



Seaford Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the **Full Council** held at the Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford on **Thursday 15th January 2015** at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Councillor M Brown (Mayor), Councillor T Goodman (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, B Burfield, S Dunn, P Franklin, S Gauntlett, P Heseltine,
A Latham, L Lord, S McStravick, B Warren and A White.
James Corrigan, Town Clerk – Seaford Town Council
Oliver Stanyard, Business Manager – Seaford Town Council
Georgia Raeburn, PA to the Town Clerk – Seaford Town Council (minutes)
Police Sergeant Stuart Mullins

14 members of the public.

C115/01/15 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Cork, B Groves, A Hayder and R Needham, and the Young Mayor, Millie Hemsley.

Absent: Councillors L Wallraven and I White.

C116/01/15 Disclosure of Interests

No declarations were made of discloseable pecuniary interests or interests other than pecuniary interests as defined under the Seaford Town Council Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011, in relation to matters on the agenda.

C117/01/15 Public Participation

Debbie Ward (Seaford Residents' Voice) *Quoted from the Golf Committee Minutes on 2nd December 2014, minute reference GC27.1, and asked if this had been reported to the Police and if Councillor I White was subject to any Police investigation or Code of Conduct investigation due to his involvement and not having reported it at the time? Also asked if the Council could be confident that other items or documents had not been unlawfully removed?*

Town Clerk Confirmed that he had made enquiries with the former Town Clerk who stated that the document was a list of things to do that she had stated that she had produced it in her own time on her own computer making it her property, so she destroyed it when she left the Council.

The Clerk also confirmed that he had spoken with the Police about the matter who felt it would be unlikely that any criminal acts could be proven. Work is ongoing to find out whether other items have potentially been unlawfully removed.

Philip Boorman *Asked what the Council's view was on Councillors arguing and showing threatening behaviour towards members of the public on social media sites?*

Town Clerk The Town Clerk confirmed that any individual is at liberty to report a suspected breach of the Code of Conduct to the Monitoring Officer at Lewes District Council, who deals with such matters. The Clerk agreed to pass on the Monitoring Officer's details to Mr Boorman.

C118/01/15 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** and **ADOPT** the following minutes:

- C118.1** Finance & General Purposes Committee – 16th October 2014
- C118.2** Planning & Highways Committee – 30th October 2014
- C118.3** Full Council – 6th November 2014
 It was **NOTED** that minute ref C114/11/14 should read MSc.
- C118.4** Planning & Highways Committee – 20th November 2014
- C118.5** Community Services Committee – 27th November 2014
- C118.6** Golf Committee – 2nd December 2014
- C118.7** Planning & Highways Committee – 11th December 2014
- C118.8** Finance & General Purposes Committee – 18th December 2014

C119/01/15 Mayor's Report

Members considered report 182/14.

Mayor Brown conveyed his thanks to Councillor Franklin and his work team for their voluntary help transporting the seating for the M&Co Fashion Show.

Mayor Brown confirmed that he is planning to hold a Mayor's Bow Tie Ball on Saturday 2nd May in the new Seaford Head Golf Clubhouse. Tickets will be on sale to Councillors and members of the public. There will be a prize for the best fascinator and best bow tie as well as a raffle, Dutch auction and other activities.

Members **NOTED** the contents of the Mayor's Report.

C120/01/15 Young Mayor's Report

Members **NOTED** report 183/14 presenting the Young Mayor's Report.

It was **AGREED** that a thank you letter should be sent to the Young Mayor from the Council for her report and the work done/events attended so far.

C121/01/15 Clerk's Report

Members considered report 156/14.

C121.1 Devolution

It was clarified that there will be no risk of the devolution of open spaces having an impact on the total Council Tax paid by residents of Seaford. Seaford's open spaces maintained by LDC cost £49,278 per year to maintain. Tax payers will note that on the Council Tax bill has a Special Expenses line, the sum of all Seaford residents payments equates to the above figure. If any parcels of land were to be transferred therefore from



LDC to STC the Special Expenses would reduce by the same amount per household that the Town Council household bill would go up by.

C121.2 Splash Point

Tim Bartlett, Principal Environmental Health Officer at LDC, has approached the Clerk with a wish to arrange a meeting between various parties and individuals to discuss Splash Point and its future, given that no legal ownership can be traced.

At this meeting the Clerk will feed in concerns raised by members as to whether or not the structural integrity of the cliffs needs to be looked at.

C121.3 Golf Course

The Clerk confirmed that the only significant delay on opening the clubhouse is getting the heating commissioned. This process is under way and will take about 20 days. The Clerk hopes to have an update early next week on how the commissioning is going.

Interviews are underway for members of staff for the clubhouse.

