



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 19th January 2009 in the Skyrm Room at the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7pm

381 PRESENT Cllr Beazer (Chairman), Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Baker, Cllr Mrs Baldwin, Cllr Mrs Beeny, Cllr Berry, Cllr Elliott, Cllr Mrs Knox, Cllr Mrs Page and Cllr Spooner

382 IN ATTENDANCE Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Cllr Mrs Payne (West Dorset District Council) and Cllr Gregson (Dorset County Council)

Mr Gardiner drew Members attention to, and expressed his concern at, the very short notice received with regard to the temporary closure of White Sheet Hill from north of Gerrards Green to Beaminster Down Cross. The Chairman concurred with Mr Gardiner and agreed to raise this with the applicant.

383 APOLOGIES Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Maling.

384 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER 2008 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH JANUARY 2009

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15th December, having previously been circulated were amended to record "Cllr Armstrong as in attendance" and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 5th January having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Under this heading Cllr Berry requested that minutes be produced and circulated to all Members within five working days of the meeting; also associated papers to be dated and signed. **AGREED**

385 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Beazer declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 20 – draft lease between Beaminster Town Council, Beaminster Football Club and Beaminster Cricket Club and would leave the room during the discussion of this item.

Cllr Berry, referring to a letter he had received from the Chairman regarding his position within the Beaminster Community Centre Partnership, voiced his displeasure at the issue it raised, regarding a potential conflict of interest. Cllr Berry reminded Members that he had been elected, by the Council, to represent the Town Council on the BCCP, therefore he did not consider there to be a conflict of interest however he would leave the room during the discussion on agenda item 29 – Draft lease between Beaminster Town Council and Beaminster Community Centre Partnership.

386 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS FOR:-

(a) Dorset Police Representative

In the absence of a representative no report was received

(b) West Dorset District Councillors

Cllr Mrs Payne stressed that, contrary to some reports in the press regarding stock piles of recycling waste, West Dorset District Council were not in this position due to the efficient way it sorted the materials.

Cllr Mrs Page advised that she was currently undergoing a training course on 'Governance' which included undertaking a "swat" analysis of her ward.

(c) Dorset County Councillor

Cllr Gregson advised the future of Mountjoy School, and its possible relocation to Beaminster School had gone to public consultation. An open meeting would take place in Beaminster on 3rd February on this issue.

Cllr Mrs Beeny drew attention to recent surface water flooding in Fleet Street and asked this to be raised with the County Council. Cllr Berry also drew attention to the condition of Hogshill Street, cracks were appearing and the adverse camber appeared to be increasing.

(d) Reports from Outside Organisations

Cllr Baker advised that a committee would be formed to oversee the running of the Sports Hall at Beaminster School. It was envisaged that the committee would meet four times a year.

Cllr Mrs Beeny advised that she had attended a BAVLAP meeting on 13th January at which discussion had included the updating of the action plan, the Town Council's funding application for play equipment and the consultation paper regarding the use of 084 telephone numbers by local doctor's surgeries.

Cllr Mrs Knox reminded Members that the Community Swimming Pool would re-open at Easter and volunteers for life guard and reception duties would be most welcome.

Cllr Mrs Knox advised that she had attended a meeting of DorBAG at which the timetable for the digital switchover had been confirmed. Details would be issued via the press at a later date.

Cllr Armstrong advised that a request had been made by the Twinning Association, to the Town Council via the offices of the Chairman, for a formal invitation to be extended to the Mayor and Councillors of St. James for the proposed visit in May.

387 CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Council **NOTED** that the Chairman had not undertaken any official engagements between 15th December 2008 and 18th January 2009.

388 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Payments totalling £9,305.40 and receipts totalling £2,486.61 as detailed in the report to the meeting were submitted for approval, Cllr Berry proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Mrs Beeny and **AGREED**

389 WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL/WEYMOUTH AND PORTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL – IDENTIFICATION OF NEW SITES FOR HOUSING (DECISION)

The above authorities were offering the Town Council the opportunity to identify sites of any size that they consider may make a contribution to the future supply of housing, unfortunately no suitable sites would be identified.

390 PUBLIC HALL

The Public Hall Working Party has discussed at some length suitable amendments to the hire agreement, in light of recent discussions with the Police regarding some types of music events, and submitted a recommendation for consideration.

Cllr Mrs Knox considered the requirement, of the hirer to notify the Police of a music event six weeks in advance, to be impractical. Following discussion on this issue it was **AGREED** to refer the item back to the Public Hall Working Party for further consideration.

It was **AGREED** to purchase and fit locks to doors at the rear of the building, the cost being in the region of £100.

391 GRANT – YARN BARTON

Cllr Berry expressed his displeasure at and questioned the delay in making payment to Yarn Barton of the £2,000 grant recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee, and subsequently included in the 2008/09 budget.

The Chairman defended his decision to delay payment until all Councillors had the opportunity to comment on this grant and the subsequent approval of the budget at the Council meeting held on 15th December 2008.

Cllr Berry reminded the Chairman that Council had previously agreed to delegate financial responsibility to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

392 AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

The external audit of the Town Council's Annual Return had been completed and duly submitted to Council for approval.

