



## Seaford Town Council

### Minutes of a meeting of Seaford Town Council's Full Council on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Held at The View at Seaford Head, Southdown Road, Seaford, BN25 4JS at 7.00pm.

#### Present:

Councillors O Honeyman (Mayor) and S Markwell (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors S Ali, L Boorman, C Bristow, R Buchanan, R Clay, S Dubas, F Hoareau,  
R Honeyman, O Matthews, G Rutland, L Stirton, L Wallraven and  
M Wearmouth.

Adam Chugg, Town Clerk

Georgia Raeburn, Acting HR & Governance Manager

Becky Terry, HR & Governance Assistant

There were 25 members of the public in attendance and two representatives from Natural England.

#### **C64/10/23 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Adeniji, J Lord, R Stirton and I Taylor.

#### **C65/10/23 Disclosure of Interests**

There were no disclosures of interests.

#### **C66/10/23 Public Participation**

Speaker	Statement
Resident A	<p><i>With regards to agenda item 4, raised that traditionally minutes are distributed within a few days of the meeting taking place, but this has not been the case with recent minutes. Queried if the process had been changed and with Full Council approval.</i></p> <p><i>With regards to agenda item 5, shared that the former Town Council administration had considered the issue of motorhome parking, including looking to make an area of</i></p>

	<p><i>the seafront dedicated to motorhomes. Queried if this could be included in the response to East Sussex County Council's consultation.</i></p> <p><i>With regards to item 9, was issued a certificate at the end of their period in office. This stated four years' service but should have been 12 years. Asked if this could be rectified.</i></p>
Town Council Response	<p>Thanked the resident for their contribution.</p> <p>Explained that the minutes are made available publicly as soon as possible.</p> <p>Noted the comments regarding motorhome parking and confirmed that management schemes for motorhomes are being investigated, with a report to be presented to the Community Services Committee.</p> <p>Thanked for their public service and confirmed that a corrected certificate will be issued.</p>
<i>Resident B</i>	<p><i>With regards to agenda item 5, shared their belief that the nature reserve proposal looks amazing, and it being great that it is community led. Queried if the Town Council could take a joined up approach, such as with the South Hill Barn proposal. Highlighted that recent high-profile filming from a streaming service may encourage more visitors to the site.</i></p>
<i>Resident C</i>	<p><i>With regards to agenda item 6, stated that there are serious and longstanding issues around parking on the seafront but that these will require joint partnership working between all three tiers of council to come up with a solution. Expressed concern that the current proposals by East Sussex County Council's parking team do not address concerns of residents. Confirmed that they are receiving almost daily emails from residents. Confirmed concerns that the proposals for a 12-hour limit will affect all vehicles – not just campervans and caravans but residents' vehicles as well. Shared a series of questions to be looked at, relating to joint partner meetings,</i></p>

	<i>discussions with the local caravan park to find a joint solution, the Town Council coming up with its own proposals to resolve the Seaford-based issue, the continued presence of unenforceable parking signs confusing residents and ignored by campervans. Queried how proposals fit into strategic townwide approach to manage tourism and bringing economic benefit to Seaford.</i>
<i>Resident D</i>	<i>With regards to agenda item 6, shared residents' concerns as year on year this issue gets worse. Confirmed that the issue is not just motorhomes but also converted lorries, some of which are lived in. Expressed concern that parking is reviewed every year but without enforcement the proposals will not address the issues.</i>
<i>Resident E</i>	<i>With regards to agenda item 6, confirmed that as a seafront resident, they have had friendly conversations with people parking overnight. Requested that the restrictions and signage need to refer to campervans as well as caravans. Queries if there is a way to allow residents to park nearer to their homes, such as an exemption permit to the 12-hour limit. Raised concerns that those less mobile can struggle within having to park further away from their homes.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked all the residents for their contributions and confirmed that councillors will be mindful of this input during their discussion.

## **C66/10/23      Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following minutes:

4.1	Full Council	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
4.2	Full Council	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2023
4.3	Climate Change	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
4.4	Community Services	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
4.5	Finance & General Purposes	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
4.6	Golf & The View	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2023

4.7	Personnel	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
4.8	Planning & Highways	28 <sup>th</sup> September 2023

## **C67/10/23      Natural England Proposal – The Chalk Coast National Nature Reserve**

Full Council considered report 85/23 providing a briefing to Full Council on what may be involved in Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve becoming part of Natural England's proposal to create The Chalk Coast National Nature Reserve.

*(7.16pm - Standing Orders were suspended to allow a presentation to be made)*

Natural England representatives gave a presentation to the meeting – introducing the proposals, giving an overview of Natural England's nature aims in the local area, and an insight into some of the specific areas of interest and focus on the Seaford Head Nature Reserve.

They shared that there is a YouTube video providing an overview of Natural England's Nature Recovery Network that is publicly available to view at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YisxnvmPKOk&t=7s>

Members raised questions around, and discussed, any costs to the Town Council, the working title of the proposed reserve, the level of officer involvement required, details of the group working on this project, any legislative advantage or additional protection of the proposed changes, the project being community-led and the positive impact of the proposals on drinking water availability for Seaford and the involvement of South East Water.

