



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 22 June 2009 in the Skyrm Room at the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7.00pm

- 01 PRESENT** – Cllr Spooner (Vice Chairman) Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Baker, Cllr Mrs V Baldwin, Cllr Beazer, Cllr Mrs R Beeny, Cllr Berry, Cllr Elliott, Cllr Mrs R Knox and Cllr Mrs J Page.
- 02 IN ATTENDANCE** – Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Cllr Caroline Payne (WDDC), Alex Bishop (Dorset Police) and six members of the public.
- 03 APOLOGIES** - Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Maling (Chairman)

04 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18TH MAY 2009

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th May having previously been circulated were signed by the Vice Chairman, as a correct record.

05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Beazer declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 5 – payments and receipts.

06 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS FOR:

(a) Dorset Police Representative

PCSO Alex Bishop reported that over the last few weeks there had been a slight increase of Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage, one incident being a shirt set alight in the Children's Play Area Memorial Playing Field resulting in damage to a piece of play equipment. He asked whether the Town Council would consider a Bye-Law to restrict the age of children permitted to use the Play Area.

He also reported that recent speed checks in Hogshill Street had resulted in 16 vehicles found to be exceeding the 20mph speed restriction, those offenders would receive warning letters from Dorset Police.

Councillor Spooner extended his sympathy to the family of the two Beaminster residents involved in a road traffic accident at the weekend.

(b) West Dorset District Councillors

Cllr Mrs Caroline Payne had no items to report.

Cllr Armstrong drew attention to the grass in the Yarn Barton car park which had not been cut for some considerable time, he asked Cllr Mrs Payne if she would pursue this, on behalf of the Town Council, as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Mrs Page advised that she was a member of the District Council's Sustainable Communities Panel. As a result of an enquiry from a resident with regard to garden waste she confirmed that garden waste collected by the refuse collection did, in fact go to land fill. However, in order to encourage home composting the District Council could provide a "green cone" to residents willing to purchase one.

(c) Dorset County Councillor

Following her recent election to the County Council, Cllr Mrs Knox advised that she had been appointed to the following committees:-

- Roads and Rights of Way
- Performance Overview
- Community Overview
- Fire Authority
- Mountjoy Working Group.

Cllr Berry drew attention to the general road sign used to indicate "cats eyes" removed, he felt the wording was particularly sensitive to children.

(d) Reports from Outside Organisations

Members had previously been circulated with a report from Cllr. Mrs Maling detailing a recent Dorset Age Partnership meeting she had attended at Sherbourne.

Members had previously been circulated with a report from Cllr Mrs Beeny detailing three meetings associated with BAVLAP.

Members had previously been circulated with an update from Cllr. Mrs Knox with regard to the Beaminster Square.

Cllr Armstrong also circulated a report on the recent Twinning Visit.

Councillor Beazer left the meeting.

07 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Payments totalling £9,731.57 and receipts totalling £149,302.46 as detailed in the report to the meeting were submitted for approval, Cllr Berry proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Mrs Page and **AGREED.**

Cllr Beazer returned to the meeting.

08 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the Finance and

General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 19th May 2009.

Cllr Mrs Baldwin drew attention to an error in item 11 – Town Council Newsletter which recorded her interest in membership of the Newsletter Drafting Group however whilst she was happy to be a member of the group she had, in fact not been at the meeting to indicate this.

Members considered the recommendation to grant permission for the improvements to the 11 KV electricity supply around the Memorial Playing Field following the completion of the new pavilion development in the autumn.

Cllr Berry proposed to accept the one-off lump sum payment in the sum of £2,000 offered by Western Power for the Wayleave, seconded by Cllr Mrs Page.

09 WESTERN POWER DISTRIBUTION

The Wayleave Agreement in respect of the Memorial Playing Field was approved and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Town Council.

10 ALLOTMENT AND CEMETERY WORKING GROUP

Members had previously been circulated with notes of the Allotment and Cemetery Working Group meeting held on 03 June 2009 and **NOTED** the recommendation that no further action was required with regard to the sighting of a shed on allotment plot 15.

The current rent for allotment plots was not based on any system of measurement therefore some smaller plots were being charged at the same rate as larger plots. The Allotment and Cemetery Working Group felt that in future rents should be based on a price per square meter, it was **AGREED** to raise this with allotment holders at a meeting scheduled for later in the year.

Cllr Beazer proposed there be no increase in Cemetery charges for 2009/10 seconded by Cllr. Mrs Page and **AGREED**.

