



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 15th February 2010 in the Skyrm Room at the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7.00pm

139PRESENT – Cllr Mrs I Maling (Chairman), Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Baker, Cllr Beazer, Cllr Mrs R Beeny, Cllr Berry, Cllr Body, Cllr Elliott, Cllr Mrs R Knox and Cllr Mrs J Page.

140 IN ATTENDANCE – Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk) and one member of the public.

141 APOLOGIES – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Baldwin and District Cllr Mrs C Payne.

142 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18TH JANUARY 2010

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th January 2010 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

143 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

144 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS FOR:

(a) Dorset Police Representative

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

Under this heading Cllr Mrs Beeny advised that a gate on Footpath 69 previously reported as stolen had in fact been found and put back in position.

Cllr Beazer expressed his concern at the potential for opportunist crime as some occupiers of private property did not close curtains etc. in the evenings.

Cllr Mrs Knox enquired on the legal status of advertising a motor vehicle for sale while parked on the public highway.

(b) West Dorset District Councillors

Cllr Mrs Page reported on the following item:

- as a District Councillor she was taking part in a trial pilot “Shadowing Programme” whereby whilst attending meetings, functions etc. in an official capacity, a number of Councillors were being accompanied by a young person who, for whatever reason had been excluded from school or was disadvantaged in some way. A wide and varied programme had been devised in order to give the young people a view of local democracy at work

In response to a question from Cllr Mrs Beeny regarding kerb side recycling Cllr Mrs Page confirmed there were no plans to introduce food waste collections, the District Council were encouraging residents to purchase a "Green" composting cone

(c) Dorset County Councillor

Cllr Mrs Knox reported on the following items:

- the County Council had unanimously agreed a 2.97% increase in Council Tax for 2010/2011. Whilst endeavouring to keep the increase to a minimum it was noted that the elderly population of the County was high compared to other counties
- there is to be further consultation with regard to the possible site for a household recycling centre which, until recently was favoured to be at Gore Cross, Bridport
- pressure was being put on the County Council for improved communication in respect of the proposed relocation of Mountjoy School

(d) Reports from Outside Organisations

A report from Cllr Mrs Beeny on the BAVLAP meeting which took place on 20th January 2010 and a meeting of the West Dorset Partnership which took place on 4th January 2010 are attached.

145 CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Chairman had not attended any Civic functions since the last meeting.
NOTED.

146 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Payments totalling £14,181.42 and receipts totalling £1,161.82 as detailed in the report to the meeting were submitted for approval. Cllr Beazer proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Mrs Page and **AGREED.** A copy of which is attached.

147 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELDS

Members had previously been circulated with the Minutes of the Memorial Playing Field Liaison Committee held on 12th January 2010. **NOTED.**

Members had previously been circulated with an Update on issues relating to the Memorial Playing Field. **NOTED.**

Cllr Berry drew attention to the condition of the football pitch which, due to bad weather, had become water logged in some particular areas and advised that arrangements had been made to survey the existing drainage system to ascertain whether it has sustained any damage.

Some discussion ensued with regard to the school children using a short cut across the playing field and creating a gap in the hedge with the general consensus being that even if a path was created around the perimeter of the field it was unlikely to be used. It was **AGREED** the Liaison Committee would consider the options.

With regard to the storage problem, Cllr Berry put forward the suggestion of

extending the existing former toilet building situated inside the main gate by approximately 8ft, he stated that if members were in agreement it would be included in the planning application currently being prepared in respect of additional play equipment and replacement fencing. The suggestion of a new building to include storage for the tractor was put forward by Cllr Elliott however Cllr Berry advised this had been discounted by the Liaison Committee due to cost. Following discussion it was **AGREED** to include the extension of the existing building in the planning application to be submitted.

Cllr Berry circulated details of the proposed replacement fence which comprised of metal posts and plastic chain link, height approximately 4ft. This was **AGREED**.

148 BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL - POLICIES

Members had previously been circulated with copies of the following for consideration and adoption:

- Health & Safety Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy

At the request of Cllr Mrs Page this item was deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council.

149 PUBLIC HALL CHAIRS AND COUNCIL TABLES & CHAIRS

Members approved the style of the banqueting chair for the Public Hall as a replacement for the existing plastic chair, with members expressing a preference for the blue fabric and **AGREED** to the purchase of 200 at a cost of £4,398.

With regard to the purchase of new tables for use by the Town Council members **AGREED** in principle to purchase the necessary tables as presented at a cost of £1005.00. However the question of the amount of available floor space once in situ. was raised and it was **AGREED** to clarify this with supplier for the March meeting.

With regard to the purchase of 10 x small card tables at a cost of £224.90 members **AGREED** but questioned the quantity and approved the purchase of 20 tables.

150 DISABLED ACCESS TO REAR OF THE PUBLIC HALL

The Clerk reported that following discussion with an officer from West Dorset District Council there was the opportunity to resurface the small section of footway at the rear door of the Public Hall. To enhance the entrance, in particular for those users of the Skyrm Room with limited mobility, a drop kerb could be incorporated at a total cost of £620. It was **AGREED** to take advantage of the opportunity and to proceed with the work.

151 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence received since the last meeting included:

- **St Mary's CE Primary School** – letter of thanks for grant to assist with the cost of a visit by the Life Education Van. An invitation had been extended to all Councillors to visit the Van between 9.00-9.25 on Friday 5th March 2010

152 PROGRESS REPORTS

- **Digital Signal** – a report, following the DORBAG meeting on 26th February was awaited and would be submitted to the March meeting.
- **Soundproofing** – as detailed in a report previously circulated different options had been investigated to find a solution to the problem of sound between the main hall and the Skyrm Room. In light of the information this issue will be considered again by the Public Hall Working Group. **NOTED**

153 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items were identified for inclusion on the March agenda:

- Beaminster Town Council - Policies

154 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next Council meeting as Monday 15th March 2010

155 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.30pm.

156 PUBLIC BODIES (Admission to meeting) Act 1960

That in accordance with the terms of the Act, the public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst discussion takes place on item 16 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of a confidential nature of the business to be transacted viz leasehold arrangements with a tenant

Beaminster Social Club – members **NOTED** and **AGREED** revised rent arrangements for 2010/2011

CHAIRMAN
15 MARCH 2010