

Minutes of the Meeting of
SALCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL
held in the Library of Cliff House, Salcombe
at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 11th October 2017

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT * - Attendance; A- Absent; N - No Apologies Received

Cllr. M. Fice – Mayor (in the Chair)	*
Cllr Mrs C. Bricknell	*
Cllr T. Lang	*
Cllr R. Whitfield	A
Cllr Mrs L. Sinnott	*
Cllr Mrs M. Kemp	*
Cllr K. Baker	A
Cllr Mrs N. Turton	*
Cllr P. Lafftery-Holt	*
Cllr M. Long	*

Also in attendance:

Dist. Cllr S. Wright	A
Dist. Cllr Mrs Pearce	*
Cty. Cllr. R Gilbert	A
Gill Claydon (Clerk)	*
Pete Robinson (Cemetery Manager and Project Officer)	*
WPC Jo Pengilly	A
PCSO P. O'Dwyer	A
Charley Adams Kingsbridge Gazette	*

The Mayor welcomed Mark Long back onto town council as a councillor.

169.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to acknowledge any declarable interests, including the nature and extent of such interests that they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting. None given.

170.OPEN FORUM

Police Report – Emailed from WPC Pengilly. The police report for the last 30 days was there had been four crimes reported, 1 x theft from motor vehicle, 1 x theft from shop, 1 theft of a cement mixer and a failure to stop following a road traffic collision. This was compared to the same time period last year where there were two crimes reported. On Marine Crime figures this year it currently stood at zero for the Salcombe area.

District Councillors Report - Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce noted Dist Cllr Wright's apologies but advised he wanted names of representatives to attend a walk around with regard to a bin collection survey, street cleaning and weed spraying. Cllrs Fice, Kemp, Turton and Bricknell would do so depending on time and dates provided. Dist Cllr Wright had also been speaking to the farmers' market organisers in Kingsbridge and wished to know whether a trial market in Salcombe sometime might be welcome. Discussion was to where took place, Whitstrand or perhaps part of Batson Car Park or even Clifton Place. In principle the idea was supported but the question needed to be asked as to how many stalls, who/why types of traders would attend and then consider the venues. Firstly the Chamber of Commerce should be approached for their opinion.

Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce noted that the results of the One Council survey had been published this evening. The Mayor had seen this and noted lack of reference and inconsistencies with the response figures. After much discussion it was noted that a District Councillor had requested sight of the telephone survey questions, questions were felt to be 'loaded', the breakdown of the figures did not illustrate fully the South Hams/West Devon responses nor the difference in online and paper responses.

A 3% response whilst low was nationally seen as a good response as Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce noted that in Liverpool a survey with regard to rubbish collection only received 1% response.

This was to be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny the following day at 10a.m. and then it would go to Executive, then groups meetings to decide each group positions and a full council meeting on the 31st October Tuesday at 4p.m. to coincide with West Devon so neither knew each other's decision.

Cllr Lang raised the workers doing building work for District Council in Cliff House Gardens. There was a herras fence down in the parking spaces and yet there was no longer skip required but every night the workers put up their fence monopolising the parking so no one could park overnight. This was just selfish claiming of the spaces. They

did apply for a permit for the skip but all were unsure if it was for all this time considering half term was due. The area was nowhere near finished and yet the Remembrance Parade was coming up and these works needed to be expedited and Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce would mention this to Dan Field.

Cllr Long raised the matter of the outcome of the enforcement appeal on Salcombe Court. The Inspector had allowed the structure to stand but the interesting statement was that if the decision was just based on policy the planning would have been refused but because District Council was out of time for enforcement he did not. Time and time again District Planning looked at enforcement and they were wary to take enforcement but this case reinforced why Cllr Long felt it should be done immediately. Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce responded that the appellants raised the technicality with regard to time limit as a developer could build a crane frame as permitted works. Pat Whymer, Head of Planning, knew of this statement because it was within papers but disagreed. He said it was not permitted development as it was built before the planning permission to do the works was issued so was not facilitating works for which they had permission. Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce had today sent an email to ask if District was going to challenge this statement as it was a moot point that needed clarifying. The Mayor asked whether the Inspector took into account that the appellants put in 2 or 3 applications within that 'timed' period which they subsequently withdrew and surely this fact counted. Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce agreed as she had been pushing for so long on this matter although policy did not always enforce when a planning application was in. She would take this concern further. Cllr Long felt it still raised the issue that planning enforcement action should have been taken and then the applicant could have put planning in to regularise this. The mayor noted that to be fair there had been an improvement in enforcement as the list of outstanding cases had reduced significantly.