Details of quotations for tree surgery works in the Cemetery had been considered by the Allotment and Cemetery Working Group and Cllr. Mrs Page proposed to accept the quotation submitted by Forest and Tree Care Ltd in the sum of £2,645.00 seconded by Cllr. Berry and **AGREED**.

Under this heading Cllr. Berry raised the issue of the wall at the Cemetery and advised that Mr Streets had kindly offered to undertake necessary repairs in the sum of £50.00 and recommended to Council that this work be undertaken, seconded by Cllr. Beazer and **AGREED**.

Cllr. Berry felt that it should not be the role of the Allotment and Cemetery Working Group to recommend cemetery charges. This should remain the responsibility of the Clerk, in her role as Finance Officer, to propose adjustments to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, at the November meeting.
NOTED.

11 ROAD SAFETY MEETING

Members had previously been circulated with the notes of the Road Safety Meeting held on the 8th June 2009, the content of which was **NOTED**.

Cllr. Berry expressed his concern that the same issues had been debated many times in the past, with little or no action taken by either the County Council or the District Council. He felt that strong written representation should be made to both authorities and, if appropriate, then followed by a meeting. This was **AGREED**.

12 PUBLIC HALL WORKING PARTY

Members had previously been circulated with the notes of the Public Hall Working Party meeting held on 10th June 2009, the content of which was **NOTED**.

Cllr Beazer proposed to accept the quotation submitted by Martin Radcliffe in the sum of £391.00 per annum in respect of maintenance of the fire alarm system in the Public Hall, seconded by Cllr. Berry and **AGREED**.

Cllr Armstrong proposed to offer the two large wooden Council tables on long term loan, one to Beaminster Museum and the other to Stoke Water House, seconded by Cllr. Berry and **AGREED**.

Cllr Beazer proposed that the plastic tables, which were not ideal, should not be used for Council meetings and that the Council should pursue the possible purchase of modern tilting tables, seconded by Cllr Berry and **AGREED**.

Cllr Spooner requested his vote against the proposition be recorded.

13 ACCOUNTS YEAR END 31 MARCH 2009

Members had been previously been circulated with the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2009. Cllr. Berry proposed the Council approve and sign the Accounts as circulated, seconded by Cllr. Beazer and **AGREED**.

14 HONORARY TOWNSPERSON ADMINISTRATION

Members had previously been circulated with Cllr Beazer's suggestions for administration paperwork, in particular an information pamphlet that could be made available to any member of the public who wished to make a nomination for an Honorary Townsperson Award.

Following much discussion it was **AGREED** that Cllr Beazer should consider the comments made, together with any subsequent observations made, and submit a revised draft at a later date.

15 STAFFING AND OFFICE HOURS

Members had previously been circulated with the suggestion that the public opening hours of the Council office be revised to permit the staff a 'quiet' half hour at the start and the end of the working day to respond to telephone

answering machine messages, email etc. It was recommended that the office be open to members of the public 9am and 1pm, Monday to Friday. **AGREED.**

Members had also been advised of the resignation of Mr Mick Regan from his position of Groundsman/Handyman and his intention to leave the Council employ on Thursday 02 July. The Town Clerk advised this vacancy would be advertised in the local press as soon as possible.

Mr Regan had offered the Council a number of his personal tools he had used during his employment for the sum of £50.00. Cllr Berry proposed acceptance of Mr Regan's offer, seconded by Cllr Mrs Page and **AGREED.**

16 MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of Cllr Berry's progress report with regard to the BCCP Project Pavilion Development and the Memorial Playing Fields Liaison Committee Children's Play Area, the content of which was **NOTED.**

Cllr Beazer enquired on the current position with regard to signs in the Memorial Playing Field to which Cllr. Berry confirmed that the item would be discussed at a meeting the following evening.

17 CORRESPONDENCE

- **Dorset County Council – Beaminster Tunnel**

Members **NOTED** the detail of correspondence received from Dorset County Council regarding maintenance work provisionally scheduled for September 2009.

- **Soapbox Race proposal**

Members noted the detail of a proposal to hold a Soapbox Race in August 2009 and were supportive in principal of the idea. Cllr Berry suggested that perhaps the organisers liaise with WDDC to stage this event in conjunction with the closure of the Tunnel in September.

18 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr Mrs Beeny requested that 2 items be placed on the agenda for the July Council meeting:

- Councillors Surgery
- Christmas Tree.

19 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.05pm closed at 8.40pm. The date of the next meeting was noted as Monday 20th July 2009.

CHAIRMAN
20 July 2009