

Minutes of the Meeting of
SALCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL
 held in the Library of Cliff House, Salcombe
 at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 23rd August 2023

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

Cllr Mark Goodey (Mayor)	*
Cllr Jasper Evans (Deputy Mayor)	*
Cllr Caroline Bricknell	*
Cllr Andrew Reed	*
Cllr Jess Denny	*
Cllr Eoghan Grace	*
Cllr Kizzy Sims-Stirling	*
Cllr Christine Milton	*
Cllr John Cooke	*
Cllr Craig Niven	*
Cllr Rob Wheeler	A

Also in attendance:

Dist Cllr Samantha Dennis	*
Dist Cllr Mark Long	*
Cty Cllr Rufus Gilbert	*
Richard Harding (South Hams Newspapers)	*
PS Peter Shotton	A
Sara Jones (Town Clerk)	*
Pete Robinson (Cemetery Manager & Project Officer)	*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Cllr. Rob Wheeler (prior personal commitment).

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To invite Members to declare any pecuniary interests and non-pecuniary interests that they may have in any matters to be considered at this meeting; and to note that a Member with a disclosable pecuniary interest, in any matter must, withdraw from the Chamber at the commencement of the consideration of that business or, if later, the time at which the interest becomes apparent, whilst also considering if there had been any changes.

Cllrs. Christine Milton & Mark Goodey declared an interest in Rockbox licence application.

3. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public are invited to attend and discuss matters relating to the parish; they are invited to speak for a maximum of 3 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.

Simon Gotch re proposed small Business Park and starter flats at Alston Gate, Malborough addressed the Council advising:

I presented final draft plans for a small business park comprising nine units of different sizes as well as four starter flats at the previous nursery site.

I spent eighteen months looking for a unit to rent or buy within ten miles of our home in Salcombe to no avail. It made me think of how frustrating it must be for local small business people who want work in this area, to launch new companies, expand existing operations or have somewhere to work or host meetings away from home.

It's also well recognised that there are almost no flats or houses available for long term let and the rise of Airbnb has reduced rental stock even more. The starter flats will make a small but positive difference and will only be available for long term occupation and for permanent residents.

When the old nursery came up for sale and I heard about Debs Ward's vision for the site it felt like a great opportunity to address these dual challenges. We want to achieve this whilst being sympathetic to the beautiful area that we live in, hopefully creating something that the community will support. We want to build a small, self-contained, high-quality employment and residential development, with excellent environmental and ecological credentials, built on a brownfield site on the outskirts of Malborough.

I aim to use one of the units to start a car storage business. this will create several jobs, and hopefully drive customers to other car related firms in the area as well as additional business for hotels, restaurants etc. We would also like to run classic car events, maybe an annual show and a club in time.

I invite the council to consider this proposition and would be grateful to hear comments and suggestions prior to submission to SHDC for approval.

Aim is to have the planning application in by end of September 2023

Access: worked hard on this; access will be through existing route i.e. where nurse went through and occupiers of the site will need to adhere to the restrictions put in place.

Niall Riall – ZEST update:

VOSA safety certification received – now pending V5 to come from DVLA. This then needs to go to DCC for them to issue their Operations Licence.

Haven't yet submitted funding application to Council, as they need to pull together definitive costs, Currently being thwarted by, and focusing on the electric charging issue – Old Hockey Club may be an option through SHDC, but this only has a single phase, which is not scalable. SHDC in discussion with SWEB to see if lines can be run into the Old Hockey Club; National Grid advised Nial that the substation is 40m away and thinks it may be feasible.

4. TO RECEIVE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cty. Cllr Rufus Gilbert

- Bennett Road gully – to be fixed next year – big job
- More enforcement on Bennett Rd carried out.
- If Council does decide on having fortnightly meeting (future agenda item), he will only be able to come monthly.
- Devon's devolution is pressing on – v complex.

Dist. Cllr. Mark Long

Nothing to report

Dist. Cllr. Samantha Dennis

- Delighted to report SHDC will be asking all business rate payers for proof they have a waste contract in place – short time frame to respond to this. This will ensure holiday homes have waste collection facilities in place for their guests, as currently there appears to be a lack of this, with guests unsure how to get rid of their waste – even putting them in street bins or approaching the Council and Salcombe Information Centre at the end of their stay asking where they can get rid of their waste. Phase 2 may need to look at holiday homes not paying business rates & seagull sacks being left out, once Phase 1 has been completed, and the resulting impact of Phase 1 being seen across the towns.
- Dartmouth will be having a banking hub; thanks to MP Magnall putting the submission in.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED to approve, as a true and correct record and the Mayor to sign, the Minutes of the meetings held on:

- i) 28th June 2023
- ii) 26th July 2023

6. DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSED ON-STREET PAY N DISPLAY PARKING

Cllr. Andrew Reed, who, along with Cllrs Christine Milton and Jess Denny, formed a Working Group for the Council to look at DCC's current proposal for on-street pay n display parking. He reported to Council:

- DCC are currently considering amending their free on street limited waiting period parking bays to pay and display. These will be operated by meters with app or coin facilities with a suggestion for single coin transactions.
- They are not looking to extend this to other areas unless the town council see fit.
- There will continue to be a free 30 minute initial period.
- Pay-and-display machines will have a maximum of four hour parking to encourage use of car parks, but to give time to use town facilities and allow churn where needed most.
- Seasonal variations will continue to apply.
- They are seeking comments from town councils and have issues alternative maps as a basis for discussion.
- Salcombe town council have set up a working group to review this and make proposals.
- Positive reasons;
 - Better and more widespread enforcement of parking spaces and yellow lines.
 - Rationalisation of some yellow lines leading to better traffic flow.
 - Part of comprehensive parking review.
 - Potential for more funding for signs, barriers, bus service, improvements, etc.
 - Moving with the times.
 - Better use of car parks and park-and-ride facilities.
 - Potential to control campervan parking.
 - Positive cooperation with DCC, hopefully leading to further participation and implementation of changes to traffic, parking, speed, and other town council initiatives.

Cllr. Jasper Evans commented regarding "part of comprehensive parking review" that it goes either way, "moving with the times" is questionable, SHDC wishes to enforce street parking and not said it requires meters, the Neighbourhood Plan nowhere suggests meters.

- Reason against;
 - Capital cost.
 - Maintenance cost.
 - Street clutter.

- Possible displacement of parking to other unmetered streets.

Cllr Jasper Evans commented that residents will incur extra parking costs and that several residents have expressed strong opposition, with all other Devon town councils, where meters are proposed, opposing the proposal. Public consultation is needed.

Cllr. Eoghan Grace commented evidence should be produced that meters will improve parking churn and traffic flow.

Councillors have seen correspondence between the other town councils and the points they raise include that DCC's proposal is thin on evidence rather than assertion.

- Town council working group comments; based on their initial thoughts for discussion with Full Council
 - The working group have prepared drawings to illustrate their initial proposals for the existing limited waiting parking bays.
 - The working group have also prepared drawings to illustrate ideas for additional pay and display meters to the west end of Devon Road, St Dunstan's Road, Sandhills Road and North Sands.
 - The Sandhills Road proposals include additional yellow lines to create passing spaces on bends and improve traffic flow and road safety.

Cllr. Christine Milton advised that the Working Group looked at this from the point of view of expressing an opinion so that DCC don't put their own ideas/plans onto the town ie for the town to be involved with the consultation. Cllr Mark Goodey asked Cty Cllr Rufus Gilbert what powers Salcombe Town Council has to stop the metered parking, who advised that he suspects it is none, emphasising that it is best to discuss and reach a compromise with DCC, rather than give DCC a flat 'no'. On being questioned further, he advised that if there was a big hullabaloo from all 8 proposed towns then the proposal could in theory be scrapped although he thinks Salcombe is the town that this proposal might suit. He was unable to advise if the proposal would still go ahead if Salcombe was the only town who agreed to it.

Councillors discussed timeline around the proposal with Cty. Cllr Rufus Gilbert advising that DCC has not set any specific deadline; just an ambition to see this project come to fruition, with towns signed up for it in the Autumn and in place by Spring 2024. He went onto advise that DCC have costed for this and although it will bring in income for DCC, this proposal will help to improve parking enforcement, which he said Salcombe has been crying out for – biggest complaint by Salcombe in the 10 years he has been representing the town.

Although Cty Cllr Rufus Gilbert has previously advised the Council that there will be a consultation process with the public; the Councillors expressed concerns around this i.e. wouldn't be advertised well enough for the public to be made aware, and therefore would like to see the residents consulted much earlier in the process. Cty Cllr Rufus Gilbert agreed that Council should consult with town even though there will be a traffic public consultation process.

Further ideas were to suggest a 2 tier seasonal tariff and request DCC ring fenced any additional monies raised through any additional parking income from adding additional streets by the Council.

Councillors discussed the need for a public consultation.

RESOLVED:

- Cllrs Jasper Evans, Kizzy Sims-Stirling, John Cooke and Craig Niven co-opted onto Working Group to review the proposals
- To co-opt some members of the electorate and local businesses onto the Working Group
- For Working Group to meet again with Chris Rook and Cty. Cllr Rufus Gilbert to look at the Council's proposed ideas.
- To carry out a public consultation with the community incl. residents and businesses.