The Mayor had read that South Hams District Council fully support the latest project for reduction in plastic and recycling plastic. Therefore he asked if this meant there would be a review on plastic waste collection from households so that more could go into recycling bags. Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce agreed and as mentioned at the last meeting there were proposals in place at District that would improve this. Waste collection had been better since all black bag rubbish now went to the incinerator instead of landfill.

171.MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting dated 26th September 2017 were considered before being APPROVED by council and then duly signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

172.PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

The following applications were considered and such observations from town council submitted to District.

- 2901/17/HHO Householder application for first floor side extension, new pitched roof over existing garage and external alterations Vilette, Fortescue Road, Salcombe TQ8 8AP – No objection.
- 3111/17/HHO Householder application for first floor single storey extension Beaufort, Beadon Road, Salcombe TQ8 8JT – No objection.
- 3127/17/HHO Householder application for alterations to dwelling to include re-roofing the house to provide habitable accommodation at 2nd floor level, a kitchen extension at first floor level, a roof terrace and internal re-organisation to provide better access and natural light to the basement 30 Church Street, Salcombe TQ8 8DH – Objection. The proposed terrace would look straight into the backs of the other properties in Church Street causing overlooking and would also look more into the bedrooms of Island Street. This was felt to be an overdevelopment of a small cottage and the gable end could have a significant effect on light for the neighbouring property. It would affect the streetscene within this Conservation Area by the change of roofline and Juliette balcony.

WORK TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER TREES

- 3226/17/TPO T1: Quercus Ilex – Reduce limb and stem and height of stem over road by up to 3 metres to reduce stress on poor union, reduce limb over drive by up to 3 metres to shape crown and reduce likelihood of damage to phone line Kinrara, Sandhills Road, Salcombe TQ8 8JP – Objection and the information provided was questioned as it was unclear which limbs were to be worked upon. The works must be limited to the limb with a poor union on it that overhung the road and the limb closest to the telephone line could have reduction of branches where they touched the telephone line but not the crown. There should be no shifting of the crown elsewhere.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- Nothing further received.

173.OPEN SPACE

It was AGREED that;

- (a) Town Council authorise the Council's Solicitor
 - (i) to open negotiations with District Council to request the transfer of the whole of the land registered to District Council at the Berry; and

- (ii) to continue with the renewal of the lease of the Town Council at the Berry in the Berry in the meantime; and
 - (iii) to explore the transfer of Whitestrand Car Park or another source of funding to the Town Council as part of any transfer of land;
 - (iv) to report to a working party of the Council with regard to progress
- (b) Salcombe Town Council constitute a working party comprising Cllr Mrs Turton, Long and Mrs Bricknell and authorise the working party to liaise with the Council's Solicitor and report such negotiations and discussions to full council for their consideration.

Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce left the meeting.

174.PARK AND RIDE

Discussion took place with regard to the income being up but profit marginally down due to an increase in the bus cost. These were consistent figures year on year and it was noted that probably there were less people using the bus. Restaurants and businesses felt there was a reduction of people and perhaps people self-catered more.

A complaint received said that Salcombe should look to Dartmouth for its charges. Putting this into perspective parking cost £3.00 with a return bus ticket of £1.70 so four adults could park and travel to town for £9.80 whereas in Dartmouth it was £10 all-inclusive with no option to walk. There had been many comments about camper vans not being able to park for the day and visit. The barriers were installed to stop heavy vehicles going in and churning up the parking surface. Those present did not know what the answer was to camper vans but if they were to be accommodated in the car park it would need to be surfaced across the whole field which was not economically viable. Campervans had parked over in the Beadon estate and residents were upset. However it was noted that some campers parked there did use them to sleep in and this was not acceptable. If the campers were being used as a method of transport it would be good to see if town council could facilitate some area for parking but they did not want to open the park and ride as this would invite builders lorries and heavy vehicles in.

It was discussed whether a designated site to one side or potentially another field/site could be found for camper vans. Maybe a local landowner might utilise their land for camper vans just for parking during the day close to the park and ride bus from Easter to end of October.

Another complainant did not like diesel buses and suggested town council request the bus provider for electric buses. This had been looked into but no buses were capable of handling the hills and such cost to change would be immense. A councillor enquired if two buses were required all the way through the school holiday season as the largest loss was in July but it was felt that this provision was weather dependent and nothing could be done to know this in advance.

