

Minutes of the Meeting of
SALCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL
held in the Library of Cliff House, Salcombe
at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 23rd October 2019

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

Cllr Mrs N. Turton – Mayor (in the Chair)	*
Cllr. M. Fice	*
Cllr Mrs C. Bricknell	A
Cllr T. Lang	*
Cllr R. Moore	*
Cllr Mrs L. Sinnott	*
Cllr G. Keeler	*
Cllr M. Long (also District Councillor)	*
Cllr I. Hatch	*
Cllr A. Hainey	A
Cllr M. Payne	*

Also in attendance:

Dist. Cllr Mrs J. Pearce	*
Cty. Cllr. R Gilbert	A
Gill Claydon (Clerk)	*
Pete Robinson (Cemetery Manager and Project Officer)	*
Tom Ladds Kingsbridge Gazette	*

The Mayor noted that she wanted to implement Standing Orders more strictly and explained how she wanted all discussions around the table to go through the chair.

1. 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. Cllr Long advised that he would not take part in planning decisions due to him being on the District Development Management Committee.

2. OPEN FORUM

The Mayor welcomed Chris Brook and Dan Field to the meeting. Dist Cllr Long advised that since the Whitestrand planning application was passed at Development Management Committee some open spaces changes had been made to address concerns of the loss of public realm. Plans were shown on the projector to show of what had been achieved with moving a few parking spaces. Dist Cllr Long went through each change and why it had been made and noted this was a good compromise with District Council prepared to lose four spaces at a cost of just under £6000. It was noted that on the previous plans there were 2 disabled parking spaces with one nearer the road and enquired why this had been removed. Chris Brook explained that with the number of spaces retained the provision required was one disabled space. A councillor felt that one disabled space was not sufficient as Salcombe had an older population who wished to drive down and look out to sea. Discussion took place on this point and the fact that some end spaces could be utilised by the disabled due to door access. Another question was whether the gap between motorcycles and the last parking bay and whether there would there be enough room for emergency vehicles, etc and the advice was yes.

It was believed this had addressed two of Town Council's concerns being the pinch point and public together with the perceived tunnel to get to toilets and how dark this would be. Chris Brook mentioned that these modifications had been included and that District was running a tender process and looking to start works in January – February 2020 with the demolition and excavation. Then March to June would be fitting out. The Mayor asked if works would impact on tourism. There were talks with contractors and they were working out what could be done using the area outside Captain Morgans but with the scale of fit out there would be some disruption. It was asked if Easter would be affected. Dan Field advised that current talks included a reduced workforce 30 March – 30 April, VE Day and Whitsun with one man band workers and deliveries only. On the question of how long the toilets would be closed Dan did not know as it depended on the phasing of works. One response was that portaloos came at a significant cost and the pub and other businesses had toilet facilities available. Cllr Long and the team were thanked for working to address the issues that Town Council had raised.

Mayor thanked them for attending and everyone looked forward to updates and dates when District was proceeding.

County and District Councillors Report

Dist Cllr Long reminded those who had not attended the earlier planning training that there was a repeat on 29th October at Malborough. There were good responses from those who had already attended.

Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce advised that Devon County Council carbon plan call for evidence started this day going on till January and was open to members of the public. There were six different headings and responses within these would be collated by experts who would hold hearings on webcast. They would deliberate on all subjects raised. They would then categorise input and form a plan so when the assembly was called, they would have a structured plan to work on. This message would be sent out on social media.

At the Executive next week, they would have the Supplementary Planning Document to the Joint Local Plan to approve this draft for consultation from 13th November to 6th January 2020. There would only be the one consultation and then any comments would be classified, and amendments included with the expectation to approve the document by the end of March. This would replace all previous guidance (apart from barn conversions) to clarify how policies were to be interpreted. The Statement of Community Involvement did not have to go out to consultation as it was law, but she flagged this up as a useful guide regarding consultations and what the regulation stages were. Overview and Scrutiny reviewed fees and charges by District Council and Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce noted that most had not changed and explained why it was not worth complicating matters due to three yearly cycles.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting dated 9th October 2019 were approved and then duly signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

