



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

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

A member of the public drew attention to the continuing deterioration of the road surface at the lower end of Fleet Street. County Councillor Mrs Knox advised that the County Council were putting resources into repairing potholes, unfortunately they would take precedence over minor road resurfacing.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman brought forward agenda item 6 – 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 confirmed progress was being made in that application forms were being completed to register the route and obtain the necessary permit, an insurance quotation had been received and the County Council had agreed to assist with regard to the training of volunteer drivers. He had received a number of enquiries from residents of Netherbury regarding access to the service and he hoped to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council.

1899 PRESENT – Cllr Turner (Chairman), Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Body, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Mrs Cooke, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Jupp, Cllr Norris and Cllr Mrs Page.

1900 IN ATTENDANCE – Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), County Councillor Mrs Knox, District Councillor Alford; also 3 members of the public.

1901 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS FOR:

Dorset Police – In the absence of a police representative no report was received.

West Dorset District Council – Cllr Alford reported that:

- The District Council had pledged to donation £1 to charity (Weldmar and Julia's House) for every Council Tax bill sent electronically or paid by direct debit during the month of April
- The District Council had introduced a ban on feeding gulls in a public place throughout West Dorset
- Dredging to be carried out in West Bay and Lyme Regis harbours
- The District Council had introduced a small grant scheme (£500) from which organisations could claim to assist with planning events to commemorate the end of WW1
- One of the primary objectives of the District Council was to encourage house building and a Local Authority Trading Company had been set up to invest (£4m) in housing development.
- A recycling container had been sited at Morrisons, Bridport to recycle 'take away' coffee cups

Councillor Mrs Page expressed the Council's gratitude to the District Council for the services/assistance from Susan Wilthew, LGRC in respect of the devolution of services.

Dorset County Council –Cllr Mrs Knox reported that:

- Housing provision from private developers didn't appear to be coming through in the size or location where needed most therefore the County Council had resolved to invest £1.5m in the provision of module housing
- The 'Unitary' decision had created much more discussion across all the Councils
- the idea of 'hubs' for social care funders had become popular

Bus Services – Cllr Knox advised of changes to the timetable for the No 6 and No 40 service, she reiterated that discussion were ongoing with regard to bus service requirements with a view of steering funding into services where needed particularly in rural areas and for children going onto higher education.

Devolution of services – in light of criticism that the County Council had not attended the District Council's Programme Board meetings, Cllr Mrs Knox clarified the County Council's position in that it had resolved to focus on the Joint Committees and the work of the 10 Task & Finish Groups. They were also working with the DAPTC to ensure all Town & Parish Councils across the County were represented.

Health & Wellbeing – it was anticipated the 'County' Board would be retained however local 'mini' boards were being established. West Dorset had taken up the challenge and she hoped Beaminster would be included.

1902 APOLOGIES – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Baker and West Dorset District Councillor Barrowcliff.

1903 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS
No declarations were received.

1904 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

AONB – Cllr Mrs Page advised she had attended the Annual Forum meeting held in Blandford, formal consultation on the new AONB Plan would commence in the Autumn.

Community Resilience Plan – Cllr Cheeseman reported that a meeting had taken place during which the new Resilience Plan had been presented to the Community Wardens. The Plan would be placed before members of the Council at a future meeting for adoption.

1905 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH FEBRUARY 2018

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 26th February 2018, having previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

1906 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Members had previously been circulated with the schedule of payments, cheque numbers 104093 to 104094 issued between 20th March and 31st March 2018 totalling £676.23; also receipts totalling £571.00.

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

1907 STAFFING SUB COMMITTEE

Members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the Staffing Sub Committee meeting held on 13th March 2018.

(a) Min. No. 3 – Salary Scales 2018/19

Members had previously been circulated with details of the Salary Scales with effect from 1st April 2018 based on the current pay tables pending NJC agreement. Members **NOTED** the incremental increases where appropriate and **RESOLVED** approval.

(b) Min. No. 5 – Staff Annual Leave

Members **NOTED** the footnote within the minutes and **RESOLVED**, in the exceptional circumstances, to make a payment in lieu of leave in the sum of £389.97.

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

1908 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE

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

1909 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

(a) Min. No. 382 – Budget framework 2018/19

Members had previously been circulated with an amended budget framework for 2018/19 together with further budget implications to consider.