The Section 38 Agreement is still currently with ESCC further to a resident requesting a change be made. Once STC has the amended agreement STC will then need to gain all seven property owners signatures again (one of which is yet to be located within the USA) which will be a lengthy process.

C121.4 The Clerk clarified that he planned to report back to Full Council on 9th April with regards to a plan/mission statement for the Council going forwards. A report will also be going to the Finance & General Purposes Committee in due course about alternative funding options available to the Council.

C121.5 The Clerk confirmed that he has been considering ways in which to build on the communication with the public.

Newsletter;

While Council did resolve not to allocate further funds to distribute the quarterly newsletter more widely, it is available on the website and at various commercial locations around town.

Annual Town Survey;

The Clerk is also looking at the possibility of having an annual town survey, possibly done through Survey Monkey, to help promote the Council and gain an idea of the residents' satisfaction of the services. A report will be brought to Full Council in April on this topic with a view to potentially carrying it out in summer 2015.

Town Guide;

It was confirmed that there are 1,500 copies of the Town Guide held in the Council office and available for collection from the Tourist Information Centre.

Press Releases;

Members noted the high quality and increased frequency of the press releases being done and thanked all staff for their input.

C121.7 The Town Forum will be taking place on Tuesday 28th April 2015.

- C121.8** It was **AGREED** to convey thanks to Len Fisher for all his recent assistance and to Lucy Clark, Support Services Manager, for all her hard work surrounding the VAT investigation.
- C121.9** It was confirmed that the Seaford App should be ready very soon. Impact Seaford have worked on this project and since partnering with Seaford Chamber of Commerce have been able to produce what will be a comprehensive and professional town app.
- C121.10** It was **NOTED** that the financial implications of the Clerk's Report should in fact read £750.00 for the recommended repairs on Splash Point.
- C121.11** It was **RESOLVED** to **AUTHORISE** the Town Clerk to spend up to £750.00 from Council reserves to repair the existing crack at Splash Point.
- C121.12** The contents of the report were **NOTED** and priorities **AGREED** to.

C122/01/15 District & County Council Update

- C122.1** Councillor Carolyn Lambert (East Sussex County Council) –
Gave a verbal update on Central Government's provisional settlement for County Councils and the 13.7% reduction in the grant; the Caffyn's site planning application being opposed at District; the four highways hotspots that she is continuing to push for action on including Belgrave Road, which is being re-assessed; and the Vale Road resident's meeting, the outcome of which was to request that Seaford Town Council consider a request for it to fund a 24/7 speed survey on the road. Cllr Lambert will liaise with the Town Clerk on this matter.
- C122.2** Councillor Sam Adeniji (Lewes District Council) –
Informed the meeting that there had been a change of venue for one of the public examination days of the LDC Core Strategy; Wednesday will be in Pelham House, Lewes, and the rest at the Amex Stadium, Brighton. The Core Strategy is being assessed by the Planning Inspector, which is an important stage of the strategy's development.
Confirmed that he is still waiting to hear for a response from LDC Chief Executive regarding the situation with McCarthy & Stone and also the 'We're Watching You' dog campaign.
- C122.3** Councillor Paul Franklin (Lewes District Council) –
Gave an update on the tourism review being carried out by LDC, which should hopefully improve the accessibility of the tourist information centres, including Seaford's.

(County Councillor Lambert and a member of the public exited the meeting)

C123/01/15 Police Report

Police Sergeant Stuart Mullins gave a verbal presentation of his Police Report that had been circulated to all members ahead of the meeting.

The initial results from the review of Sussex Police is due soon. This review forms part of a creating a four year plan; Sgt Mullins has been advised not to expect any significant changes at this time. Seaford Town Council would be kept updated where local policing is affected.

Sergeant Mullins confirmed that the Police are working with Seaford Town Council with regards to the recent vandalism of the seafront shelters and also that his team do monitor social media sites where possible and will put the record straight if able to.

(Sergeant Mullins left the meeting and a short break was taken from 8.02pm to 8.10pm)

C124/01/15 Final Budget Report for 2015/16 and Setting of Precept

Members considered report 192/14.

C124.1 The Town Clerk gave a summary of the process taken to present the budget to Full Council, the situation regarding the Golf Club's finances and the financial unknowns that STC potentially faces over the coming financial year; Hurdis House, VAT reclaims, Seaford Head Golf Club and the pending Employment Tribunal. The Clerk was however able to announce that the Inland Revenue have accepted the VAT appeal and has allowed the Council to reclaim all VAT on the Golf Club rebuild which will amount to £340,000.