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

- 2273/19/LBC Listed building consent for replacement of window, adjustment of signage and painting of window frames and door (Retrospective) 10 Clifton Place, Salcombe, TQ8 8BX – Response 15th November – Objection as for a Listed Building the colour was not felt to be in keeping and the installed removable window which would open up the frontage was not conducive to such listing.
- 2858/19/FUL New dormer and balcony including privacy screen Apartment 19, Bolt Head, Salcombe, TQ8 8LL – Response 15th November – No comment.
- 3116/19/ADV Advertisement consent for corporate style non-illuminated signage to retail shopfront 60 Lloyds Bank, Fore Street, Salcombe, TQ8 8ER – Response 8th November – No comment.
- 3138/19/FUL Removal of front flat roofed extension, external metal staircase, garage and raised terrace. New garage, external steps, landscaping and single storey rear extension with external improvements and alterations to two no. flats Rock Park, Devon Road, Salcombe, TQ8 8HJ – Response 8th November – Support.
- 3149/19/FUL Retrospective application for demolition of existing building and construction of new replacement dwelling and associated external works Plantation House, Bennett Road, Salcombe, TQ8 8JJ – Response 15th November – Objection against Neighbourhood Plan policies ENV1 and B1 in respect of impact on AONB due to light pollution from excessive glass. It was also against B1 as the design was not in keeping with area in which it was located and there was concern that wooded areas had already been reduced. The fence at rear of property was also felt to not be in the spirit of B1 as whilst not requiring planning permission comment was raised due to its height obstructing a public view
Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce explained there had been a previous householder application approved but when the contractor came to knock down parts, they found concrete cancer and had to knock down more. This was why this application was a rebuild and why it returned as a full application affecting the whole building.
- 3164/19/FUL Replacement/extended flat roof to provide new entrance and Sunroom and new flat roof covering to Flat 1. 1 and 3 Kingsale Road, Salcombe, TQ8 8AS – Response 15th November - No comment.

Dist Cllr Mrs Pearce left the meeting.

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER WORKS

- 3018/19/TPO T1: Sycamore - Crown height reduction by 24m to a height of 8m from ground level. Tree has shown increasing lack of vigour over last 2-3 years. Land at SX 727 374, Overbecks, Sharpitor, Salcombe, TQ8 8LW – Comments by 5th November – Support.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- Article 13 for planning permission address East of Bonaventure Road had an application for a house refused and appeal dismissed. It was explained that now a new notice for garages and associated landscaping work and this was put in the newspaper because the applicant did not own the land. No doubt in due course a planning application would arrive. Others at the meeting believed the land was owned and showed up on Land Registry documents and this would be checked with District.
- Cllr Long confirmed that Summerlease Drake Road application was going to DM on 6th November with site visit on Monday 4th November.
- A resident enquired regarding the development of the old Lloyd's Bank, which on the whole he felt had been done to a very high standard, had an air conditioning unit added on the rear retaining wall which was totally out of keeping with the area and he felt it could not comply with conservation rules. Cllr Fice felt there was information on the application which allowed installation of a unit and he would check.

5. POLICY

Updates from the annual reviews below had been forwarded earlier and were discussed with decisions below:

- **Open Spaces Sport and Recreation Plan** - Amendments/updating APPROVED as below
Courtney Park – Work done
Swimming Pool – District rejected chemical dosing – Remove.
Disabled and family changing facilities – Support in full and project in District process
Town trail – Retain for future project
Tennis Club – Removed
Island Cruising Club – Clerk to write and ask if this project was still viable due to the of the status club.
Egremont Trust – Remove
Salcombe Town Council Mortuary – District advised this was not a sports funded project. Following the Mortuary Group meeting they wanted to invite ideas for the building with initially noticeboard posters, Facebook message, website and notice at the bus shelter. The group would collate and bring results back to council.
All weather pitch – Project to remain for now.
Football Club – The South Devon League wished the club to play elsewhere which was possibly due to lack of changing facilities. They were now in the Premier League so it was highly unlikely they could return at present. Offer to be made to KM United. Project to remain.
Minibus Storage/Parking –Remove.
Hangar Marsh Reed bed North Sands – Project to remain.
Publicity of the review was to be made asking for interest for funding from other organisations directing them to the District Council application form process.
- **Emergency Plan** – APPROVED the changes of councillors names old and new. Cllr Moore volunteered to join the working group. The gritting map route was questioned although routes had been updated periodically. Mention of using a spreader for grit raised and Dist Cllr Long suggested talking to Malborough parish about their gritting machine and perhaps share? Storage of this amount of grit would be an issue along with how heavy it was to shift and move and having volunteers to do this. An approach would be made to County regarding how much grit could be acquired.

6. CHAPTER 8 TRAINING

Provision of training was AGREED with Cllrs Lang and Hainey together with Pete Robinson to be trained from county funding. There would also be additional attendees from community groups in Salcombe and Kingsbridge paying for themselves and any additional nominal additional charges for this day to be advised following training. Kingsbridge Town Council had provided the venue free for the day.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor attended the Mayors and Clerks meeting at Follaton House on the 10th October along with the clerk. It was highlighted that none of the actions from the previous Minutes had been dealt with. This would be rectified as soon as possible but they were reconsidering the locality officer post in the light of enforcement powers and other broader roles so this item would be held until more details were available.

