



## **BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 in the Skyrm Room at the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7.00pm

**404 PRESENT** – Cllr Beazer (Chairman), Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Baker, Cllr Mrs Baldwin, Cllr Mrs Beeny, Cllr Berry, Cllr Elliott, Cllr Mrs Knox, Cllr Mrs Maling, Cllr Mrs Page and Cllr Spooner.

**405 IN ATTENDANCE** – Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Cllr Gregson (Dorset County Council) and two members of the public.

**406 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Mrs C Payne.

**407 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, having previously been circulated were amended as detailed

433 Crime Prevention

- Crime statistics for this area had reduced significantly and Bridport figures had continued to have a 22-25% reduction in violent crime making this one of the safest parts of Dorset

and signed by the Chairman, as a correct record.

**408 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Elliott declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 – Public Hall Working Party – to submit a planning application for the retention of the ground floor windows and the replacement first floor windows at a cost of £370

Cllr Mrs Baldwin declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 12 – Grant Applications in respect of Bridport, Breaminster & Lyme Regis Crime Prevention Panel

## 409 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS FOR:

### (a) Dorset Police Representative

In the absence of a representative a report was read by the Clerk which included:

- A site had been identified for the calibration of the laser speed device. The equipment had been used on several occasions and several fixed penalties had been issued but, perhaps surprising, the speeds in excess of the limits had not been too bad and had been issuing verbal warnings
- Thefts from isolated premises continue although they had dropped slightly, theft of oil in its various forms being the biggest target. The Stop That Thief Campaign – which was running jointly with Marshwood Vale SNT and the local NFU was beginning to see tangible results
- Beauty spots are beginning to receive attention from the criminals who specialise in that type of crime
- There appeared to be an increasing number of youth on the streets, mainly on a Friday evening. Foot patrols are undertaken and considering the numbers, on the whole behaviour was still acceptable.
- PC Poole was optimistic that a new Special Constable would be attached to Beaminster shortly.

### (b) West Dorset District Councillors

Cllr Mrs Page had no items to report.

### (c) Dorset County Councillor

Cllr Gregson reported that:

- A small number of volunteers had expressed an interest in extending the opening hours of the Library and had been invited to attend a meeting with representatives from the County Council at which duties would be outlined
- The 213 bus would be re-instated however the route had been re-adjusted to include Hooke and Toller Porcorum but would not go via Sydling St Nicholas

Cllr Beazer drew attention to the recent closure of Beaminster Tunnel and the apparent lack of any visible work carried out, Cllr Gregson undertook to establish what had been done. Cllr Beazer also drew attention to the stone situated on the south side of the Tunnel which he believed required cleaning and bringing back to prominence, as it was a memorial to the only person killed during construction of the Tunnel.

Cllr Mrs Maling drew attention to correspondence from a resident of the town which raised the question as to whether the traffic diversion in place during the recent closure of the Tunnel, could not be made permanent, for heavy vehicles resulting in a weight/height restriction in the town centre as in other towns. Cllr Gregson confirmed that he forwarded the correspondence to the highway authority and a response was awaited.

Cllr Mrs Page, on behalf of Beaminster, thanked Cllr Gregson for his assistance during his four year term as a Dorset County Councillor.

#### **(d) Reports from Outside Organisations**

**Crime Prevention** - Cllr Mrs Baldwin advised plans were in hand to stage a mock accident similar to a recent event held in Bridport. Attention was also drawn to a deception offence involving door to door callers who obtained names and address details from church noticeboards.

**BAVLAP** – Cllr Mrs Beeny advised that a review of the local action plan was underway and the Group were working towards a formally constituted Group which would enable them to apply for funding to action the points on the action plan.

**Twinning Association** - Cllr Armstrong advised that arrangements for the visit from the party from Saint James were in hand. He appealed for a tricolor and red, white & blue bunting. The Twinning Association were asking whether any councillor might be able to assist by hosting a visiting guest, it was agreed to circulate details of the itinerary for information.

