



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 26th February 2018 in the Skyrm Room at the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7.00pm

A resident of Fleet Street, having read a press article regarding anti social behaviour problems experienced at the Bridport Skate Park, expressed her concern with regard to the BAAD project to construct a skate park in the Memorial Playing Field and questioned whether the expenditure would be best utilised elsewhere.

Cllr Beswarick advised that it was the intention to fund the construction of the skate park via grant applications specifically for sport therefore the monies could not be expended elsewhere. The concerns with regard to anti social behaviour were noted.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman brought forward agenda item 7 – Public Transport – Saturday Bus Service and gave a verbal update on the current position with regard to the provision of a Saturday community bus service. He was pleased to report that a 16 seat bus had been made available via Bridport Town Council in order to operate a timetabled Saturday service between Bridport and Crewkerne. Discussions were ongoing to agree the detail of ownership, availability, training, insurance etc.

In response to a question regarding access to Yeovil, the chairman anticipated that the community bus would arrive in Crewkerne to enable passengers to make the connecting bus or train service to Yeovil.

Whilst acknowledging the efforts being made Alison Mitchell expressed her concerns with regard to the limited service that can be provided by a community bus operated by volunteers. She believed that the County Council should provide a regular bus service, as it was grossly unfair that the Town had to consider a community service.

Mrs Cook expressed her concern at the problem of dog fouling in the town.

1880 PRESENT – Cllr Turner (Chairman), Cllr Baker, Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Mrs Cooke, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Jupp and Cllr Mrs Page.

1881 IN ATTENDANCE – Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), District Councillor Alford; also 15 members of the public.

1882 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS FOR:

Dorset Police – In the absence of a police representative at the meeting the Town Clerk read a report submitted by PCSO Alex Bishop. **NOTED.**

West Dorset District Council – Cllr Alford was delighted to report that the Secretary of State had issued a minded-to decision in support of the proposal to replace the existing nine local authorities in Dorset with two unitary authorities:

- Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch
- Dorset County Council (except Christchurch), East Dorset, Purbeck, North Dorset and West Dorset

The new authorities would come into effect from 1st April 2019, with the first elections to take place on 2nd May 2019. A shadow authority would be established in the coming months comprising of the existing 206 councillors.

In response to a question from Cllr Turner, Cllr Alford confirmed there would be a boundary review prior to the elections and it was anticipated a total of 82 members to represent new wards. He also advised there had been discussion, and there was some enthusiasm for Local Area Boards, as it would be important to residents for 'the Council' to be locally relevant.

Dorset County Council – In the absence of Cllr Mrs Knox no report was received.

1883 APOLOGIES – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Body, Cllr Norris, West Dorset District Councillor Barrowcliff and Dorset County Councillor Mrs Knox.

1884 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Jupp declared a personal interest in respect of Beaminster Youth Club.

1885 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Town & Larger Councils – Cllr Mrs Page advised that both she and Cllr Turner had attended a recent meeting at which a presentation had been given by a representative from the County Councils Landscape Department. The Department offered landscaping advice free of charge, she suggested perhaps they could be asked to look at the Children's Play Area once construction had started for advice on screening etc.

DAPTC Western Area – Cllr Turner advised discussion took place with regard to how all councils might have a voice on the future of local services.

1886 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2018

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd January 2018, having previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

1887 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

(a) Min. No. 1854 – Public Work Loans Board

Members **NOTED**, the funding application submitted to the Southern Dorset Local Action Group had been successful with an award of £73,663 for the Children's Play Area project. Parsons Landscaping had been awarded the contract and instructed to commence works, meanwhile funding for the shortfall would be pursued.

1888 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Members had previously been circulated with the schedule of payments, cheque numbers 104063 to 104077 issued, together with direct debit payments between 1st February and 28th February 2018 totalling £10,491.56; also receipts totalling £2,133.06

Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule, a copy of which is attached.

1889 RECREATIONS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the Recreations & Amenities Committee meeting held on 13th February 2018.

(a) Min. No. 80 (b) – Children’s Play Area

The Town Clerk advised that the timbers required to repair the seat in the children’s play area were not of standard size therefore a cost had not been obtained pending further consideration. **RESOLVED** to purchase the necessary timber with a view to planing to the correct size.

No other items were raised for discussion and members **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes.

1890 FINANCE

(a) Building Consultant Fees

Members discussed the proposed 20% increase in fees and charges with the effect from 1st February 2018 and **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the increase.

(b) Bank Reconciliations

Due to her prolonged absence from the office, the Finance Administrator sought members approval for bank reconciliations in respect of October, November and December to be approved in retrospect as opposed to monthly approval by the Chairman and Town Clerk. Members **AGREED** to endorse the retrospective approval.

(c) Internet Services

Members **RESOLVED** to make future payments to the supplier (VPW Systems) via Direct Debit.

(d) Beaminster Museum Extension Project

Members considered a request for a letter of support for this project to accompany a funding application to WDDC.

Members **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** the Museum in its plans to further enhance the facilities provided.

1891 DCC LIVING & LEARNING INITIATIVE

The Chairman advised the County Council were pursuing a number of options for delivering alternative space for the activities currently taking place in the building at Prout Bridge and were interested in meeting with representatives from the Town Council.

The County Council were intending to host Stakeholder Workshops, at which the options for Beaminster would be explored, funding for which could be realised from the sale of the existing property, however no indication of the property value had been received.

He felt the Living & Learning Initiative would be a suitable topic for discussion at the Annual Parish Meeting.

1892 DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES

The Chairman advised on discussions at a recent Programme Board meeting and expressed his disappointment that, once again, Dorset County Council had not been represented. The meeting had been attended by representatives from Dorset Waste Partnership which gave members the opportunity to discuss street cleaning services however to date no cost per town figures were available. A further meeting of the Programme Board had been scheduled for 12th March 2018.

1893 CONSULTATIONS

No consultation documents had been received.

1894 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) **Beaminster Festival** – members **NOTED** a letter of thanks for the financial contribution of £500 to the 2018 Festival.
- (e) **Dorset AONB Annual Forum** – members **NOTED** an invitation to attend an Annual Forum meeting in Bridport on the evening of Tuesday 20th March. Cllr Mrs Page advised, as a AONB board member, she was attending an Annual Forum meeting in Blandford Forum.

1895 PROGRESS REPORT

Members had previously been circulated with the latest progress report, the content of which was **NOTED**.

- **Information Board** – the Town Clerk was asked to make enquiries regarding the possible installation of an electronic information board
- **The Square** – the chairman advised he had submitted an engineering design for brackets to secure the seats in position within the Square, a cost was awaited.

1896 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Three items were identified:

- Welcome to Beaminster Signs
- Skatepark project
- Communications

1897 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Monday 26th March 2018.

1898 MEETING

The meeting which commenced at 7.00pm, closed at 9.25pm.

CHAIRMAN
26th March 2018