It was confirmed that it would be a voluntary declaration being made by the Town Council and eight other partners. The Town Council will decide at a future meeting which could be the right route, of the four options, for Seaford.

*(7.40pm - Standing Orders were reinstated)*

**C67.1** It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

**C67.2** It was **RESOLVED** to confirm that the Town Council **AGREES** with Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve being included in conversations about The Chalk Coast National Nature Reserve, with any final decisions to proceed to be made at a future Full Council meeting.

**C67.3** It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** that following this meeting Town Council officers will begin work on relevant considerations such as looking at the most appropriate management structures, which land to include, affiliation options and any other matters to be considered before final decisions can be taken.

**C67.4** It was **AGREED** to nominate Town Councillor C Bristow as an outside body representative on the Chalk Coast National Nature Reserve Group, working with other councillors to share attendance at meetings as appropriate.

*(7.44pm - three members of the public and the Natural England representatives exited the meeting)*

## **C68/10/23 East Sussex County Council Parking Consultation September 2023**

Full Council considered report 84/23 enabling Full Council to consider and respond to a parking consultation relevant to Seaford and raise any other relevant matters.

Members had a full and in-depth discussion around the various factors related to the consultation proposals but also the wider problem of seafront parking, which spreads wider than just parking enforcement and will require a joint up approach from all three tiers of council to find a suitable solution to.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report and to submit any raised points to East Sussex County Council.

Officers confirmed that they would ensure that the response included the points discussed by Full Council where there appeared to be a consensus. There were also actions identified for the Town Council to pursue outside of the consultation.

### **Seafront parking proposals:**

- Full Council does not support the proposals as they do not bring a benefit and go no way towards addressing the problems
- There is a need for stronger and more visible enforcement – increased during peak times
- Measures need to be in place ahead of 2024 peak season to reduce the impact on seafront residents
- The Town Council will look at changing to diagonal parking on the shingle area owned by Seaford Town Council to west of Martello Tower, rather than lengthwise against the wall
- Cross-agency solutions need to be encouraged as the issues are not limited to parking
- The Town Council will look to update its signage on the seafront
- The Town Council will consider how it can appropriately promote the use of caravan parks
- A request will be submitted to have a 20mph speed limit investigated for the seafront

- Residents are encouraged to respond to the County Council's public consultation

**Pelham Road parking proposal:**

- Full Council would support Monday to Sunday 8am to 6pm, no stopping except taxis, but does not agree that this needs to be in place at all times, as taxis are rarely onsite/required in the evenings and therefore there is no benefit to anyone from the proposals made.

**Broad Street parking proposal:**

- Full Council supports this proposal
- Members raised that there is an issue with Heavy Goods Vehicles blocking Broad Street and whether better signage was needed.

*(21 members of the public left the meeting)*

*(8.43pm to 8.50pm – a short break was held)*

**C69/10/23 Stakeholder Groups for Community Land Use – Terms of Reference**

Full Council considered report 86/23 updating Full Council on the terms of reference for the Stakeholder Groups for Community Land Use.

Members discussed the timing of the terms of reference document being presented, the process for agreeing amendments to the terms of reference, how communication is managed, inclusion of all representative groups, the logistics of residents voices being represented and the possibility of resident representatives, councillors role in the meeting, the ambitiousness of creating a shared vision of use and this being a Town Council function, terminology used (in particular crossover with planning terminology), clarity and definition of roles, ensuring the groups are productive and purposeful, and having the groups appoint their own Chairperson.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the terms of reference being used for Stakeholder Groups for Community Land use.

**C70/10/23 Freedom of Information Procedure and Publication Scheme Review**

Full Council considered report 82/23 presenting a revised Freedom of Information Procedure and Publication Scheme for Full Council consideration.

Members discussed the arrangements for reporting back (with freedom of information requests and complaints being handled) including at each Full Council meeting and an annual overview, and reporting back arrangements with actions taken following resolutions at meetings.

- C70.1** It was **PROPOSED** to **AMEND** the recommended reporting back arrangements within the revised Freedom of Information Procedure, to remove the recommended changes; this **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.
- C70.2** It was **PROPOSED** to **ADOPT** the revised Freedom of Information Procedure, as amended in the meeting; this **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.
- C70.3** It was **PROPOSED** to **ADOPT** the revised Freedom of Information Procedure, as amended in the meeting; this **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.
- C70.4** It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the revised Publication Scheme.

*(9.18pm - one member of the public exited the meeting)*

### **C71/10/23 Civic Awards Policy**

Full Council considered report 83/23 presenting a revised Civic Awards Policy.

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the revised Civic Awards Policy.

### **C72/10/23 Briefing on Public Toilets**

Full Council considered report 87/23 briefing Full Council on future papers to committees in relation to public toilets within the town.

Members raised potential for toilet provision at the Crouch and South Hill Barn, a more holistic view of toilets in the town, consideration of different types of eco-toilets and toilets provisions within the town centre.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report and raise any points that the Town Council may wish to consider as matters proceed.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

*Councillor O Honeyman*

Councillor O Honeyman

Mayor of Seaford