**Digital Switchover** – Cllr Mrs Knox reminded those present of the information day to be held in the Public Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **410 CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS**

The Council **NOTED** that the Chairman had undertaken two official engagements:

- 21<sup>st</sup> March – Launch of Flood Warden Scheme
- 31<sup>st</sup> March – Meeting with Allotment holders

#### **411 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

Payments totalling £17,778.30 and receipts totalling £4,346.50 as detailed in the report to the meeting were submitted for approval, Cllr Mrs Baldwin proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Berry and **AGREED**.

Members expressed their appreciation to Mrs Regan for her work in achieving a much reduced insurance premium for 2009/10.

Cllr Berry advised there had been a saving of £1,600 in respect of remedial works in the children's play area as it had not been possible to undertake work to the slide, this would be pursued further.

Cllr Elliott left the meeting.

#### **412 PUBLIC HALL WORKING PARTY**

The minutes of the Public Hall Working Party meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009 had previously been circulated and consideration was given to the recommendations therein.

Cllr Armstrong proposed to submit a planning application for the retention of the ground floor windows and the replacement first floor windows at a cost of £370, seconded by Cllr Mrs Baldwin and **AGREED**.

Cllr Berry proposed to amend the hire condition relating to music events to read as follows: "When hiring the Public Hall for a music event the organiser must notify the local police, at the time of booking, to inform them of the forthcoming event. A copy of the notification must also be sent to the Public Hall Supervisor. The Hall Supervisor will also inform the Police of the event." Seconded by Cllr Mrs Beeny and **AGREED**.

Cllr Berry proposed the purchase of new washable blinds for kitchen at a cost £90.00, seconded by Cllr Baker and **AGREED**.

Cllr Elliott returned to the meeting.

- 413 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL – MOUNTJOY COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOL**  
Dorset County Council had decided to proceed with the proposal to relocate the Mountjoy School from Bridport to the site of Beaminster Technology College. Statutory notices had been issued and comments from the Town Council, were sought on the proposal.

Following brief discussion, and the consensus being that it would not only enhance the existing college, but would benefit the students at both facilities and the town of Beaminster, Cllr Mrs Page proposed to support the re-location of the Mountjoy School to the site of the Beaminster Technology College, seconded by Cllr Baker and **AGREED**.

**414 SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS**

The Society of Local Council Clerks were the professional body for clerks in town and parish councils in England and Wales. The Society were committed to promote professionalism within the sector and offer clerks training, advice and support. The subscription to the Society was based on gross annual salary and a provisional sum had been set aside in the budget for this purpose.

Cllr Mrs Page proposed the Council fund the subscription in the sum of £181 from the budget set aside, seconded by Cllr Mrs Maling and **AGREED**.

The Clerk advised that the Charles Arnold Baker's Local Council Administration publication had been updated and was offered to local councils at a cost of £53.20 by the DAPTC. Cllr Berry proposed a copy be purchased, seconded by Cllr Mrs Page and **AGREED**.

**415 TENANCY AGREEMENT – ALLOTMENTS**

There was currently no written agreement between the Council and the allotment holder, a draft tenancy agreement based on both the model tenancy agreement for allotment gardens published by the National Association of Local Councils and the model tenancy agreement published by the National Association of Allotment & Leisure Gardeners had previously been circulated.

Following some discussion the clause relating to the keeping of livestock it was **AGREED** should be amended to read "no livestock of any kind shall be kept upon the Allotment Garden other than a reasonable number of hens or rabbits for the tenant's own domestic use"

Cllr Spooner proposed to adopt the circulated tenancy agreement as amended,

seconded by Cllr Mrs Beeny and **AGREED**.

#### **416 ADVERTISING – THE SQUARE**

A request had been received from two local traders for permission to site a non-permanent A-Board sign in the Square adjacent to the car park ticket machine. Highway Agency regulations prohibit the siting of an A-Board in the position previously used ie. at the pointed end of the car park, opposite Framptons.

Members were very sympathetic to the needs of the applicants especially during the current economic climate, however it was felt that to permit permission for these boards in the Square would set a precedent and the area could become quite cluttered. Therefore Cllr Mrs Maling proposed to refuse permission, seconded by Cllr Mrs Page and **AGREED**.

