



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 20th July 2009 in the Skyrm Room at the Public Hall, Beaminster at 6.45pm

The meeting commenced with a short presentation from Mr T Gibbons, Beaminster Community Farm and Alternative Technology Centre regarding its outline four year plan, a copy of which had previously been circulated to Councillors. Following a short question and answer session Cllr Mrs Maling, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked Mr Gibbons for attending.

20 PRESENT – Cllr Mrs I Maling (Chairman) Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Mrs V Baldwin, Cllr Beazer, Cllr Mrs R Beeny, Cllr Berry, Cllr Elliott, Cllr Mrs J Page and Cllr Spooner

21 IN ATTENDANCE – Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Cllr Caroline Payne (WDDC) and two members of the public.

22 APOLOGIES - Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Baker and Cllr Mrs Knox

23 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22nd JUNE 2009

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 22nd June having previously been circulated were amended to read:

Item 18 – Future Agenda Items

Councillor **Mrs Baldwin** requested that two items be placed on the agenda for the July Council meeting.

and duly signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received

25 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS FOR:

(a) Dorset Police Representative

In the absence of a Police representative no report was given

(b) West Dorset District Councillors

Councillor Mrs Caroline Payne was pleased to report that the District Council had achieved their target in respect of recycling, however they continued to look at ways of further reducing waste.

Cllr Mrs Baldwin expressed her disappointment that West Dorset District Council had refused funding assistance with regard to the cost of producing bus timetables, she enquired of Cllr Mrs Payne the reason behind the decision. In response Cllr Mrs Page advised this was a Dorset County Council role and should therefore be raised with County Cllr Mrs Knox.

Cllr Mrs Page advised that discussions with the District Council regarding the siting of a traders information board at the entrance of Yarn Barton car park had been positive.

Cllr Mrs Page advised, in her capacity as Chairman of the District Council's Audit and Governance Committee that, the District Council had received their Statement of Audit. She was pleased to report that they had performed slightly better during the last financial year than previously.

It was **NOTED** that the responsibility for issuing bus passes would be passed from the District Council to Dorset County Council in the future.

Cllr Mrs Beeny expressed her concern at the cuts to the Youth Services budget by Dorset County Council and the fact that the Youth Centre would be closed for the duration of the summer holidays. It was **AGREED** to write to the Head of Children's Services at Dorset County Council to express this concern.

(c) Dorset County Councillor

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Knox no report was given

(d) Reports from Outside Organisations

Beaminster Square Review Group – Members were circulated with a report from Cllr Mrs Knox with regard to issues in the Square, a copy of which is attached.

26 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Payments totalling £57,092.66 and receipts totalling £1,356.45 as detailed in the report to the meeting were submitted for approval. Cllr Beazer proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Elliott and **AGREED**.

27 COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

The dates of future Councillors Surgeries for 2009/10 together with members attending each session were **AGREED** as follows:-

Saturday 5 th September 2009	Cllr Berry and Cllr Mrs Page
Saturday 5 th December 2009	Cllr Beazer and Cllr Mrs Beeny
Saturday 6 th March 2010	Cllr Armstrong and Cllr Baker
Saturday 5 th June 2010	Cllr Elliott and Cllr Mrs Maling
Saturday 5 th September 2010	Cllr Mrs Baldwin and Cllr Berry

28 CHRISTMAS TREE ARRANGEMENTS 2009

Members were advised of an offer of a Christmas tree for the Square 2009 from a resident of the Town. It was **AGREED** that the Chairman and the Clerk would look at the tree in question and report back to the August meeting as to its suitability.

29 GROUNDSMAN/HANDYMAN

The Town Clerk reported that Mr Rod Hansford had been appointed Groundsman/Handyman with effect from 6th July 2009. He would be responsible for the maintenance of the Memorial Playing Field, Children's play area and Pease Hill only. **NOTED.**

A candidate for the position of Groundsman in the Cemetery, Closed Churchyard and Furlands Allotment would be interviewed on his return from holiday. **NOTED.**

30 BEAMINSTER COMMUNITY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

Members **NOTED** the contract start date had been delayed due to Health and Safety Regulations however the contractor had moved on site commencing with the extension of the car park area/compound. Cllr Berry reported that a token dismantlement of the pavilion had taken place earlier that day.

The "View from Beaminster" were to feature pictures, together with residents memories, of the construction of the original pavilion.

Members **NOTED**, with some concern, the vandalism to the builder's compound over the weekend.

31 LITTERBINS

Members had previously been circulated with a short report from Cllr Mrs Knox regarding the condition of the litterbins in the Square together with the options for replacement. They could be replaced by standard bins provided by West Dorset District Council at no cost to the Town Council or the Town Council could opt for more visibly attractive bins at a cost.

Following discussion it was **AGREED** that enquiries be made of the District Council with regard to standard bins in the Square in the interim, as it was felt that more attractive bins could be considered when any Square enhancement works were undertaken.

Cllr Mrs Page enquired whether the Council had a list of litterbins and public seats. The Town Clerk would pursue.

32 CORRESPONDENCE

- **West Dorset District Council – proposed Standards Event.** Members **NOTED** the District Council were proposing to hold an event later in the year

with the intention to extend an invitation to all Parish and Town Councillors, Parish and Town Clerks and all District Councillors in order that colleagues could meet, discuss and share experiences and meet members of the Standards Committee. It was **AGREED** to support the District Council's initiative and indicate our interest in attending such an event

- **Town Crier** - On behalf of the Town Crier, David Craner, the Town Clerk extended his sincere thanks to all members of the Town Council and others who helped to make the 2009 Town Crier Championship a real success.

33 PROGRESS REPORTS

Beaminster Library Volunteers – Members **NOTED** that following training sessions the Library would be staffed by volunteers for an additional two sessions each week.

Cemetery/Closed Churchyard grounds maintenance – Members **NOTED** that a groundsman, working for an agency, had been employed in the cemetery and closed churchyard on ground clearance work pending a replacement Council groundsman

34 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items would be placed on the agenda for the August Council meeting:-

- i. Memorial Playing Field
- ii. Charter Market/Fayre
- iii. Square matters

35 MEETING

The meeting which started at 6.45pm closed at 8.00pm. The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 17th August 2009.

CHAIRMAN
17 AUGUST 2009