



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 16th March 2009 in the Skyrm Room at the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7.00pm

428 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.

429 IN ATTENDANCE – Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Cllr Mrs Payne (West Dorset District Council), Cllr P Gregson (Dorset County Council) and two members of the public.

430 APOLOGIES
No apologies for absence were received.

431 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH FEBRUARY 2009

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16th February, having previously been circulated were signed by the Chairman, as a correct record.

432 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Beazer declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 –Payments and Receipts and would leave the room during discussion of this item.

433 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 advised the District Council had increased their Council Tax requirement by 2.5%, this would mean a £2.97 per year increase on the average Band D property.

Cllr Mrs Page advised that, with Cllr Mrs Payne, she had attended a briefing meeting with regard to “Choice Based Lettings”. This system gave those wishing to rent a property the opportunity to ‘bid’ for houses where they would like to live rather than accept an allocation.

Cllr Mrs Page was pleased to report that the District Council had recently undergone a peer review on progress with regard to equal opportunities and were deemed to be level 3 which was very good.

At this point Cllr Mrs Knox joined the meeting.

(c) Dorset County Councillor

Cllr Gregson confirmed :

- the closure of Beaminster Tunnel between 14-17th April
- the statutory notice for public consultation on the proposed relocation of Mountjoy School would go out on 20th March for a period of six weeks
- resurfacing work in Fleet Street would commence on 6th April for three days (attention was drawn to the sign erected which stated 14th April)
- cracks in Hogshill Street had been inspected and were found to be minor, they would continue to be monitored on a regular basis

With regard to the resurfacing of Fleet Street Cllr Gregson agreed to seek clarification with regard to the following:

- date work would commence
- whether there would be access for residents in Newtown etc.
- whether there would be access for emergency services
- the extent of the work – would it be the entire length of Fleet Street

(d) Reports from Outside Organisations

Beaminster Community Centre Partnership – Cllr Berry reported on a number of issues relating to the Memorial Playing Field –

- Urgent work, under Health & Safety, to remove fallen branches in both the Playing Field and the Cemetery had been undertaken, monies had been identified within the budget
- Remedial works to equipment in the children's play area would be undertaken on 30th/31st March, cost to be met by Section 106 monies
- Western Power were planning to realign power cables by putting in new lines underground around the perimeter of the field on the south, west and north boundary. On completion overhead cables would be removed
- A quotation had been received for necessary drainage works in the sum of £1,500, monies had been identified within the budget

With regard to the drainage works Cllr Mrs Knox enquired whether, in line with Standing Orders, other quotations had been sought. Cllr Elliott proposed to undertake the drainage works, in principle subject to a further quotation being sought, seconded by Cllr Mrs Page. **AGREED.**

Twining Association – Cllr Armstrong reported on the arrangements for the visit by a party from Saint James between 21 – 23 May 2009, in particular the arrangements for a formal dinner on Saturday 23. He enquired whether the Town Council would consider a small contribution to the visit by providing the Public Hall free of charge for the civic reception and the formal dinner.

Members were not in favour of granting free use of the facility however Cllr Mrs Page proposed a grant to the Twinning Association to offset the hall hire costs, seconded by Cllr Mrs Baldwin. **AGREED.**

BAVLAP – Cllr Mrs Beeny advised the next meeting would take place in Beaminster on 17 March which would be preceded by a PACT meeting.

Cllr Mrs Page reported she had attended the Annual General Meeting of the West Dorset Hydropower Group.

Crime Prevention – Cllr Mrs Baldwin advised that :

- a meeting of the Crime Prevention Panel had now taken place at which PC Shaun Cannon had been co-opted onto the Panel.
- Following the success of a previous “road traffic accident” mock incident involving young drivers plans were being made to hold a similar event in Beaminster, which could perhaps, be held in conjunction with a trial of the “Emergency Plan”
- There was an aggressive seller from Scottish Power currently operating in the area
- Crime statistics for this area had reduced significantly and Bridport figures were the best in the force
- A new alarm was being introduced to those, especially the elderly, who had to leave doors unlocked for access to carers etc. which could be hung on the door and would sound when the door was opened which would alert the householder to someone entering the property

434 CHAIRMAN’S ENGAGEMENTS

The Council **NOTED** that the Chairman had undertaken no official engagements.

Cllr Beazer left the meeting and Cllr Spooner took the chair.

435 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Payments totalling £5,937.40 and receipts totalling £749.97 as detailed in the report to the meeting were submitted for approval, Cllr Berry proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Baker and **AGREED.**

Cllr Beazer returned to the meeting.

436 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2009/2010

In light of the decision to hold Planning Advisory & Highways Committee meetings after the Council meeting a revised Calendar of Meetings had previously been circulated.

Following discussion Cllr Berry proposed that Council and Planning Advisory & Highway Committee meetings take place on the third Monday of each month as indicated on the calendar of meetings, seconded by Cllr Mrs Page and **AGREED.**

The Clerk, following this decision, drew attention to two dates for which she would be unavailable and it was **AGREED** to amend the date for June 2009 to Monday 22nd and the date for April 2010 to Monday 12th.

Other adjustments were made and members would be circulated with a new Calendar of Meetings.

437 FLYTIPPING

The chairman drew attention to a number of recent flytipping incidents in and around the Town, West Dorset Services had been made aware and had dealt with them promptly however he asked everyone to be vigilant and to report any incidents to the police or WDDC.

438 GRIT BINS

The Clerk advised that during recent icy conditions a number of enquiries with regard to the provision of grit bins, in several locations in the town, had been received. Enquiries with Dorset County Council had established that the onus was on the Town Council to provide grit bins, the County Council would keep them stocked.

Three specific sites had been requested and the approximate cost per bin would be in the region of £126 plus VAT. It was **AGREED** to defer this item for further consideration at the Strategy meeting.

439 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- **Dorset County Council – Beaminster Tunnel**

Prior to any structural maintenance work to the tunnel the County Council have to investigate its condition, outside expertise had been commissioned to undertake some intrusive investigation work to the tunnel lining. Street lighting and highway maintenance sections of the County Council also need to undertake maintenance or exploratory work and this would take place at the same time. Therefore it would be necessary to close the tunnel to traffic between 14 to 17 April 2009 from 0900-1600hrs daily, a signed diversion would be in place for the closure.

- **David Craner, Town Crier**

A letter of thanks had been received from David Craner for the honorarium awarded. It had been received at an opportune time to meet the expense of work to his uniform.

- **Beaminster Festival**

A letter of thanks for the grant awarded to the 2009 Festival had been received. The Town Council logo would be used in the brochure in acknowledgement of the Council's support.

440 PROGRESS REPORTS

- **Dorset County Council – Proposed relocation of Mountjoy School**

A meeting with representatives from Dorset County Council had taken place regarding the proposed relocation of Mountjoy School to a site adjacent to Beaminster School.

441 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr Mrs Maling requested that the following item be placed on the agenda

- Advertising in the Square

442 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.20pm.

CHAIRMAN
20 APRIL 2009