Steve Mullineaux gave a General Service Update. They were anticipating a General Election in the near future so there would be a knock-on effect with regard to staffing and direct contact with District Council. Currently calls were up, with people wanting to be put on the Electoral Register. He confirmed the recent restructuring of the Senior Leadership team, and the following had been promoted as additional support for the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, Sophie Hosking.

- Chris Brook had been made Director of Place and Enterprise
- Drew Powell was Director of Governance and Assurance
- Steve Mullineaux was Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Customer Service Delivery
- Lisa Buckle was Director of Strategic Finance (S151 Officer).

They would now be considering the structure of the next layer down of staff and there would be some changes.

Steve Mullineaux also stated that they were customer focused and wanted to present a friendlier organisation. He gave an overview on using the locality officers to investigate waste tipping problems, missed bins/collection etc. For their contractor, FCC, it had been a huge learning curve and therefore a targeted customer service questionnaire had been sent out. Totnes complimented District Council contractors from their electrical team, and a planning conservation officer on a pre application matter, all of whom had gone above and beyond in dealing with matters. Kingsbridge praised Pat Whymer and Wendy Ormsby on their planning update training for their time and patience for what had been a very informative exchange. The Mayor asked for thanks to be passed to Dan Taylor and Sarah Moody for their assistance in turning around the waste bin problem in Salcombe.

Totnes Mayor noted that many of her smaller parishes had needed to take on additional duties such as lengthsman and hedge trimming and wondered about sharing such services with other parishes and whether District could act as a link. Totnes Clerk illustrated this by the fact that Totnes was investigating clustering with parishes to employ staff directly, as currently most paid £20 per hour for contractors to carry out general maintenance. Sophie advised that

following a recent meeting, which included the Devon Association of Local Councils County Secretary, she would suggest employing South West Councils for HR advice and policies.

Turning to Budget issues there continued to be no cap on the precept for parish and town councils at present. Sophie suggested that these councils might like to respond to the Government consultation on this precept point to say how it was needed and worked. At District they were expecting their 3% cap to be dropped to 2% or £5 whichever was the higher. The New Homes/Legacy payment remained and a Government decision on Business Rates on public conveniences was awaited although Government had not had time to debate this in parliament recently! District would allow this rebate to continue for now. There was a Council Tax Support Grant for building and a Rural Support Grant for these rural areas. Salcombe noted that there should be a support grant/rebate for cemetery rates and Sophie agreed this point should be raised in the Government consultation response.

Salcombe raised the issue of parking problems and particularly the County parking permits and how they affected the Towns. Totnes and Ivybridge were not impacted much, but Kingsbridge agreed that it caused problems for them. Dartmouth was not present to comment. Sophie would take this point up with Phil Norrey, Devon County CEO, as they were meeting soon. Initial Town Centre Meetings had taken place in Ivybridge, South Brent and Modbury. Ivybridge had received a lot of interest and responses to 400 questionnaires they sent out. Kingsbridge and Salcombe were yet to hold such a meeting.

Climate Change – District was writing an action plan to be ready for January 2020. It would be related to District Council, its building, staff etc to cover their carbon footprint. They would look at outside influences in the South Hams and once completed it might assist towns/parishes if they wished to consider their own plan.

District Council had published their commercial asset strategy with a 2% return, down to 1% if other benefits were achieved instead. They were looking at projects like a solar park outside Somerset where it was bringing in green ethical income. District was involved in the Devon Structure Plan, using Exeter University for 13 themed groups to gather information. For instance, within the draft Supplementary Planning Document there was a policy that said all new houses must have an electric car supply.

The Mayor was invited to attend the inaugural event on Friday 11th October held in the Harbour Hotel for Salcombe Live. She understood that the whole weekend went off very well indeed, and there appeared to be many visitors in town for it. On the 15th she attended, along with Cllrs Fice and Hatch, the Planning training event held at Malborough Village Hall, hosted by Pat Whymer, Head of Development Management at the District Council. It was very interesting indeed and well attended by most of the local parishes.

She then hosted the Civic Lunch on Sunday 20th following a well-attended Civic Service in church. She thanked all the Town Councillors who were there. It was a hugely enjoyable event, where town council thanked all the volunteer groups and organisations that made up this wonderful town. Also acknowledged was the amazing achievement of the Redfern Health Centre in being voted Number One out of the 6,859 GP Practices in England in the GP Patient Survey this year. To recognise this, they were invited to the lunch and took the collective “well done” back to the rest of the team. At this event town also presented the Citizen of the Year, Mr Tim Hore, with his plaque commemorating this wonderful accolade. He very skilfully used his acceptance speech to put out a call for more First Responder volunteers!

Finally she attended the Devon Association of Local Councils annual conference with the clerk. There were the usual speakers, and she attended workshops on Operation London Bridge and Climate Change and would write a full report for the next meeting. She declared she had personally won an Alexa Eco in the Devon Association of Local Councils conference raffle which could retail at £90.

