

Seaford Annual Town Meeting

Minutes of the **Annual Town Meeting** held in The View at Seaford Head, Southdown Road, Seaford on **Tuesday 12th April 2022** at **7.00pm**.

Present from Seaford Town Council:

Chair - Councillor Rodney Reed (2021 - 2022 Mayor of Seaford)

6 Town Councillors

Adam Chugg (Town Clerk), Gemma Saunderson-Barker (Mayor's Secretary),

Heidi Brown (Office Manager) and Georgia Raeburn (HR & Governance Manager).

Joe Lacy (2021 – 2022 Young Mayor), Erin Franklin (2021 – 2022 Deputy Young Mayor) and Nia Waite (future 2022 – 2023 Deputy Young Mayor).

Peter White (Town Crier of Seaford)

68 members of the public

Peter White, Town Crier of Seaford, called people to the meeting.

1. Welcome and Introductions by the Mayor

The Mayor welcomed the attendees and outlined the format of the meeting.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held 20th April 2021 were accepted by the participants.

3. Seaford Town Council Update

Adam Chugg, Town Clerk, presented key updates from the Town Council this year.

This included:

Key Topics

- Martello Toilet project update
- The refurbishment of The Salts tennis courts
- Making the best use of green spaces within town and maximising ecological use
- Cleaning of the Seaford War Memorial in its centenary year
- An update on seafront concessions, events and maintaining the 'balance' of the seafront
- Strengthening the Town Council's finances.

Looking Ahead

- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee including the beacon lighting ceremony in June 2022, and Jubilee Tea at The View, also a number of Jubilee street parties being held around the town
- Maximising the effectiveness of Seaford's local response to the situation in Ukraine
- The archaeological works investigating the recently discovered Iron Age fort on Seaford Head
- Events and the use of South Hill Barn
- Use of community spaces
- Planning for the future, including consulting with the public to agree what the Town Council is going to do going forwards.

Two singers from The Lake Academy of Dance graced the meeting with a rendition of 'If Mama Was Married' from Gypsy the musical.

4. Young Mayor Update

Young Mayor's Award

The 2021 – 2022 Young Mayor, Joe Lacy, presented his Young Mayor's Award to Zoe McCaig, of Seaford & Newhaven Sailing Club, due to over 10 years providing sailing opportunities to young people and encouraging nervous youngsters to embrace the sport and develop their confidence.

2022 – 2023 Young Mayor

Current Deputy Young Mayor, Erin Franklin, will be stepping up as 2022 – 2023 Young Mayor in May. Erin announced that her term in office would have an environmental focus, including working with Seaford Environmental Alliance and the eco team at Seaford Head School.

Also present was Nia Waite who has recently been elected as Deputy Young Mayor for the 2022 – 2023 year, starting in May 2022.

5. Presentations by Recipients of Large Grants

Presentations were received from the groups that had received large grants from the Town Council in 2021 – 2022:

The Youth Counselling Project

- Provides vital support to young people suffering from a range of conditions including anxiety, eating disorders and self-harming
- Facilitated counselling for 85 children from five of Seaford's school

- No statutory funding for project but need at least £45k to run 2022 counselling
- Runs as a schools-based operation – school identifies children and the Project fund and arrange counselling session.
- Overview of ways to support the charity and the benefits of being a supporter.

Teddy Treats

- Local charity since 2014, providing treats for children, locally through schools, support groups and now with other groups.
- Not-for-profit charity – totally run by volunteers.
- Focus on confidence building with children and support for vulnerable families.
- Lots of work at Christmas to provide food and toys for vulnerable families.
- Help local children with their 'top talents' – creative, arts, dance, singing, sports. Arranged dance session for children in partnership with Street Funk. A child/family is identified by a dance school/sport group as needing support and then Teddy Treats pays towards fees so a child can continue what they love doing.
- Overview of activities over the last year, including attendance at the Mayor's Support our Seaford Charities event in summer 2021 and other community activities and groups.

Seaford Bonfire Society

- October 22nd 2022 Seaford Bonfire Night.
- Society open to anyone to join. 260 members of all ages, some active some supporters.
- The Society also provides support to other community events.
- 2021 was the 10th year of the event, which is an event for the whole of town. 1600 torches made!
- Annual guide with support from local businesses that support the society.
- Grateful to Town Council for grant – goes towards medical cover on the night.

Cuckmere Buses

- Seven buses serving Seaford estates – lots of shopping trips to town.

- Over 20 timetable services in Cuckmere area of Eastbourne, popular rambler circular service at weekends. Other services such as weddings, Charleston, Eastbourne Tennis.
- Talked about impact of Covid-19 on services.
- Income from ticket sales/hire charges and grant support from the Town Council and other local councils.
- Lifeline to those in outlying estates of Seaford not served by commercial bus companies.
- Always looking for volunteers; drivers or other jobs (seeking financial lead this year).
- Confirmed not changing bus service – working with East Sussex County Council to improve bus services within county.