C124.2 The Clerk highlighted that a 3.9% increase on Council Tax would create a contingency fund of £30,514, as a fund to try and offset any of the financial unknowns coming to fruition. Each 1% taken off the increase on the Council Tax equates to roughly £5k less in the contingency fund. A 0% increase would leave approximately £10k in the contingency fund.

Members had an in depth discussion surrounding the options and figures available on the budget and Precept for 2015/16, including the staffing structure regarding the projects and facilities of the Council.

Members discussed the impact of setting a 0% increase, the risks it would bring and ways in which to reduce those risks.

It was **PROPOSED** to **AGREE** to setting a precept of £521,314, from a Council tax increase of 0%.

A **RECORDED VOTE** was requested:

Cllr S Adeniji	For
Cllr R E Allen	For
Cllr M Brown	For
Cllr B Burfield	For
Cllr S Dunn	For
Cllr P Franklin	For
Cllr S Gauntlett	For
Cllr T Goodman	For
Cllr P Heseltine	For
Cllr A Latham	For
Cllr L Lord	For
Cllr S McStravick	For
Cllr B Warren	For
Cllr A White	For

The **MOTION** was **CARRIED** (14 for).

C124.3 It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the budget as presented, with a contingency fund of £10,183 to support the 0% increase.



C124.4 It was **RESOLVED** to **AUTHORISE** Council Officers to place the correct grounds maintenance figures in the budget when they are supplied and transfer any surplus funds to a contingencies budget.

C124.5 It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** that the Council creates an earmarked debt for any net cost for the Golf cost centre, projected to be approximately £124,609.

It was confirmed that it was in the 2016/17 projections for the new golf clubhouse to be able to begin repaying this debt and that 100% of any profit, after any obligations, would go to repaying the debt.

C124.6 It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** to the Town Clerk utilising the professional earmarked reserves to secure additional casual support for the facilities and projects of the Council.

C125/01/15 Freedom of the Town Update

Members **NOTED** the contents of report 184/14 providing an update on the Freedom of the Town process to date.

C126/01/15 Local Council Award Scheme

Members **NOTED** the contents of report 185/14 giving an introduction to the new Local Council Award Scheme.

C127/01/15 Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Members considered report 185/14.

C127.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **ESTABLISH** a Neighbourhood Plan working group consisting of Councillors S Adeniji, M Brown, T Goodman, L Lord and S McStravick, to look in to a neighbourhood plan for Seaford, reporting back to Council at a later date with a detailed plan of what is entailed, methodology, financial and resource implications as well as timescales.

C127.3 It was **AGREED** to permit the working group to co-opt external members as it deems necessary.

C128/01/15 Cuthbert Bromley VC Commemorative Paving Stone

Members considered report 188/14.

C128.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the installation of the commemorative paving stone at the War Memorial on Sutton Park Road.

C128.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to East Sussex County Council that an unveiling ceremony take place on the nearest Sunday to 13th August 2015 (the centenary of his death) and to apply for full road closure for a parade followed by a church service.

C129/01/15 LGPS Employer's Discretions Policy

Members considered report 189/14.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the written statement of its policy in relation to the exercise of its discretionary functions.

C130/01/15 South Hill Barn

Members considered report 190/14.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** that a total of £8,500 be taken from General Reserves to meet the cost of roof repairs and associated works to South Hill Barn.

C131/11/15 Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion on item 18 on the agenda as the items concern confidential Council matters.

(All remaining members of the public exited the meeting.)

C132/01/15 Hurdis House

Members considered exempt report 191/14.

C132.1 Members wished to convey their thanks to Len Fisher for such a comprehensive and informative report.

C132.2 Members discussed the options available and the financial implications of each. It was **PROPOSED** to try to sell Hurdis House.

A **RECORDED VOTE** was requested:


Cllr S Adeniji	Against
Cllr R E Allen	For
Cllr M Brown	For
Cllr B Burfield	Against
Cllr S Dunn	Against
Cllr P Franklin	Against
Cllr S Gauntlett	Against
Cllr T Goodman	For
Cllr P Heseltine	Against
Cllr A Latham	For
Cllr L Lord	For
Cllr S McStravick	Against
Cllr B Warren	Against
Cllr A White	For

The **MOTION** was **NOT CARRIED** (6 for 8 against).

C132.3 It was **RESOLVED** to **INSTRUCT** Council Officers to arrange to advertise Hurdis House for rent in its current condition, with the covenant of the tenants carrying out the necessary works in exchange for a long lease and reductions in rent payments, reviewing the situation again in six months' time if a tenant is not found;

And, for Council Officers to continue to look in to the funding options to cover the costs of renovation in case a tenant is not found in the six months. This process would be completely non-committal at this stage.

The meeting closed at 9.58pm.


Councillor Mark Brown
Mayor of Seaford