8. COUNCILLORS REPORTS

- Cllr Keeler – Noted these road signs had been discussed in the past but the one on the way into Salcombe needed fixing as it was falling over. Also the road sign for Lincombe and Horsecombe had disappeared.
- Cllr Moore – He had asked at Malborough about vole/mole control but they were not sure they had anyone. Regarding pavement parking he had obtained the email address of the manager at County who would deal with this. Of interest was that there must be some part of the tyre pad actually on the pavement and 80% of the time County would do something within 3 days and 100% something would be done within 3 weeks. At the highways conference he complained about the park and ride parking meters being out of order and the need to repair. The officer advised that all meter problems were caused by snails as they got scrunched up inside. Parking machines must be treated to stop this problem and an email would be sent to Chris Rook. He had also put Salcombe down with James Bench for a parking review and had read some studies which showed parking permit schemes were no good.
- Cllr Hatch – Did not want voting for a deputy mayor to happen when he was away. He also raised the point District Council had provided partial plans relating to Batson and Shadycombe and a Freedom of Information enquiry by South Hams Society had raised this matter. Most were aware of this article.

- Cllr Long – Referred to the issue regarding works on Beadon Lane by a statutory contractor for Western Power. He had contacted the owner who was horrified by the scale of work carried out on his land and had spoken to workers and a manager at Western Power who advised they would reinstate the bank and do some planting. The scale of work was due to access required for their statutory undertaking and the owner of the field would follow this up to ensure it was done. The columns and wires were wider than before due to new regulations but there would be a gate at that point for access only for them and only into that facility. He had marked the dead elms on the allotments which had progressed in dying and were losing bark considerably quicker from poisoning than if they had Dutch elm disease. Town council would need to go out for quotes to get them felled over the winter. Pete and he had walked around town council tree areas and he had some ideas for Primrose Field and would work these up and bring back to council
- Cllr Fice – Received complaints regarding the Batson through Crofts footpath in that it was overgrown from the fields above and barbed wire was on the fence beside the footpath. The steps at Bennett Road end of the footpath through Plantation were covered in dead leaves and very dangerous from overgrowing foliage. He had sent out the figures for Park and Ride income but not looked at the day by day but August takings were down compared to the previous year. Therefore a day by day analysis would show evidence of loss of income due to machines being down.
- Cllr Lang – Felt there should be a Deputy Mayor in case anything happened to the current Mayor.

CLERK'S REPORT

- The Devon County Council (Traffic Management) Permit Scheme Order reference IMR/B16273-5781 had been advertised and feedback accepted until 18th November.
- Devon County Footpaths had advised that they would not be holding their annual workshop in October/November but had delayed this till May 2020 when the weather would be more predictable. They would also hold events about the management of trees to highlight what to look for to ensure community safety. There would also be strimmer courses run for others who wished to volunteer under this scheme.
- Sue Sharp emailed to thank the Town Council and the Mayor for her very kind words at the Civic Lunch about the service from Redfern Health Centre and to express how satisfying it was after all the hard work that the team put in for patients, that they received such lovely compliments. It made it all worthwhile. Carol Jones.
- An enquiry was received as to whether anyone knew, or had access to old town plans or maps and might be able to advise of the location of a house where the correspondent's great grandparents (Henry Phillips Cove and his wife Annie (nee King) Cove lived, and where my grandfather (Henry Edgar Cove), along with his 5 siblings were born. The children were born between 1884 and 1898 but it was not known how long they lived there prior to having the children. They moved from there to Island House which was where the grandparents and Uncle lived until the late 1980's and where the correspondent spent a lot of her childhood. The house name was Kingston Villa and on papers there was no road mentioned. The email was from the USA.
- The cost incurred in respect of the election on 2 May 2019 for Salcombe Town council was £96.12 to enable them to precept for payment in April 2020.

9. FINANCE

Bank Balances

Current Account £500.00

Deposit Account £410,805.00

Receipts: Devon County – Park and Ride £28199.48

Councillors APPROVED Internet payments for September to:

SHDC September Maintenance Contract £998.95

SHDC Flail works £483.00

Claydon – Travel Governance training and DALC AGM £58.52

HMRC – Tax and NI £787.26

NEST – Pension £177.01

Wages – September £1791.05

Turton – Mayor's Allowance Salcombe Live £14.00

Totnes Fire Protection & Signs Ltd – Jubilee Gardens Sign £34.25

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council would be held on Wednesday 13th November 2019 in the Library at Cliff House, Cliff Road, Salcombe at 6.30p.m.

Meeting Closed: 20.25p.m.

..... 13th November 2019.
Town Mayor.