



Seaford Town Council

Minutes of a meeting of Seaford Town Council's Community Services Committee on Thursday 25th November 2021

Held at Seaford Head Lower School at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillors O Honeyman (Chair) and L Wallraven (Vice-Chair)

Councillors N Adil, J Cash, S Dunn, J Edson, MA Hayder and J Meek.

Adam Chugg, Town Clerk

Tony Jackson, Projects & Facilities Manager

Zoe Polydorou, Projects Officer

Karen Singleton, Responsible Financial Officer

Georgia Raeburn, Executive Support Officer

There were six members of the public in attendance.

Councillors S Adeniji and R Honeyman were in attendance in the public gallery.

CS09/11/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Everden and R Hayder.

CS10/11/21 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interests.

CS11/11/21 Public Participation

<i>Resident A</i>	<i>Speaking on agenda item 8 about mowing regimes on green spaces. Involved for many years with Trees for Seaford and at the start of 2021 the set up of the new community group, On The Verge, with the aim to increase biodiversity in Seaford. Working with the Town Council to put together recommendations for mowing regime. Want green open spaces to work for people as well as wildlife. Simple changes, save money yet dramatically increase biodiversity value of parks. Referenced findings in 2014 study in Saltdean. Feels Town Council should lead by</i>
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	<i>example by creating areas that can be source of inspiration for residents to recreate in their own gardens. Urged Town Council to support proposals.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked for their contribution.
Resident B	<i>Speaking on agenda item 8. Part of On The Verge and trustee of Seaford Environmental Alliance. Insects suffering catastrophic drop in numbers. Managing grasslands by allowing plants to flower will make enormous difference, and in abundance of food for pollinators. Need multiple areas of flowers, plants and grass across town to provide green corridor to feed insects and in turn pollinate food crops. Working to support residents in achieving same aim, including following No Mow May policy. Town Councillor came up with idea to encourage one metre square dedicated to wildlife. On The Verge been working with schools and also mapping areas. Feels Town Council needs to set example by managing its own green spaces for its wildlife and doing bit for carbon and climate crises. Referenced findings of differences in root systems when comparing regularly mown and non-mown grass.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked for their contribution.
Resident C	<i>Speaking on agenda item 8. As a biologist and gardener who has lived in Seaford for 16 years – saw first grasshoppers in garden last year and even more this year. This is due to grass strip behind garden being mown on a Meadow Cut policy. Can see benefits of this on wildlife. Walkers can still use the path, dogs enjoying playing in the longer grass and insects thriving. Feels renaturing is already starting to work in Seaford and improving biodiversity.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked for their contribution.
Resident D	<i>Speaking on agenda item 8 as a member of Seaford Environment Alliance. Food-growing project is for groups of residents to take over growing and plating project in beds outside of Morrisons. Children will learn how to grow food</i>

	<p>and making use of land to grow own food. Referenced changes in European food crops over recent years and instances of failure in the UK's potato and salad crops. This will be representative of a much bigger movement. There is real expertise within group; welcomed concerns and the group will work around these. Suggested looking at 'Incredible Edible' – this brings 'vegetable tourists'. A world we can have and will enhance the town's wildlife.</p>
Town Council Response	Thanked for their contribution.
Resident E	<p>Speaking on agenda number 9 as a mum of three children at Chyngton School. No official pedestrian crossings on walk to school and always been wary of the danger to pedestrians. Can be difficult to navigate as an adult – combination of bus stops, parked vehicles including vans. Believe that crossing vitally needed – not a single crossing on this road. Also on this road is a play park designed to include younger children. Area has lots of houses with young families and older children trying to be more independent. Daughter has mild cerebral palsy so cannot run quickly and can easily lose balance, so crossing the road is a danger. Cannot understand children not being able to cross a road safely to get to school despite continuous encouragements to walk and bike to school. Following East Sussex Highways assessment of site and finding of no need for crossing, concerned that this was done in the school holidays and the seeming need for a child to be hurt before they would take action. Decision should not be done to cost – all children should have a safe way to get to school or move around their area.</p>
Town Council Response	Thanked for their contribution.
Councillor S Adeniji as County Councillor	<p>Speaking to agenda item 9. Agrees with points raised and the report. Feels this is a much needed crossing – have a duty to encourage children to walk to school but must make sure roads are safe for them. Walmer Road and Hillside Avenue have an estate of around 500 properties,</p>