ACTION: Town Clerk and Working Group

19:27 Cty. Cllr Rufus Gilbert left the meeting

7. FREQUENCY OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

This was moved by Mayor to be discussed as Agenda item 7

Council discussed the pros and cons of moving to fortnightly Town Council meetings and **RESOLVED** to postpone the decision. Will review again at September's Full Council.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

8. PLANNING & LICENSING APPLICATIONS

This was moved by Mayor to be discussed as Agenda item 8

See Appendix August 23 P

9. REPORTS

- Mayor

- 2/8/23 Attended Chamber of Commerce meeting
 - Spoke of STC's wish to prioritise parking and control of parking regulations.
 - Bought up DCC wish to target 11 affluent towns with metered parking.
 - Pointed out that STC would give consideration to the scheme only as part of a holistic approach to all the town's parking needs.
 - Chamber will be happy to assist in any way possible when any specific plans are issued.
 - Chamber expressed its concerns that the Salcombe Business Committee are not more actively involved with the Chamber
- 31/7/23 Judged the children's fancy dress for the Town Regatta.
- 7/8/23 Met with the Tennis Club and Stephen Alcock (and others) re closed footpath. Tennis Club will update the Town Council re progress by our October meeting.
- Councillors
- Cllr Christine Milton:**
 - Asked for help to ensure relevant signs are replaced/taken down when Park n Ride finishes on 3rd September. **Cllrs John Cooke & Jess Denny** offered their help.
- Cllr Caroline Bricknell:**
 - Raised the question regarding the future plans for the container, previously used by an electric bike company, on Gould Road. **Dist Cllr Mark Long** advised he will raise this with Assets at SHDC.
- Cllr Kizzy Sims-Stirling:**
 - Pleased to see that the newly erected barriers to protect people from using Victoria Quay are being effective
 - Pleased to advise that the reporting issues via SHDC's reporting portal is easy to use and effective e.g. reported a full dog bin, which was emptied the next day.
 - Will organize taking the bunting down w/c 4th September. Has been very well received with many people commenting on how great it made the town look.
- Cllr John Cooke:**
 - Raised concerns regarding S W Water's environmental performance with particular regard to discharges from Sherford wastewater treatment works, East Charleton pumping station, Shadycombe lower tunnel and Comminutor House CSO both at Shadycombe Creek in Salcombe as well as the Malborough Sewage Treatment Works that discharges into the Salcombe Estuary 430m from beach. He asked what Council could do to raise concerns. Advice from Dist. Cllr Mark Long is to write a public letter to the chair of SW Water and involved MP Anthony Magnall, as he recently hosted an open meeting with SW Water at Kingsbridge Library for residents. **Action: Town Clerk** for an agenda item
- Clerk – see Appendix 1
- Attendance at committees and other relevant meetings
Police report – see Appendix 2

10. FINANCE

- a) **RESOLVED:** payment of invoices, bar Heritage Preservation invoice for the repairs to the Mortuary Building. (see Appendix Finance Report 1)

The Council are waiting for Heritage Preservation to liaise with Council in order to go through snagging list. Also Council instructed for replacement of gutters and downpipe and although Council has not been invoiced for this, these works have not been carried out.

RESOLVED: To give Town Clerk Delegation of Authority to pay invoice, once Council has given approval via email, following satisfactory report back from Cllr Rob Wheeler, who will represent the Council, along with Pete Robinson, on these works.

ACTION: **Town Clerk**

- b) **RESOLVED:** Approved finance report/bank reconciliation (see Appendix Finance Report 2)

11. NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting will be Wednesday 27th September 2023 commencing at 6.30p.m in the library at Cliff House.

12. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED, in view of the nature of the business transacted at agenda item 13 and item 14, to temporarily exclude, in the public interest, the public and press.

21:22 Cllr Kizzy Sims-Stirling left the meeting due to a prior engagement

13. STAFFING MATTERS

NOTE: Minutes and resolutions for this agenda item are confidential

14. LEGAL

- a) **PARK n RIDE OPTIONS**

Council discussed and approved the next steps of the proposal for the future of the Park n Ride

NOTE: Minutes and resolutions for this agenda item are confidential

b) COUNCIL OFFICE SPACE

i) Council discussed the office provision for Salcombe Town Council with the reasons for supporting the proposal to lease the two offices being:

- Need for more space for more staff
- Need for an additional meeting room
- Working Group meetings
- Neighbourhood plan review meetings and display space.
- Discussion groups re Park and Ride and Pay and Display with display space
- Town Council meetings
- Community surgeries
- General meetings with outside agencies e.g SHDC and DCC
- Use for community gatherings
- Safe gathering space as initiative through South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership
- Second space available working with privacy
- Support for Cliff House
- Better accessibility for local community
- No other local options for prominent centre
- Rare opportunity to find space more suitable
- 24 hour access and CCTV
- Chance to provide space fit for purpose and fitting for Town Council
- Chance to create a welcoming environment to promote local engagement

The Council **RESOLVED** to relocate the Council's office to the offices, known as Front Office 1 (Council office) and Front Office 2 (Meeting room) at Cliff House.

ii) Minutes and resolutions for this agenda item are confidential while the lease is being drawn up.

iii) The Council discussed and **APPROVED** a budget of £14k for the refurbishment of the office and meeting room and purchase of office and meeting room furniture. The budget for this will be taken from the Civic Infrastructure reserves, currently standing at £305,814.69

Meeting Closed: 09:41p.m.

Mark Goodey 27th September 2023

Town Mayor.