

## CLERK REPORT FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

24<sup>th</sup> July 2024

### TOWN CLERK

- **Concerns about rubbish and overgrown park areas, hedges and footpaths** in and around town, as we come into the summer season, always increases. Individuals taking responsibility for their own **rubbish and their own boundaries** would help matters, but Officers and Councillors are doing their very best in trying to resolve this on a daily basis. Officers and Councillors are reporting when appropriate and are also working proactively with SHDC; meeting with their officers who look after Salcombe, to ensure a managed plan is implemented. Officers are also in contact regularly with SHDC gardening and maintenance team with regards to the **overgrown areas**, who respond to issues very quickly, along with DCC Highways. We are also currently liaising with a contractor regarding the cutting of the Salcombe to Malborough **Cycle path** and hope to have the long grass cut as soon as possible.
- Council has received concerns about **seagulls** being fed in town. Advisement from South Coast Avian Pest Control is that although it is not against the law, it is not healthy for the gulls to be fed, notwithstanding public health concerns and the seagull deterrent programme the Council pays for on an annual basis. The Council is currently liaising with SHDC on how the public can be informed with particular note to:
  - Our food is not good for them. Feeding any wild birds or animals with human food affects their health.
  - It encourages them to come further inland into our towns, where they may nest and cause potential damage to buildings (and where some people may consider them to be a nuisance).
  - Gulls associate people with food, they can't tell the difference between someone who intends to feed them and someone who doesn't.
  - If gulls attempt to snatch food, it can be frightening, particularly for small children.
  - Wild animals and birds can carry diseases such as e-coli and salmonella.
  - Gulls are very protective of their young and may attack people they perceive as a danger.
  - We need to break their habits and encourage them to hunt in their natural habitat, by limiting their access to our food.
  - Throwing food is classed as littering.
  - Concerns have been raised by residents to Councillors regarding St Austell's recent licencing application for **The Victoria Inn**.
- Council has met with stakeholders including the police and SHDC regarding the **Park and Ride bus route** and will be meeting with residents about their concerns in August.
- Concerns were raised over a recently installed **air con unit** protruding from a house at Gould Road with Shadycombe Road. Advisement from DCC Highways has been sought, which from their perspective is that as the unit is not fixed to the highway, it is only above it, it is not materially affecting the substance of the highway.
- Concern raised over **spilt oil** on Fore Street (outside Mountain Warehouse). Dist Cllr Mark Long looked into a mechanical street cleaner for this. This was cleaning Fore Street/Cliff Road this morning.
- Currently working on the **Internal and External Audit for 2023/24**

It is the busy season and I give my personal **thanks to the Council's Project Officer and Administrator** for their unwavering support and hard work in reporting issues, responding to residents' concerns and dealing with the day to day operational side of the Council.

### PROJECT OFFICER'S ACTIVITY

- Daily – Email, admin and general office tasks.

- Weekly – Check Mortuary Building & Jubilee Gardens Playground & record
- **Liaising with Grounds Maintenance Team** – Multiple issues.
- **Tree Walk 2024** – Walked the boundary and paths through STC grounds looking for defects and checking condition of ash trees. Report circulated for Councillors to review at July's Town Council meeting.
- **Double Yellow Lines at Ember Road** – Liaised with parties concerned. Seems no further action from DCC and STC resolved not to fund planters. Resident informed.
- **Scribe Cemetery Evaluation.** Requested further information relating to data ownership and recovery. Additional information and recommendation & costs to be presented again to full council at July's meeting.
- Reviewed and updated **STC cemetery records** in preparation for audit. Auditor declined to see the cemetery records, as he had concluded from his last visit that an acceptable record system was in place.
- The wooden barrier at Salcombe to Malborough Cycle/Footpath at Jubilee Gardens replaced. This was reported some months ago and had eventually collapsed. Now replaced. A way sign was also re-sited recently, as it was left in the wrong place when Footpath 2 was rerouted down the cemetery path.



- Liaised with SDHC regarding abandoned Range Rover in the P&R field – vehicle can be removed after 29th July if not acknowledged by the owner by then, as a final notice has been attached to the vehicle. SHDC will remove the vehicle once advised it is still there after the deadline.



- Completed and sent out **P&R specification to contractors**. Currently 2x responses. One already seen on site, another planned for next week. Still awaiting a response from DCC with regard enforcement notices at the P&R despite a 2<sup>nd</sup> email chase.
- Liaised with DCC Public Rights of Ways Officer regarding **footpaths in and around Salcombe**. Also, discussed ownership of **grass cutting of the Salcombe to Malborough footpath** and possible future activity to remove thorn bushes and replace with other suitable bushes (to prevent puncture issues). Further negotiated cutting of the Salcombe Section by Malborough's contractor who will be engaged to cut the entire length of the verges. Await confirmation from the contractor (23/7)
- **Council Hall Railings** - Liaising with Insurers and contractor who will do the repair.
- **Cliff House Footpath** – Dealing with report of collapsing wall and general state of the footpath. Repair still pending – all interested parties informed.
- **Ember Road double yellow lines (DYLs)**. DCC will not redo DYLs and will not finance planters. STC have also resolved not to pay for planters.
- **Attended a walk through Salcombe with SHDC officers** from The Over 60s to Cliff House Gardens to **review rubbish hotspots and the general state of the town** starting in Fore Street to **kick off a project to lift the town**. Once the main issues and areas of concern are addressed the

project will be expanding to other areas of the town. Officers are feeding hotspot pictures into the team to help them understand the areas that need more work. The project focus has been on Fore Street and has led to Saturday overtime attendance on two consecutive weekends. We have also seen the **mobile street sweeper** come through Fore St and now understand that **brown sacks** left by bins belong to SHDC teams and will be collected by SHDC's bin emptying round. There is a plan to park the street sweeper in Salcombe full time, as it is impractical to drive it from Totnes and it is not intended for that sort of daily journey.

- During the above activity I raised the fact that items that have been flagged could get worse if not attended to, one of these being the coping stones on top of the wall at Clifton Place. STC had reported this to SHDC and it was only on this walk through that I discovered the wall had been repaired. There are a number of times when complaints have been made and STC officers are not aware they have been completed, when it would have been useful, e.g. the road cleaning at Batson Green. Raised with Cllrs Dennis & Long the need for feedback when jobs are completed.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S ACTIVITY**

- Updating of Planning agenda compilation
- Licencing
- Minutes
- Daily - office administration – Town Clerk email inbox
- Reporting and Monitoring of 'reported issues' on SHDC / DCC portals
- **Remembrance Parade** road and carpark closure preparation
- **Drop-in surgery** schedule
- Ongoing miscellaneous resident and visitor email queries
  - Motorhome parking with blue badge
  - Disabled scooter access on pavements/roads
  - Overgrown vegetation on various sites
  - A dangerous overhanging bramble from Cliff House Woods
  - Highways obstructions
- **Wales and West report issue** / Closure of Main Road for 3 months
- **St Stephen's Green sewer installation**