



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 23rd January 2018 in the Skyrm Room at the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7.00pm

Mrs Fox advised, with no bus service, her family had incurred taxi fees in excess of £60 on a recent weekend visit from Crewkerne.

Mrs Mitchell expressed her concern that the withdrawal of a weekend bus service left young people isolated and unable to access part time employment in Bridport or Crewkerne. She also expressed her concern the Town would not have the public transport infrastructure to support the level of development proposed for the Town.

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 advised that DCC were to make available a 16 seat mini bus, together with the first years running costs to Bridport Town Council and discussions were to take place with a view to the possibility of utilising the vehicle on a Saturday. There were still many issues to be resolved however the Chairman was hopeful the objective of a Saturday bus service would be achieved.

1862 PRESENT – Cllr Turner (Chairman), Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Body, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Mrs Cooke, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Elliott, Cllr Jupp, Cllr Norris and Cllr Mrs Page.

1863 IN ATTENDANCE – Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), District Councillors A Alford and P Barrowcliff; also 9 members of the public.

1864 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 Barrowcliff advised the District Council, in recent weeks had worked on their budgets and a preliminary draft budget had been considered by the Overview & Strategy Committee today. He was pleased to report that the District Council were in a relatively good financial position however there were pressures on the finances and a 3% increase on the precept had been recommended.

In response from a question from Cllr Dawkin regarding the disparity between the Band D charge in West Dorset and the charge in central London Cllr Barrowcliff stressed there were a number of factors that could potentially affect the calculation, in the main the economies of scale as West Dorset was a rural area.

Cllr Alford advised that ‘take away’ coffee cups that could not be recycled at the kerbside could now be recycled via bins at Morrisons in Bridport. He was pleased to report that Dorset were one of the best performers in the Country and following a recent study with regard to the types of recycled material, expressed in terms of carbon content Dorset Waste Partnership were the leaders.

With regard to the proposed Unitary Authority a decision was awaited, if successful the Joint Area Committee would evolve into a transitional authority going forward to April 2019. A name had been chosen for the Authority – Dorset Council and work on boundary revision and warding would be undertaken by the Boundary Commission in due course.

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

1865 APOLOGIES – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Baker.

1866 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

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

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

Cllr Mrs Page declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 12 (d) – Beaminster Trust.

1867 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Crime Prevention Panel – Cllr Dawkin advised Dorset Police had launched a new online knowledge base designed to help the public find answers to common enquiries and guide them to the correct agencies. The online service known as AskNED is an alphabetical list of topics that hold information and signposting details for that subject and it is hoped that the service will divert people away from the 101 non-emergency number.

1868 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2017

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 27th November 2017, having previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

1869 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

Members **NOTED**, due to the restrictive timeline required for the LEADER funding application, in respect of the children's play area project, the Chairman had submitted an application to West Dorset District Council for an interim short term loan in the sum of £97,078.

The Chairman confirmed the loan had been approved by the District Council, to be repaid no later than 31st March 2019 at base rate plus 1%. The loan would be subject to grant funding approval of up to £80,000 by the Southern Dorset Local Action Group. Members **RESOLVED** to **ENDORSE** the action taken by the Chairman.

NOTED a decision from LEADER expected early February 2018.

On behalf of the Town Council the Chairman expressed his gratitude to Cllr Barrowcliff and Cllr Alford for their assistance in this matter.

1870 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Members had previously been circulated with the schedule of payments, cheque numbers 104017 to 104042 issued, together with direct debit payments between 1st December 2017 and 31st December 2017 totalling £46,945.24; also receipts totalling £3,283.77.

Members had previously been circulated with the schedule of payments, cheque numbers 104043 to 1047062 issued, together with direct debit payments between 1st January 2018 and 31st January 2018 totalling £33,292.17; also receipts totalling £2,098.61

Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedules, copies of which are attached.

1871 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4th December 2017.

(a) Min. No. 370 – Budget framework for 2018/2019

Based on the budget framework as presented members **RESOLVED** to levy a precept of £149,867, representing a 7% increase and resulting in a £7.71 per annum increase on Band D.

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

1872 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE

Members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the Christmas Lights Committee meetings held on the 9th January 2018.

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

1873 DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES

The Chairman advised that, together with the Town Clerk, he had attended a number of the District Council's Programme Board meetings however in his opinion little or no progress had been made.

It was **AGREED** to set a date for a meeting of the Town Council's Devolution Working Party.

1874 CONSULTATIONS

No consultation documents had been received.

1875 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring & Ride Service – members **NOTED** a letter of thanks received for the financial contribution of £400 to the Ring & Ride Service.

(b) Life Education – members **NOTED** a letter of thanks for the donation of £150 to assist with the visit cost to St Marys School.

(c) Beaminster Branch, Royal British Legion – members **NOTED** a letter of thanks for the Council's contribution towards the Remembrance Day Parade.

(d) Beaminster Trust – members considered a request for the approval of the appointment of a new Trustee, Mrs Caroline Walker. Concern was expressed by a number of members with regard to the absence of background information on Mrs Walker which resulted in the absence of five members when voting took place on the appointment.

The appointment of Mrs Walker to the Beaminster Trust was **AGREED** with five members voting in favour.

- (e) **Opening Doors – Building for the Future Programme** – members **NOTED** this initiative by North Dorset District Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council who had joined forces to campaign to get housing moving.

1876 **PROGRESS REPORT**

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

- **Town Council Website** – Vision ICT, a company who exhibit it at seminars etc., have been invited to visit the council office (7th February) and offer advice on further enhancement of the website.
- **Memorial testing** – Mr Chambers and Sam Pearce are to undertake memorial testing on 31st January.
- **Prout Bridge** – the Town Clerk was asked to ascertain a date by which the information would be available.

The Town Clerk advised a second quotation had been obtained for the felling of two trees and that both companies had quoted £600 + VAT. Members **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from Forest and Tree Care.

The Town Clerk was asked to report a faulty street light in Yarn Barton Car Park; also request the Dog Warden patrol Fairfield, The Beeches and St James area of the Town as dog fouling was a prevalent problem.

1877 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

One item was identified:

- DCC Living & Learning Initiative

1878 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

1879 **MEETING**

The meeting which commenced at 7.00pm, closed at 8.50pm.

CHAIRMAN
26th February 2018