



## **BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010 in the Skyrm Room at the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7.00pm

**158PRESENT** – 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.

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

**160 APOLOGIES** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Baldwin.

**161 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**162 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**163 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS FOR:**

**(a) Dorset Police Representative**

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

Cllr Armstrong advised that during the recent Council Surgery PCSO Alex Bishop had made an impromptu visit which had been most welcome. It was **AGREED** to thank PCSO Bishop and invite him to attend on a regular basis, duties permitting.

**(b) West Dorset District Councillors**

Cllr Mrs Payne reported on the following item:

- The District Council had been successful in its bid for additional funding towards the provision of enhanced housing options, these funds would be used to employ a person to assist people, particularly the young, to avoid becoming homeless

Cllr Mrs Page reported on the following :

- The District Council's proportion of Council Tax increased by 1%
- The introduction of a pilot scheme in Sherborne to recycle kitchen waste
- The shadowing programme had finished however, there were plans for similar programmes in the future
- Training undertaken on procurement

### **(c) Dorset County Councillor**

Cllr Mrs Knox reported on the following items:

- The Parish Lengthsman Scheme had been taken up by Upper Marshwood Vale and Char Valley Parish Council's, progress would be monitored
- As a member of the Fire Authority and being aware of the amount of work undertaken by the local fire station Cllr Mrs Knox felt it could be useful if a representative from the station were to attend a meeting from time to time to update the Council on any significant issues in relation to their duties.

Under this heading Cllr Beazer raised the issue of taxi firms using Fleet Street to access Beaminster School, also the increased number of children walking to school via Fleet Street. It was **AGREED** to arrange a meeting with Mr Best to discuss these issues.

### **(d) Reports from Outside Organisations**

- **DORBAG** - a report from Cllr Mrs Knox was circulated, a copy of which is attached
- **BAVLAP** – Cllr Mrs Beeny advised the next meeting would take place at Broadwindsor on 25<sup>th</sup> March at which there would be a presentation entitled "Village Voices". Public consultation on the District Council's "Vision for West Dorset" would take place at Yarn Barton on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March
- **Twinning Association** – Cllr Armstrong advised that a party from Beaminster would be travelling to France at the end of May.

### **164 CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS**

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

### **165 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

Payments totalling £14,194.52 and receipts totalling £1,491.78 as detailed in the report to the meeting were submitted for approval. Cllr Beazer proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Berry and **AGREED**. A copy of which is attached.

### **167 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

Cllr Mrs Page drew attention to minor amendments, which did not change the overall content, therefore it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Policies as circulated with the amendments incorporated.

### **168 PUBLIC HALL– REQUEST FROM BEAMINSTER WI TO HIRE SKRYM ROOM**

A request from Beaminster WI to hire, on a permanent basis, the Skrym Room on the third Monday of every month in conjunction with their normal monthly hire was considered and subsequently **AGREED** in principle, with effect from June 2010. The Clerk would investigate an alternative evening for Council meetings.

**169 MOBILE OPTICIAN SERVICE – TO CONSIDER REQUEST FOR POSSIBLE SITE FOR THIS MOBILE MEDICAL TEST VEHICLE**

Members had previously been circulated with a request for a site to accommodate a 7m long vehicle which would provide a mobile optician service, on a weekly basis, together with room for the parking of two cars.

Following discussion it was **AGREED**, in principle, to offer space in the Memorial Playing Field car park subject to access being suitable and an appropriate fee. The Clerk was asked to consult the Chamber of Trade on this proposal.

**WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL – WEST DORSET SPRING CLEAN**

Town & Parish Councils were being invited to take part in the Annual Spring Clean as in previous years. Following consideration Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April commencing at 6.30pm in the Square was **AGREED**. The Clerk was asked to publicise as widely as possible.

**170 DORSET AONB PARTNERSHIP – UNDERGROUNDING OF LOW VOLTAGE POWER LINES IN DORSET AONB**

Western Power Distribution had invited Dorset AONB together with representatives of other protected landscapes to form a Steering Group with the purpose of identifying candidate power lines for undergrounding.

The AONB Partnership had written to ask towns and parishes to nominate a power line for consideration for possible undergrounding. Having given due consideration to the request it was **AGREED** that all power lines within the boundaries of the Conservation Area should be underground.

**171 ALLOTMENT & CEMETERY WORKING GROUP**

Members had previously been circulated with the Minutes of the Allotment & Cemetery Working Group meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010. **NOTED**.

The following recommendations were considered and **AGREED**.

- to pass the tenancy of Plot 11 to Mr & Mrs Allen
- to enforce the condition within Clause 5 regarding sub-letting if appropriate
- to agree and adopt the revised wording in respect of Clause 8
- to serve notice on a plot that had been uncultivated

The following recommendations were considered

- to provide a skip at the allotments – it was **AGREED** to provide a skip in the forthcoming financial year, however the general consensus being that no further skips would be provided unless a specific request was made
- to the siting of a memorial bench in memory of the late John Poole – it was **AGREED** in principle, designs and costs to be pursued.

**172 ACTION FOR MARKET TOWNS – MEMBERSHIP**

Members had previously been circulated with details of the national organisation Action for Market Towns which assisted Towns with recession-beating projects, advice and consultancy on town centre improvement projects etc. Consideration was given to membership at a cost of £98 per annum however it was felt that, with advice being readily available from other organisations/bodies, there would be little or no benefit in membership.

**173 CORRESPONDENCE** - Correspondence received since the last meeting included:

- **Acheson – Surface Water Improvement Works, Beaminster School**  
Notification of their intention to start surface water improvement works in early March with an anticipated completion at the end of August 2010 had been received. Site works would not normally take place before 7.30am or after 5.00pm, with possible weekend working. **NOTED.**

**174 PROGRESS REPORTS** - Members **NOTED** progress on the following items since the last meeting

- Public hall - first floor windows installed
- Public hall – dishwasher and hot plate installed in kitchen
- Grit Bins – an approach to a different company resulted in an order being placed for 5 x green grit bins at a considerable budget saving. Suitable sites still to be confirmed with DCC.
- Charter Market/Fair – arrangements for the Medieval Market on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May in the Square, to be followed by a Fair in the Memorial Playing Field are well in hand.

**175 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - The following items were identified for inclusion on the April agenda:

- Community Swimming Pool – report from Cllr Mrs Knox

**176 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - To note the date of the next Council meeting as Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010

**178 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Members had previously been circulated with the Minutes of the Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2010. **NOTED.**

Cllr Berry raised a number of issues linked to items discussed at the Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting in relation to the budget as follows:

Storage facility – a discount had been negotiated on the purchase of a garage/storage facility if an order was placed by the end of March, this would be subject to planning permission being obtained. It was **RESOLVED** to proceed

Verti-draining – this, together with additional drainage in the main field was being pursued. Reinstatement work by Western Power was scheduled for completion by Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March. **NOTED.**

Children's Play Area – a funding application had resulted in a grant of £2,800, less than anticipated. A meeting had taken place with a local resident with regard to the attitude of some users of the children's play area, in particular the use of bad language. **NOTED.**

Council tables – members had had the opportunity to view the proposed floor layout of the tables, the general consensus was in favour and it was **AGREED** to proceed.

**178 MEETING** - The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.30pm.

CHAIRMAN  
12 APRIL 2010