Members gave some consideration to alternative means of advertising and a number of suggestions were muted, these included, a notice board to hide the existing electricity box or a board at the entrance to Yarn Barton car park.

Cllr Beazer suggested this issue be raised with the Chamber of Trade.

Cllr Mrs Baldwin left the meeting.

#### **417 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Members considered applications for financial assistance received from:

- Beaminster Area Over 50 Forum – grant towards the cost of the hire of the Public Hall and Skyrm Room for a weekly exercise group and quarterly Forum meetings. The Town Clerk advised that the annual hire charge would be approx. £400. Councillors requested sight of the Forum's annual accounts for 2008/09 prior to considering a grant.
- Bridport, Beaminster & Lyme Regis Crime Prevention Panel – a small annual donation (£50-£100) to assist with the Panels administration costs. Councillors requested sight of the Crime Prevention Panel's annual accounts for 2008/09 and detail of any contributions received from Bridport and Lyme Regis Town Council prior to considering a grant.
- Bridport, Beaminster & Lyme Regis Crime Prevention Panel – donation towards security items ie. alarms for door handles to be used by the elderly (£2.95) and a WMT-3000 wireless transmitter alarm (£160) for demonstration use on farms. Councillors requested sight of the Crime Prevention Panel's annual accounts for 2008/09 and detail of any contributions received from Bridport and Lyme Regis Town Council prior to considering a grant.
- Life Education Dorset – grant towards providing health and drug prevention education at the St Mary's CE Primary School in Beaminster, the total cost of the visit being £1,155 of which the School contribute £480. It was **AGREED** to enquire of St Mary's Primary School if it would be more beneficial to award a grant direct.

Cllr Mrs Baldwin returned to the meeting.

**418 WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL – Planning Obligations Guidelines**

A first stage consultation document had previously been circulated detailing the reasons why the District Council were preparing guidelines on planning obligations, a process that would continue throughout 2009. The Town Council's observations or comments were sought.

The Town Clerk was asked to collate a response from those comments submitted by individual members and respond to the District Council.

**419 BEAMINSTER COMMUNITY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP**

Members had previously been circulated with an update report.

Cllr Berry advised that it had only been possible to obtain one written quotation with respect to carry out verti-drainage works in the Memorial Playing Field due to availability of the necessary equipment. The quotation received had been submitted by Dorset Works in the sum of £3,358.97. Cllr Berry reminded members that the sum of £1,800 had previously been identified from within the existing budget, a shortfall remaining of £1,600.

Cllr Armstrong proposed to accept the quotation from Dorset Works Organisation, seconded by Cllr Mrs Beeny and **AGREED**.

Cllr Berry was pleased to report that the remedial works in the children's play area had been completed under budget, as it had not been possible to undertake repairs to the slide. Also new agreements had been signed with both the Football and Cricket Club.

**420 CORRESPONDENCE**

Members **NOTED** no significant items of correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

**421 PROGRESS REPORTS**

- **Trees in Cemetery** – a number of limbs had been brought down during heavy snow in March. The services of Dorset Tree Services had been engaged to clear the branches that had fallen across graves and memorials. West Dorset District Council's Tree Officer subsequently met with the Council's groundsman on site to discuss the condition of the trees and quotations were being sought for the tree surgery recommended.

Cllr Mrs Page reported that Mr G Streets had recently undertaken work on the conifer trees at the closed churchyard. It was **AGREED** to express the Council's gratitude to him.

- **Allotments** – a number of complaints had been received with regard to the non cultivation of two plots in the allotments, subsequent inspections had taken place and other plots were also found to be in need of attention. This issue, with the co-operation of plot holders, had been successfully resolved and significant progress had been made and the allotments were looking good.
- **Public Works Loan Board** – an application had been submitted to the DAPTC for borrowing approval

- **Town Council Website** – the site was currently under construction via office based training and progressing well.
- **Advertising leaflet – Public Hall facilities** – an advertising leaflet had been produced and was tabled together with comments form and list of regular events taking place in the Public Hall.

**422 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Items identified for the May agenda were:

- Council tables
- The Square

**423 MEETING**

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 9.30pm.

CHAIRMAN  
18 MAY 2009