It was AGREED to research another area of land to rent for camper vans with parking meters installed close to the park and ride bus provision. At present it was felt that next year the parking fee should remain at £3.00. Further consideration was given to the visibility of the sleepers indicating parking bays due to the recent insurance claim. If usage meant that the contractor could not keep grass away from the edges then something must be erected on top to indicate their position more clearly. A further structure was not felt suitable and the grass would be cut back further (18inches) and weed sprayed more often.

175.MEDIA COMMUNICATION

The Mayor highlighted that Cllr Whitfield did an excellent job maintaining the website but was beholden on town council to provide regular articles. Councillors were asked to provide local articles. Due to changes in the council a Facebook page had not been created and this could be used to signpost people to articles on the website and highlight important issues as it was a good platform for communication.

It was AGREED that Cllr Mrs Sinnott would join the Media and Communication Working Party to take on the Facebook page administration.

176.GRANT FUNDING

Ideas for possible Town and Parish grant and Community Reinvestment grant applications were discussed although it was noted that there was to be a County Council change to the TAP Fund.

It was AGREED to continue to give this consideration and this matter would be placed on the agenda only when ideas come along to be discussed.

177.SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Cllr Long noted the draft open letter provided by the Harbour Board who had endorsed this at their last meeting. They were now looking for organisations to also sign it and go to the local media to show organisations around the estuary who were supporting this campaign. This would push this forward alongside other campaigns and encourage businesses to take part such as Anna Turns Plastic Clever project.

It was AGREED to endorse this letter. There was further discussion on if any other steps would assist such as carrier bag free, as in Modbury, but this was felt to be a trader's initiative. Primarily this letter would just encourage businesses and residents to look at plastic use. If initiatives then came along town council might be in a position to support, help and get funding depending on what the venture was.

178. CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

The representatives nominated to attend the District Council workshop in relation to Shadycombe and Batson Creek master plan were AGREED as Cllrs Fice, Mrs Turton, Long and the Town Clerk.

179. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reminded all present that this Sunday was the Civic Service and Civic Lunch and noted he needed someone to read a lesson in church which Cllr Mrs Turton agreed to. For Remembrance Sunday town council had no PA system due to the electrician being in hospital. Also a volunteer was needed to carry the music box as representatives marched up the road to the memorial and for the last post. Jim Gilbert was too old and frail to continue to do so. Jim had kindly advised the Mayor that the good news was someone from the RNLI would learn the operation of this equipment and carry out this task. However the RNLI had disagreed with this statement so a volunteer was now needed. The Mayor would make arrangements for refreshments to be laid on for the Devon Regiment at the Fortescue Arms after the service.

180. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Mrs Turton – Attended the Devon Association of Local Councils AGM and Conference. The AGM went through the organisation accounts and detailed achievements during the year. They then considered funds and proposed an increase of 2% in subscriptions which was approved with no challenge along with an amendment to the Constitution to allow only 40 councils to be represented at an AGM to ensure it was quorate in years when turnout were not so good. This year there were over 100 delegates.

The key note speaker was CEO of the National Association Dr. Jonathan Owen who gave a complete overview of their proposed projects for the year, lobbying of Government on topics such as proposed capping of town and parish councils and challenges facing the sector.

Ivybridge Town Council presented their current funded project to improve the health and wellbeing of the community by employing a social prescriber to act as a sign post into way to assist. The Town Clerk attended a superb workshop on local government Finance with a NALC advisor and raised questions with regard to VAT. Discussion took place with regard to retentions and residual liability and how to account for this. Also points raised deal with the Annual Return and good practice with regard to detailed financial statements on reserves, loan funds and the current Financial Consultation paper due to close on 24th October which refers to Capping. Cllr Mrs Turton attended the planning workshop which was more along the lines of Neighbourhood Planning. Both attended the afternoon workshop with regard to Heritage which covered Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings and ways to protect such an identify areas of historic interest within a community. After lunch Alison Hernandez Devon and Cornwall Police Commissioner gave a short review of her recent work and projects and then answered multiple questions from the floor. She raised awareness of Community Safety Partnerships, the call for representatives for the Councillor Advocate Scheme and Link Officers which was Wendy Rowden in the South Hams.

Cllr Mrs Sinnott – Cliff House Woods dog bin had been replaced with a new one. However it appeared that the old one had been left in the grounds but in fact it had not as Cllr Long advised it was going to be taken away but someone had taken it and hidden it. A tree at the bottom of Bushells Lane appeared to have been severely lopped. The Tree Warden would take a look and report if necessary.