The Town Clerk advised that with the financial year end approaching, the Finance Administrator had endeavoured to expend all the budget provisions for specific projects. However a number of items were outstanding for which the approval was sought to carry forward unspent budget figures to the new financial year in respect of:

- **4035/302 – Trees & Hedges** - a date to be confirmed for the felling of a Sycamore tree at a cost of £150
- **4035/303 – Trees & Hedges** - a date to be confirmed for the felling of an Ash tree at a cost of £450
- **4257/303 – New access** - A quotation in the sum of £333 to move the remainder of the fence had been received from John Bright Fencing and would complete the re-instatement works to be undertaken at a future date.
- **4031/301 – Tools & Machinery** – £500 for new mower, order placed.

Members **RESOLVED** acceptance of the above.

The Town Clerk advised that indicative costs had been obtained in respect of:

- **4126/101 - Data Protection** – an increase of £1,000
- **4065/101 – Website** – an increase of £1,500
- **Yarn Barton Information Board** - confirmation had been received from the District Council regarding a grant of £1,000 towards the production costs and installation.

Members **RESOLVED** acceptance of the above.

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

1910 DCC LIVING & LEARNING INITIATIVE

The County Council set up a Living & Learning Stakeholder group to explore options and develop an integrated offer for the town, which would result in better outcomes for the residents.

The Chairman advised on a number of meetings to discuss the future of County Council assets and services within the town, in particular 8 Prout Bridge the current home of youth services, food bank etc. and the proposal to provide an alternative building had taken place.

Following a visit by the County Council architects to review the current facilities within the town a further meeting would be scheduled.

1911 DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES

Following consideration of the recommendations of the Devolution Working Group and the response submitted by Dorchester Town Council, members **RESOLVED** to work with the LGRC and WDDC to achieve the best for Beaminster and were happy to discuss taking on new services, however both parties must be realistic in endeavouring to achieve its aims.

It was **NOTED** that the Square Licence agreement with WDDC expired on 31st March 2019.

1912 WELCOME TO BEAMINSTER SIGNS

The replacement/refurbishment of the Welcome to Beaminster signs had been discussed in the past however no decision had been made. Members were asked to submit ideas for consideration at a future meeting.

1913 SKATE PARK PROJECT

The suggestion of utilising the building currently housing the swimming pool for the purposes of an indoor skate park was raised for further discussion. Cllr Cheeseman reported his initial enquiries with Beaminster School had resulted in some concern with regard to security however it had been a suggestion they might be prepared to consider. With the loss of the indoor facility in Bridport Cllr Jupp believed the facility would well utilised.

Cllr Beswarick advised he had discussed the suggestion with Maverick Industries and a number of construction, accessibility, security and expense concerns had been raised.

Cllr Cheeseman expressed his concern with regard to the future of the Youth Club and he believed that funds should be invested in the right services.

Members **RESOLVED** to await the decision on the planning application submitted.

1914 COMMUNICATIONS

Members were in agreement in respect of the lack of communications and that all avenues were not being fully explored or utilised. It was **AGREED** to form a Sub Committee to research a number of suggestions put forward – members appointed were Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Cheeseman and Cllr Norris.

1915 CONSULTATIONS

No consultation documents had been received.

1916 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) **Beyond Events** – members **NOTED** the detail of a proposed 5k and 10k run in Beaminster and the surrounding area. The event would take place on Sunday 12th August 2018 commencing at 10.15am from St Mary's Academy, the anticipated number of entrants to be in the region of 300. Members supported the event in principle, some concerns were expressed with regard to entrants parking.

1917 PROGRESS REPORT

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

Information Board – artwork was with the designer.

Seats in the Square – awaiting costs for the fixing brackets

New access in the Cemetery – quotation from John Bright Fencing in the sum of £333 to realign the fence and remove stumps was **AGREED**

Prout Bridge – members were disappointed and frustrated with the response. It was **AGREED** to set a timescale for a response of two weeks, if no progress had been made a press release statement would be issued.

1918 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Under this heading Cllr Beswarick advised members of the content of an email received from a resident concerned at the amount of single use plastic recovered during the annual litter pick.

1919 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Monday 23rd April 2018.

1920 MEETING

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

CHAIRMAN
23rd April 2018