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	<i>approximately 1,000 children, with no crossing to get safely over the road. Implore to approve recommendations at agenda number 9 and do right thing by children.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked for their contribution.
<i>Councillor R Honeyman as non-Committee member</i>	<i>Speaking to agenda item 9. Would challenge a survey being done in the school holidays. Seaford Community Partnership did a project on this as part of a transport group. Talked about alternate routes to school, the differing types of road safety measures, the walking buses scheme and the possibility of match funding from the County Council. Would encourage further surveys and research before making final decision.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked for their contribution.

(7.18pm - Councillor Adeniji exited the meeting)

CS12/11/21 Projects & Facilities Manager Update Report

The Committee considered report 120/21 informing the Committee on progress and actions relating to Seaford Town Council's assets and services.

The Projects & Facilities Manager updated on the tennis courts project, the Martello toilets facility, seasonal beach huts, recent events and upcoming Seaford Christmas Magic.

Members discussed concessions and how to prevent the use of generators, the project to provide an electric supply to the ice cream concession at Bönningstedt, the delay on the Lottery funding, the Bönningstedt wall and materials used within the gabion wall, the rainbow bench project and possible concerns regarding the grass in The Crouch Gardens for Seaford Christmas Magic if the weather was inclement.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

CS13/11/21 Community Services Finance Report up to 31st October 2021

The Committee considered report 121/21 presenting the 2020 – 2021 year end financial position for the Community Services Committee.

CS13.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

CS13.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** earmarking the £10,000 budget for the swimming pool maintenance (4410/130) if not spent at the financial year end.

CS14/11/21 Community Services Draft Budget Report 2022 - 2023

The Committee considered report 133/21 presenting the Community Services draft budgets for 2022-2023 and projected budgets to 2026-2027.

The Responsible Financial Officer introduced the report and provided an overview of the status of the overall budget setting process. Members thanked the officers involved for the work done to date on the draft budgets and the project breakdowns. Members discussed whether the budgeted income for South Hill Barn could be earmarked specifically for use at the Barn.

CS14.1 It was **PROPOSED** to **APPROVE** that any underspend from the South Hill Barn development budget at the year-end be earmarked for future projects at South Hill Barn; this **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

CS14.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that the Finance & General Purposes Committee approves the draft budget as presented with report 133/21.

CS15/11/21 Events Policy Review

The Committee considered report 123/21 presenting updates to the Events Policy for Committee to consider, to ensure it is fit for purpose.

The Projects & Facilities Manager introduced the report and the reasons that a review of the policy was required.

Members discussed any enforcement of the plastic-free aspirations of the Town Council, It was **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that Full Council adopt the revised Events Policy and hire charges within, as presented in report 123/21.

CS16/11/21 Various Proposals to Seaford Town Council-owned Green Spaces

The Committee considered report 125/21 informing the Committee of various proposals for Town Council-owned green spaces for the year 2022 – 2023.

Members discussed each green space individually, the outcome of which is recorded in the resolution at CS16.3 below.

CS16.1 It was **PROPOSED** to **AGREE** to continue with the reduced Seaford in Bloom planting scheme at the lesser cost; this **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

Members discussed ensuring maintenance schedules for the sites and using the term 'renaturing' instead of 'rewilding'.

CS16.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

The Committee noted its thanks to all those that had been involved in creating the report and proposals within.