Cllr Long – Wished clarification on the ongoing drains review by town council as so many were not just minor but completely blocked. It was explained that currently councillors were personally logging such blockages and were to collate all information to send to Cty Cllr Gilbert and Adam Key.

Cllr Lang – Noted a tree in Shadycombe Cemetery that needed work but this was on the Tree Report for action.

Cllr Mrs Bricknell – Had commenced work on the telephone box maintenance and repainting at Onslow Road. Pam Bennett had offered to assist.

CLERK'S REPORT.

- The leak from the window or roof within the Council Hall was still a problem and when it rained heavily it was creeping nearer to the electrics.
- Cllr Whitfield had advised that he had not uploaded the Town Council solicitor's PowerPoint as this would not be accessible to those without PowerPoint. He would turn it into a video and make available as soon as possible.

- Jubilee Gardens roadside wall had been repaired but, as previously mentioned, the remaining section was highlighted by the contractor as being vulnerable. This repair could be in the region of £2500 due to length
- Meeting to be held at Follaton House on Monday 27th November 6.30p.m. with Cllr Hart Devon County Council Leader and John Tucker District Council Leader to enable the Leaders to update and consult with town and parishes on the draft 2018/19 Budgets. Also a chance to raise other parish questions. Highlighted by Cllr Hart was the intention to change the rules for applying for the TAP Fund. Cllr Fice would attend.
- Attendee for the Devon Highways Parish and Town Council Conference at Rattery Village Hall Thursday 16th November .9.30 – 4p.m. No representative put forward.
- Dist Cllr Wright asked for a member of Town Council to join him in the review workshop covering street cleaning delivery in Salcombe. This was discussed and noted above in District Councillor report.
- Mark Capper District Council had advised that weed spraying had taken place April/May 2017 and would be reapplied from September onwards.
- Email forwarded by Cty Cllr Gilbert notifying of a Traffic Regulation Order currently being advertised to introduce No Waiting at Any Time in specified lengths of Beadon Road and St. Dunstons Road together with Community First Responder Permit Holders Only space in Market Street. Any objections or comments to be received by 3rd November.
- Notification from District Council received with regard to a request made by a resident to deal with a problem of vehicles, camper vans, boats and trailers using the layby area at Batson as free parking. District had considered this request and felt that the best solution would be to regularise the area as resident only parking with marked bays and was therefore writing to Batson residents to ascertain whether they would be interested in designated resident parking spaces on an annual permit basis. Feedback or observations from Town Council was invited and it was asked that this matter be placed on the next agenda.
- Hedge flailing would be carried out in the next week or so and any additional areas should be highlighted now.
- All equipment in the office required to be PAT tested for insurance compliance and this would cost around £85.00 for 28 units of equipment and would be implemented as soon as possible.
- Invitation received from Devon County Council to attend a workshop – Communities in Control to discuss how we work together to give Devon’s local communities a stronger voice. Tuesday 31st October 2017 10 – 4p.m. Coaver Conference Hall, Devon County Council, Exeter. Cllr Mrs Turton to attend.
- An offer had been received for a resident to survey footpaths and bridleways. This information had been passed by the Footpath Officer Peter Guy as he felt this might assist the town. Have someone who covers this extremely well and invite her to attend full council.

FINANCE AUDIT 2017

Notification received of an unqualified audit and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit will be completed and duly displayed.

Bank Balances

Current Account £474.00

Deposit Account £306,624.53

Receipts: None received.

Councillors APPROVED Internet payments to:

Greenspace – Approved renovation and redecoration of Shadycombe Road bus shelter £343.95

Greenspace – Maintenance Contract £484.00

Greenspace – Remove old seats and re-concrete in at Jubilee Gardens £210.00

Bayleaf Gardening Ltd – September Contract £546.98

Graham Fincham – Sign writer Civic Boards £110.00

M.J. Johns Builders – Reinstatement of fallen wall at Jubilee Gardens £1280.00

Cliff House – Hire of Hall for Public Meeting £60.00

SHDC – Bonfire Hill Bin Rental £33.00

Cheques: None

181.NEXT MEETING

The next town council meeting would be held on Wednesday 25th October 2017 in the Library at Cliff House, Cliff Road, Salcombe at 6.30p.m.

Meeting Closed: 20.47p.m.

..... 25th October 2016.

Town Mayor.