



## Minutes of the Council Meeting of Seaton Town Council on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017

### **Present**

**In the chair:** Cllr Jack Rowland

**Councillors:** K Beer, P Burrows, M Hartnell, M Pigott, K Rye, H Sanham, M Shaw, D Squire, R Webster

**Officers:** Town Clerk  
Several members of the public  
One Press representative

### **66. Apologies for absence**

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

### **67. Declarations of Interest**

Cllrs Hartnell and Burrows declared personal interests as East Devon District Council (EDDC) Councillors.

Cllr Hartnell declared a Personal Interest for item 23 as he has a business in the town.

### **68. To agree the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July were agreed.  
(Moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Pigott)

### **69. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman read out his report and the Council **NOTED** the Chairman's Report.

### **70. Public Question Time**

Several Members of the Public spoke in Public Question Time:

Di Smith – spoke about the Seaton Colyford Road and the turning into Seaton Cemetery. She provided photos of a blind bend. Mrs Smith stated that local funeral directors also have a problem with this junction. She confirmed she has emails Stuart Hughes at East Devon District Council and other Councillors and has not yet had a response. There has been an increase in the usage of junction due to the cycle path. Lots more people have been coming into the area due to the Jurassic Centre and it is dangerous. There needs to be traffic calming to reduce the speed of vehicles.

Tony Smith – spoke on the same subject as Di Smith and said that traffic calming needs to be more widely considered in Seaton.

Cllr Martin Shaw said that he had seen the letter from Mrs Smith and is also waiting for a response from Devon County Council. He confirmed he will take up the matter with highways.

June Chrysler also spoke on traffic issues and said she had observed two cars nearly having a serious accident at the junction.

Howard West, Clerk to Colyford spoke on the hospital beds – he said that he had been at both Devon County Council Scrutiny Committee meetings and wrote to Neil Parish MP and Sara Randall Johnson as he had the impression that they knew what was going to happen beforehand. He said it was a lesson for future General Elections as have voted Tory but won't do it again.

June Chrysler also spoke on hospital beds – she met Neil Parish MP at a show and he said that things were happening in the background but gave no detail. If beds are closing there is a need to get together and sort out what is happening with the remaining facilities.

Diana Nason – said she has concern over whether the hospital building will be sold off. This would be legalised theft from the community as the community raised the money and volunteers who have given thousands of hours their time.

Di Smith – said it is vitally important to fill the hospital building

Judith Richards – asked if East Devon District Council are supporting the letter and request for a meeting with MP's Neil Parish and Jeremy Hunt. Mrs Richards said that she wrote to Jeremy Hunt to voice her concern but got an odd email back as if she was one of Mr Hunts constituents.

Cllr Hartnell confirmed that Jeremy Hunt has two email addresses. One is for his constituents and the other is in his role as the Secretary of State.

## **71. Police Report**

Council **NOTED** the information that had been sent by PC Jenkins. The Town Clerk updated the Council that PC Richard Jenkins is retiring towards the end of September and his replacement will be PC Adam Spears.

The Council **RESOLVED** that the Council send PC Jenkins a retirement card and to also send a letter to the Chief Constable to confirm what a good job PC Jenkins has done for Seaton.

(moved Cllr Pigott; seconded Cllr Rowland)

## **72. County Councillor Report**

Cllr Shaw read out his County Councillor report. He added that the fallout from the Devon County Council Scrutiny Committee meeting was ongoing. A number of formal complaints have been made to the Monitoring Officer and these are being investigated.

Council **NOTED** the County Councillor's Report.

### **73. District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Hartnell presented his report.

Cllr Burrows presented his report. Cllr Burrows said that he had received several complaints from the public regarding the Mendip Mule parking at the bus stop on the Underfleet. He was going to follow this up with Andrew Ennis from East Devon District Council and Highways to see if there was an alternative e.g. parking in the coach park.

Council **NOTED** the District Councillor's Reports from Cllr Hartnell and Cllr Burrows.

Council **RESOLVED** to write to Andrew Ennis and Highways to ask them to agree to the Mendip Mule using the coach park.  
(moved Cllr Sanham; seconded Cllr Beer)

### **74. Reports from Council representatives on Outside Bodies**

Cllr Sanham had attended the President's Lunch at the Yacht Club and gave a report on the Beach Management Plan and Sea Moorings Project. Cllr Sanham confirmed that a Seaton Town Development Team report on the Beach Moorings project will be coming to Council in September.

Council **NOTED** the report from Cllr Sanham.

Cllr Burrows stated that he had attended the Seaton & District Care Forum and that he had just sent the minutes to the Town Clerk to distribute to all Councillors.

Council **NOTED** the report from Cllr Burrows

Cllr Beer said that he had attended the Seaton Traders meeting, which had been well publicised but only 3 others turned up.

Council **NOTED** the report from Cllr Beer

Cllr Pigott said that he had attended the Seaton Arts Society event at the Town Hall on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August to judge the exhibition. Cllr Pigott encouraged people to visit the exhibition.

Council **NOTED** the report from Cllr Pigott

### **75. Town Clerk Report**

The Town Clerk gave an update on her report stating that the 'have your say' sessions with the Police had now been scheduled for September, October and November.

The Town Clerk also confirmed that a report on the Cycle Fest was going to the next meeting of the Communities Committee.

Cllr Sanham said that the dates for the Cycle Fest for 2018 need to be pencilled into the British Cycling diary asap to ensure that the date is held. It can always be taken out at a later date if the Council decides not to go ahead with the event.