Bishopstone United Charities (BUC)

- Provided an overview of 'BUC' and almshouses; Eadric House being a grade 2 listed almshouse.
- Explained the history of the building; built by renowned architects, in memory of Mary Catt of the Catt family from Tide Mills. Eadric House is an almshouse for benefit of local people within parish.
- BUC is looking for a new Clerk to take over.
- The Town Council grant helped towards the costs of the huge works to the chimneys – over £17k to fix two chimneys, the work on which will begin in May.
- Encouraged people to visit 'The Egg', which is the Bishopstone Village Green.

St Wilfrid's Hospice –

- Provided an overview of aims of charity.
- In Seaford 260 patients looked after – many cared for at home – nurses and therapists go out and visit people to provide palliative care at home.
- The Town Council grant helped to enable people to stay at home by covering the costs of examination kits that the nurses carry with them. Helps early identification of symptoms to avoid having to visit hospitals.
- Want to expand care - currently do visits 7am-7pm and 24/7 helpline but want to extend service to 10pm and therefore need to recruit more nurses.

- If anyone wants to get involved with hospice – can be referred by any health professional. Also have 24hr nurse line – can phone up to see if hospice care is suitable.
- Lots of fun events held; Colour Run, Open Gardens.

Seaford Cricket Club

- Provided an overview of the Cricket Club, nearly 300 members – juniors, seniors and volunteers and social members.
- Juniors clubs and teams – festival weeks in the height of season (August).
- Women's team – won women's soft ball cricket league. Women's festival each year – looking for new women to join up (mums and daughters welcome!).
- Four adults men's teams, so cater for all abilities.
- Two financially challenging years. Income from membership and match fees and bar takings. The Town Council grant is towards a new boundary rope trolley, which is a vital piece of equipment and was built locally.
- Invited anyone to come and see if want to join as player, social member or volunteer.

Downs Syndrome Development Trust

- Introduced the charity based in Seaford and played a video presentation covering activities and outings with local children and the support given to families. Thank you to the Town Council for the years of support.

6. Mayor's Community Awards

Mayor's Awards

Margery Diamond - Trees for Seaford - For activities and initiatives to improve the natural environment around Seaford

The group of around 30 people (and growing!) coordinated by a group of people with good professional knowledge and strong organisational skills, has worked tirelessly, over the last 13 years engaging with local people to improve the Seaford roads and green spaces and organising the planning, safe planting and aftercare of in excess of 600 native trees.

As well as the tree planting sessions which run throughout the year, "TLC" sessions also take place at regular intervals to monitor and provide ongoing care, such as pruning and mulching.

Improving the visual aspect of Seaford neighbourhoods the trees will, as they grow, provide opportunities for greater biodiversity, decrease air pollution, contribute to improved mental health of residents and also encourage community cohesion and cooperation.

Julie Moore – Julie's Scoop and Weigh - For activities and initiatives to improve efficiency/reduce waste

Julie is a long-standing part of the town and community in Seaford. She has created such a positive community feel to her store and loves to promote other businesses on the high street. She is welcoming, kind-hearted and generous with her time and energy. She has adapted her shop to bring in more loose produce and packaging free foods which is great in the fight against plastic.

Sophie Carpenter, Community Champion of Morrisons Seaford - For supporting and strengthening local charities

Sophie really helps us to provide treats to local children and especially at Christmas with our Toy Appeal. Fundraising and collections and competitions in store, the 'Children's Little Library'. Donations from the store's stock as support for events and to local schools and for the foodbank - and a sky dive!

Jonathon and Pat Franklin – for the Dymock Farm Shop - For improving the conditions for business and tourism in Seaford

For keeping Seafordians supplied with fresh, locally produced fruit and vegetables for 40 years.

Able to buy very small amounts of produce, reducing waste. Brown paper bags were available for putting produce in. In the pandemic, they delivered fresh vegetables and fruit. The farm shop will be missed.

Mayor's Highly Commended Certificate

Tom Webster – Seaford Town Football Club for his remarkable leadership and personal hard work for the Seaford Town Football Club.

As Chairman of Seaford Town FC, Tom has overseen the renovation of the facilities including new changing rooms, newly decorated club house, and improved the ground. The Club teams now include games and fitness training for all abilities from 4 years upwards and youngsters with disabilities are also encouraged to join.

The Club were the first non-league team in the country to provide free school meals during school holidays for deserving Seaford children.

We were impressed that Seaford Town FC now has teams covering all ages and abilities, an asset for the town because it encourages healthy positive activities for Seaford residents and their children and is continuing to grow.

The Don Mabey Award

Claire Sumners - Plastic Free Seaford

An award for an individual who has gone above and beyond with their services to the town and its residents.

The award was received by Chris Sumners, as the Mayor was unfortunately unable to present this award to Claire before she passed away.

The Mayor valued his contact with Claire through Plastic Free Seaford, and recognised how much Claire achieved for the town through her work encouraging and updating the Seaford Town Council's Single Use Plastics Policy and that in addition to the Beach Cleans and enabling local businesses and individuals to be Plastic Free Champions .