CS16.3 It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** with the proposed changes to various Town Council-owned green spaces, as set out within the officer's recommendations of report 125/21 and subject to any stipulations below:

Rewilding (Meadow Cuts)

- a) The Salts – no further comments
- b) Sandore Road – no further comments
- c) Martello Field West - trialling the No Mow May cut for one year and working with event bookings to enable this to happen.
- d) Martello Field Middle – no further comments
- e) Pump Field – no further comments
- f) The Covers and College Road – no further comments
- g) The Crouch – no further comments

Flower Beds

- a) The War Memorial – with the inclusion of a gap, wide enough to allow a wheelchair user through, in the lavender hedge behind the memorial to allow access to the grassed area where there are benches and a litter bin.
- b) The Crouch Bowling Club – retaining the roses that were proposed for removal and instead putting in low-growing perennials around these.

Community Garden Beds (Pelham Road) – members discussed safety concerns with this specific site and possible threats with a project of this nature but wished to trial the proposal.

Seaford in Bloom – members discussed bedding planting for the 2022 Queen's Platinum Jubilee colours and the financial implications of the scheme leading to the decision at CS16.1 to continue with the reduced planting scheme.

CS16.4 It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** that the review of any changes be carried out individually, one year after a change has been introduced.

(8.52pm – four members of the public exited the meeting. A short break was held until 8.59pm when the meeting reconvened)

CS17/11/21 Road Safety Proposal

The Committee considered report 128/21 informing the Committee of issues raised by residents and parents of school children regarding the safety of a road crossing near to Chyngton Primary School.

Members discussed the ownership and future maintenance of any crossing, road safety being the responsibility of the County Council, the situation relating to other schools, traffic

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calming measures in the area, raising awareness of the 30mph speed limit in the town and issues when vehicles speed on side roads.

CS17.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

CS17.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** officers looking into this project and reporting back to the Community Services Committee in 2022.

CS17.3 It was **RESOLVED** to **INSTRUCT** officers to forward the concerns highlighted in Appendix 1 to both the Sussex Police Speedwatch team and East Sussex County Council's Parking Enforcement team, with the request for them to arrange for visits to the site to assess the concerns being raised regarding poor parking and excessive/dangerous driving speeds.

(9.13pm – one member of the public exited the meeting)

CS18/11/21 Grounds Maintenance Contract Review

The Committee considered report 126/21 seeking the Committee's approval of a review of the current Grounds Maintenance contract.

The Projects & Facilities Manager introduced the report. Members discussed special expenses sites.

CS18.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

CS18.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **INSTRUCT** officers, with help from a specialist company, to review the Town Council current Grounds Maintenance contract.

CS18.3 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** a budget of no more than £5,000 is put in the 2022-2023 to cover professional fees if required.

CS19/11/21 Staycation 2021 Update Report

The Committee considered report 122/21 updating the Committee on the various Staycation projects that happened in 2021 and items relating to anti-social behaviour on the seafront.

Members discussed the signage of the seafront relating to motorhome and caravan parking.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

CS20/11/21 The Salts – Various Sports Club Proposals

The Committee considered report 124/21 informing the Committee of proposals from the 6th Seaford Scouts, Premier Football and Seaford Cricket Club to carry out various projects at the Salts Recreation Ground.

Members discussed the height of the proposed Scouts fencing, the relocation of the dog poo bin in the area of the Scouts proposal, the extension of the cricket club's changing

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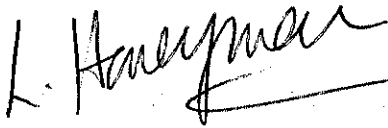
facilities, the impact of recent decisions on The Salts Development Plan and the integrity of the Scouts hut.

CS20.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

CS20.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE IN PRINCIPLE** to support the following projects on the understanding that this does not predetermine the Town Council's Planning & Highways Committee's response to any subsequent planning applications submitted, which will be handled in the usual manner:

- a. 6th Seaford Scouts – outside fenced area, with the fencing being reduced to a more appropriate height
- b. Premier Football – outside container for storage and socialising
- c. Seaford Cricket Club – additional changing room facilities

The meeting closed at 9.33pm.



Councillor O Honeyman

Chair of Community Services