to seek support for the Seaton Cycle Fest via his locality budget.

Seconded by Cllr K Beer.

Members noted that there may be alternative budgets which Cllr Jim Knight may be able to access as well as the Locality Budget.

The motion was carried.
4. **Cllr P Burrows:** To propose that this Council writes to EDDC to inform them that the proposed price increase of the Beach Hut plot hire, on top of last year’s 50% increase, will once again cause more huts to be empty during the season. We are still waiting for consultation with East Devon over the management of those in Seaton, especially as we have expressed an interest in doing so.

The motion was carried subject to the following amendment:
To propose to EDDC a zero percent increase in charges and to advise EDDC that STC is still very much interested in the management of the Beach Huts.

5. **Cllr M Hartnell:** The marketing & Events Contract is due for renewal in April. This leaves little time for the Clerk to fully explore and present options to Council. The Council has also committed to hosting a Cycle Fest event in July, which I believe would be seriously hindered if the contractor were to change two months before the event.

Therefore, I propose that the Marketing & Events contract is extended until the 31st August 2017 (by six months) to allow more time for the Clerk to explore options for the renewal of the contract, and to ensure that the Cycle Fest is not compromised.

Seconded by Cllr M Pigott

Cllr P Burrows left the room at 20.33

The motion was carried.

Cllr P Burrows returned to the meeting at 20.38.

6. **Cllr J Rowland:** To discuss proposals for a Community Land Trust (CLT) initiative (to host a public meeting to gage interest from those attending to organise and establish a CLT with no ongoing financial implications for the Council).

Seconded by Cllr M Shaw.

Cllr J Rowland proposed a public meeting be held at Marshlands on a date to be agreed. Cllr J Rowland will Chair the meeting and invite an expert speaker on the work of CLTs. Cllr Rowland invited other Members to take part in the meeting. Cllr J Rowland explained that grants of up to £4,000 are available and that the location of a CLT will form part of the Aims of the Trust.

The motion was carried.

7. **Cllr J Rowland:** To discuss proposals for an arts competition involving Seaton Primary School

Seconded by Cllr K Rye.

Members discussed the prospective themes for an arts competition and whether it could be linked to other events such as Seaton in Bloom as well as publicity for the competition via the STC website.

The motion was carried subject to the following amendment:
That the Community & Open Spaces Committee will be asked to consider this as part of its agenda.
8. Cllr J Rowland: To discuss a proposal that the Town Council writes to the Police and DCC Highways regarding speeding issues on Seaton Down Hill / Road to ask for an updated on previously promised action.

Seconded by Cllr K Beer.

Cllr J Rowland explained that actions are still outstanding on the issue of traffic monitoring; namely, to refresh signage and replace the current 30mph signs and to maintain monitoring activity. A repeat speed monitoring event is needed. The motion was carried.

17/COU/074 To discuss arrangements for the Annual Town Meeting
Members agreed that the Town Meeting will take place on Thursday 20th April 2017 at Marshlands, that the meeting should be advertised on STC’s website, that STC should invite suggestions for agenda items from members of the public and investigate options for a speaker.
Members agreed that arrangements for the Town Meeting will be an item on the next Full Council agenda.

17/COU/075 To discuss proposed Boundary Changes.
The Town Clerk read a letter from a member of the public strongly opposed to the proposed changes and of the view that this would be the overriding response from the people of Seaton.

The meeting closed at 22.00.

Chairman:

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Date:

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