The Mayor read aloud some of the statements submitted supporting the nomination for Claire to receive this award:

Claire has worked tirelessly.

Claire has raised awareness through Plastic Free Seaford and Surfers Against Sewage about the changes we can all make to our natural environment.

Claire has single-handedly, through her indefatigable drive, started the monthly beach cleans. She has been an incredible force for good and education.

Claire has single-handedly brought about amazing changes to the town's environmental awareness, not least by establishing her Plastic-Free Seaford movement, but also getting the town to official PF status.

The Mayor was pleased that Chris was able to be in attendance to receive the Shield and Award in Claire's memory. The Mayor stressed that this won't be the only part of her legacy - many of us in Seaford will work to ensure her work continues as Claire's legacy.

7. Mayor's Thank Yous and Farewells

The Mayor took the opportunity to bid farewell as his office comes to a close officially on 12th May 2022 and show his gratitude to those that have supported him throughout his two terms of office:

- Ann Reed, Mayoress and wife of nearly 50 years – who was then presented with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her role
- Councillor Jean Cash, Deputy Mayor

- Fellow Councillors for appointing
- Town Council officers, Gemma Saunderson-Barker and Adam Chugg
- Seaford Baptist Church for organising and hosting the civic and carol services, and the Mayor's Chaplain Rev. Andy Machin
- Primary schools for choirs involvement in the Mayor's Carol Concert
- Children who submitted designs for the Mayor's Christmas card competition
- Seaford Chamber of Commerce
- Seaford Rotary Club
- Service organisations that gave support to Support Our Seaford Charities and the Mayor's Charity Initiative; NP&S Lions, Seaford Rotary, Martello Rotary, National Coastwatch Institution – Newhaven and Seaford Bonfire Society
- The 40 plus charities the joined the Mayor's Charity Initiative
- Seaford Bonfire Society for their invite to walk in the Bonfire Procession
- The Defibrillator Community Working Group coordinating life-saving defibrillator provision across the town
- The town for invitations to fetes, fairs and other social events
- Those that have encouraged his role as virtual Mayor, including Seahaven FM
- The Lord Lieutenant and High Sherriff for attending social events in the town and for invitations to attend their events in the County.
- Other local Mayors and Chairs for invitations to civic events across the county

The Town Clerk voiced the Town Council's thanks to Councillor Reed for his two years' service in the Mayoral office.

8. Question & Answer Time

<i>Resident A</i>	<i>Queried what community engagement activities are planned regarding the climate change emergency and the Town Council's five year strategy.</i>
Town Council Response	Thinking about it and open to ideas. Looking at online surveys, events, visits to groups and other settings – keen to have the conversations.
<i>Resident A</i>	<i>As a member of Seaford Head Golf Club, appreciates the sustainability initiatives practised. Has done a poll of golfers and walkers and a number were not aware of these</i>

	<i>initiatives. Queried whether the Town Council should look to host an event at The View to highlight initiatives.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked for the input and very happy to look at the suggestion made.
<i>Resident B</i>	<i>Asked if the Town Council would look at ways to encourage use of the golf course by a larger demographic of people, as it was during lockdown.</i>
Town Council Response	Explained that the Town Council is committed to supporting the environment whilst being conscious of the balance of the land. The Golf Course is well used by a wider demographic of people, with lady players and junior activities. The challenge faced by the Town Council is looking at how best to manage the spaces for the town, including Seaford Head, South Hill Barn and the clifftop footpath on this site.
<i>Resident C</i>	<i>Following the success of three art-based events at South Hill Barn during summer 2021, asked if the Town Council would consider providing electricity to the site to avoid the use of a generator.</i>
Town Council Response	Confirmed that the Town Council was researching this before lockdown – it carries significant costs and the Town Council would need to generate sufficient funds to take forwards.
<i>Resident D</i>	<i>Queried if photovoltaics (solar panels) could be used at South Hill Barn?</i>
Town Council Response	Confirmed it is being looked at.
<i>Resident E</i>	<i>Thanked the volunteer councillors, who are very often undervalued.</i>
<i>Resident F</i>	<i>Queried if there was an option to use temporary wind turbines at South Hill Barn.</i>
Town Council Response	Happy to work with partners to see how best to achieve this.

The 2021 – 2022 Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jean Cash, was invited to speak by the Mayor. Cllr Cash explained that the events of the evening were close to her heart, as she is currently under the care of St Wilfrid's. She and the Mayor had agreed an aim upon taking office in 2020; to achieve a council working together for Seaford, putting aside differences – and they hope they have achieved this. Cllr Cash posed ideas for an environmental hub/centre for the town in Claire Sumner's legacy.

In closing the Mayor thanked everyone for attending and encouraged attending the Town Council meetings, where anyone may address the meeting and indicated that anyone can watch the video on YouTube.

The meeting ended at 8.51pm.



Councillor Rodney Reed

Mayor of Seaford 2021 - 2022