Two issues had arisen from the Audit, the level of fidelity guarantee cover being insufficient in light of bank balances held on 31st March 2008 and the incorrect use of Section 137 when making a grant to the Beaminster Festival. Subsequent action to be taken on these issues was submitted to Council in the form of an action plan and **NOTED**.

393 BEAMINSTER FESTIVAL – 2009

A request had been received from the organisers for financial support for the 2009 Festival. Cllr Berry proposed a grant of £300, seconded by Cllr Armstrong and **AGREED**.

A request had been made, as in previous years, for a letter acknowledging the Town Council's support for the Festival, to accompany their request for funding from West Dorset District Council. **AGREED**.

394 ITEMS ARISING FROM THE INFORMAL STRATEGY MEETING

Quality Status – Website

Members had previously been circulated with costs from two organisations with regard to the design of a Town Council website. Discussion ensued with regard to the content of a site and possible links to other organisations within the town. It was **AGREED** to defer this item to the next meeting, Members were asked to submit suggestions to the office as soon as possible.

Signs – Memorial Playing Fields

Members were circulated with examples and costs for three different signs for various locations within the Memorial Playing Field. Cllr Berry felt some simplification of the text would be beneficial, Members were asked to submit suggestions to the office.

395 PROPOSED YOUTH SHELTER

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the amended design for the proposed Youth Shelter. Cllr Mrs Page reminded Members of the original request considered in 2005 together with the terms of the "in principle" agreement for the siting of the shelter on the north bank of the Memorial Playing Field.

Cllr Mrs Page proposed the design of the proposed shelter be approved, seconded by Cllr Mrs Baldwin and **AGREED**.

With regard to permission to site the shelter it was **AGREED** to clarify the Youth Forum's acceptance of the conditions attached to the original request in 2005.

396 BEAMINSTER COMMUNITY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

Members had previously been circulated with a report update following the news that a grant from the Football Foundation in the sum of £215,515 had been awarded to the Beaminster Community Centre Partnership towards the development costs of the new pavilion.

Cllr Berry was pleased to report, in light of the grant, that the Project Group had met to review its programme and it was hoped that building work would commence in early April, with construction time approximately 22 weeks.

397 CORRESPONDENCE

Members **NOTED** details of significant items of correspondence received since the last meeting.

- **Dorset County Council** – Structural Maintenance Draft Programme 2009-2010 – The draft programme of schemes does not include any works for the town of Beaminster.

398 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items for the February Agenda identified were:

- Thursday Market
- Square Review Group Report

399 PROGRESS REPORTS

Children's Play Area – a provisional date has been given for the replacement of the safety surface under the swings in the Memorial Playing Field – 6th March 2009. A site visit has been arranged with regard to the safety surfacing at the bottom of the slide. **NOTED**.

Cllr Berry requested the replacement of the safety surface under the swings be referred to the Play Area Users Group to be discussed in conjunction with other remedial works under consideration. **AGREED**.

400 DRAFT LEASE BETWEEN BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL AND BEAMINSTER COMMUNITY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

The successful funding application to the Football Foundation required a formal agreement between the Beaminster Community Centre Partnership and the Town Council, in the form of a lease, before 4th February 2009.

In consultation with Council's Solicitor a draft lease has been prepared based on the terms of the first draft previously approved by Council on 23rd June 2008, a copy of the drafts had been circulated to all Members.

The Clerk highlighted the only major amendment contained in item 1 which dealt with rent.

Two minor amendments were discussed relating to the underlet, part with or share with others the possession of the premises and the provision for catering facilities.

Cllr Mrs Page proposed the lease be amended to reflect the discussion and subsequently approved by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for signature, seconded by Cllr Mrs Baldwin and **AGREED**.

Cllr Berry returned to the meeting.

Cllr Beazer and Cllr Mrs Page left the meeting, Cllr Spooner took the Chair.

401 DRAFT LEASE BETWEEN BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL, BEAMINSTER FOOTBALL CLUB AND BEAMINSTER CRICKET CLUB

The successful funding application to the Football Foundation requires a new lease agreement between the above parties for a term of 20 years from 1st April 2009.

Draft leases had been prepared based on existing leases, the changes were mainly contained within items 1 and 2 which dealt with rental issues.

Councillor Elliott proposed the leases as circulated be approved for signature, seconded by Cllr Armstrong and **AGREED**.

Cllr Beazer and Cllr Mrs Page returned to the meeting. Cllr Beazer took the Chair.

402 INTERNAL/EXTERNAL DECORATION OF THE PUBLIC HALL

The Public Hall Working Party had obtained and considered quotations for the internal and external decoration of the Public Hall and had put forward a recommendation.

In respect of the internal decoration Cllr Mrs Page proposed the quotation received from Capstone Painting and Decorating be accepted, seconded by Cllr Elliott. **AGREED**.

In respect of the external decoration Cllr Mrs Page proposed the quotation received from Mr R Crabb be accepted, seconded by Cllr Mrs Knox. **AGREED**.

403 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 9.00pm