The Council **RESOLVED** to provisionally book the date of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 with British Cycling for the Cycle Fest 2018.  
(moved Cllr Sanham; seconded Cllr Rye)

The Council **NOTED** the Town Clerk's Report.

#### **76. Co-option of a Councillor**

Cllr Rowland outlined the process that had been undertaken by the Council in terms of the co-opting of a new Councillor. He explained that the 3 applicants had met with the Council informally before the Council meeting and had given a five minute presentation as to why they wanted to be a Councillor and then were asked questions by the Councillors.

Councillor Rowland then made it clear that the voting on the candidate would now take place and the successful applicant would need an absolute majority of 6 to become a Councillor. He added that if there was no absolute majority after the first round of voting that the applicant in last place would be taken off the ballot and then the vote would be taken again.

The vote was:

Daniel Ledger = 5

Stephen Read = 3

Amrik Singh = 2

Therefore, a second vote was needed. Amrik Singh was removed from the ballot paper and the Councillors voted again.

The result was:

Daniel Ledger = 5

Stephen Read = 5

Therefore, the casting vote fell to the Chairman. Cllr Rowland voted for Stephen Read and, therefore, Stephen Read was duly co-opted.

Stephen Read will complete his declaration of acceptance of office at the start of the Council meeting in September and will then be a member of the Council.

#### **77. Foodbank**

Stephen and Lesley Page gave the Council an update on the Seaton foodbank. Mr Page said that the foodbank was there to help people in crisis and was at No 1 Harepath Road once a week. It is currently resourced by a team of about 7 volunteers. Mrs Page said that if a person is in crisis they are given a voucher from several sources including the Job Centre, Children's centre, Housing and Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB). 80% come via the CAB. Mrs Page explained the process once someone comes to the foodbank and said that the food given out is tins and packets only as they have no way of storing fresh produce and they are only operated once a week. Mr Page confirmed that they are experiencing a huge increase in demand. From August 2016 to August 2017 the number of meals issued has gone from

8,000 to 12,000 i.e. a 50% increase. Coupled with, this the contributions made by the public through the boxes in the Co-op, Pebbles, Tesco and churches are reducing. So, more demand but less food is coming in to meet the demand. Mr Page confirmed that he is asking Councillors and the Council to be aware of the issues.

Cllr Rye left the meeting.

**78.** Cllr Rowland proposed suspending Standing Orders to enable consideration of item 20 on the agenda.

(Seconded by Cllr Beer)

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal

### **79. Motions for Debate**

The Council considered the motion put forward by Cllr Rowland re Seaton Hospital

(moved Cllr Rowland; seconded Cllr Beer)

Discussion took place around:

- What the Care arrangements will look like
- The need to seek clarity as to what the care arrangements will look like
- Whether the meeting with Neil Parish MP and Jeremy Hunt MP could include representatives from other towns

Cllr Squire proposed an amendment to the motion – ‘and to seek clarification as to how future care will be taken forward’

(both Cllrs Rowland and Beer were happy to accept the amendment)

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree the motion - *Seaton Town Council is concerned by the decision taken by the DCC Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> July to not refer the CCG decision to close the hospital beds in Seaton Hospital to the Secretary of State for Health for a review. Representatives from this Council seek an urgent and direct meeting with the Honiton and Tiverton M.P. Neil Parish and the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt to seek the latter's direct intervention now in view of the flawed decision-making process used by the CCG and to seek clarification as to how future care will be taken forward.*

In respect of the motion put forward by Cllr Chadwick, as Cllr Chadwick had to send her apologies it was **AGREED** that the motion be carried forward to the agenda for the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The Council then reverted back to follow standing orders.

### **80. Committee dates**

The Council considered the report of the Assistant to the Town Clerk and considered each of the recommendations in turn:

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree recommendation 1 - The Communities and Open Space Committee meeting time is changed from during the day to the evening.

(moved Cllr Hartnell; seconded Cllr Webster)

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree recommendation 2 - Where possible, the Planning Committee be scheduled to take place on the same evening as one of the other Committee meetings e.g. Council, Finance & General Purposes, Estates, Communities & Open Spaces or Personnel Committee.

(moved Cllr Beer; seconded Cllr Shaw)

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree recommendation 3: The Council agrees that the meetings of Council, Finance & General Purposes, Estates and Communities & Open Spaces are not scheduled to be on the same evening (with the exception of an extraordinary Council meeting) so that the Committees can give due and proper consideration to the items on their agenda.

(moved Cllr Beer; seconded Cllr Hartnell)

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree recommendation 4: That the Council approved the revised schedule of meetings incorporating the changes outlined above

(moved Cllr Beer; seconded Cllr Shaw)

**81.** Cllr Shaw proposed that due to the length of time the meeting had gone on for that the remaining items (with the exception of agenda items 19, 22 and 23) be deferred to the September meeting.

(seconded by Cllr Sanham)

Council **RESOLVED** to agree the proposal.

**82. Free Room Hire Booking form**

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree to the free room hire booking request for charitable use

(moved Cllr Pigott; seconded Cllr Shaw)

**83. Confidential Items**

Cllr Rowland moved, and the Council **RESOLVED** that in accordance with the Councils Standing orders the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of agenda item 23 as there was likely to be disclosure of confidential information as matters were being discussed that could identify individual(s).

**84. Marketing and Events Contract**

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree with the recommendation made by the Personnel Committee.

(moved Cllr Burrows; seconded Cllr Hartnell)

The Councillors on the working group are Squire, Hartnell, Burrows, Sanham, Webster and Pigott.

Cllr Hartnell declared a Personal Interest as he has a business in the town.

**The meeting ended 22.00**

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

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