



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 18 May 2009 in the Skyrm Room at the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7.00pm

424 PRESENT – Cllr Mrs Maling (Chairman), Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Baker, Cllr Beazer, Cllr Mrs Beeny, Cllr Berry, Cllr Elliott, Cllr Mrs Knox, Cllr Mrs Page and Cllr Spooner.

425 IN ATTENDANCE – Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Cllr Gregson (Dorset County Council) and three members of the public.

426 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Baldwin and District Councillor Mrs C Payne.

427 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20TH APRIL 2009 AND THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 11TH MAY 2009

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20th April and the Annual Meeting held on 11th May 2009, having previously been circulated were signed by the Chairman, as a correct record.

428 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

429 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS FOR:

(a) Dorset Police Representative

In the absence of PC Poole no report was received. Cllr Spooner expressed his disappointment that no police representative had attended recent Council meetings.

(b) West Dorset District Councillors

In her absence, Cllr Mrs Page gave a verbal report on behalf of Cllr Mrs Payne to advise that she had been talking to various parishes with regard to the new Sustainability & Planning Guidelines recently published by WDDC. The aim of the guidelines, based on current conservation area guidelines, was to retain the quality and character of West Dorset.

Cllr Mrs Page advised that she had just returned from a training day that had included “double entry” book keeping.

(c) Dorset County Councillor

Cllr Gregson congratulated Cllr Mrs Maling on her appointment as Chairman .

Cllr Gregson advised that he reported a problem with a missing hasp on a gate in Barnes Lane which would be attended to by the DCC. With regard to a recent enquiry from a member of the Town Council with regard to a possible affiliation with a HM ship he advised that he had made enquiries and furnished the Clerk with contact details should the Council wish to pursue.

Finally he stated that he had enjoyed working with the Town Council during his four years as a County Councillor and was now looking forward to retirement.

(d) Reports from Outside Organisations

BAVLAP – Cllr Mrs Beeny had previously circulated a written report with detail of three meetings she had recently attended, a copy of which is attached.

Twining Association – Cllr Armstrong advised that the party from Saint James, France were due to arrive at 3.00pm on Thursday 21st May and would be in the Town until Sunday.

The Chairman requested that, in future wherever possible, members submit a written report prior to the meeting.

430 CHAIRMAN’S ENGAGEMENTS

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

431 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Payments totalling £7,683.66 and receipts totalling £58,395.50 as detailed in the report to the meeting were submitted for approval, Cllr Berry proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Mrs Page and **AGREED**.

432 THE SQUARE

(a) Cllr Mrs Knox circulated an update from the Beaminster Square Review Group which advised :

- a grant application had been submitted to the Co-Operative Partnerships Fund towards the cost of a feasibility study, also other grant sources had been identified and were being pursued
- requests have been made by residents regarding the possible re-siting of the “Horse Trough” back to the Square – this was being investigated
- discussions with WDDC are ongoing with regard to identifying potential funds and promotion of the review of the Square proposals

NOTED.

(b) Beaminster & District Chamber of Trade had submitted a proposal for a Town Sign/Advertising Board, sited in the Square, for discussion. The proposal was for a double sided board to allow for a town map pinpointing the location of local

traders, places of interest etc. on one side and the other side to be used as a local information board on which to advertise events taking place in the town. It was **AGREED** to refer this proposal to the Square Review Group to consider in tandem with other enhancements to the Square.

With regard to the recent request to site two A Boards in the Square to promote two local traders situated off the Square Cllr Beazer felt the Council should, in order to be fair to all, discourage the use of A boards by traders in the Square.

Cllr Mrs Knox expressed her preference, in the current economic climate, to assist traders, in particular those not situated in the Square in whatever way possible.

433 PUBLIC HALL WORKING PARTY

The minutes of the Public Hall Working Party meeting held on 13th May 2009 were circulated and recommendations therein considered.

Front office/small meeting room – Cllr Mrs Page proposed to accept the recommendation that Mick Regan undertake to make good the area in the small meeting room, seconded by Cllr Spooner. **AGREED.**

Cllr Mrs Page declared a personal interest.

Mosterton Art Group – Cllr Berry proposed to accept the recommendation that Mosterton Art Group be permitted to site a shed on the site of the former oil tank adjacent to the Public Hall subject to adequate insurance cover, space for maintenance and the Town Council's insurer being satisfied that it would not have an adverse effect on their cover, seconded by Cllr Spooner. **AGREED.**

Storeroom – Beaminster Festival – Cllr Beazer proposed to accept the recommendation that Beaminster Festival be permitted to store screens in the storeroom adjacent to the Public Hall subject to adequate insurance cover, space for maintenance and the Town Council's insurer being satisfied that it would not have an adverse effect on their cover, seconded by Cllr Mrs Knox. **AGREED.** Cllr Berry proposed to accept the recommendation that Beaminster Festival be permitted to use the Storeroom rent free for the first three years, in lieu of necessary remedial works, following which the agreement to be reviewed, seconded by Cllr Spooner. **AGREED.**

434 COUNCIL TABLES

Members had previously been circulated with information with regard to the condition of the wooden tables and detail of damage incurred in recent months.

Cllr Berry proposed to rescind the Town Council's decision of 18th August 2008 and refer the item to the Public Hall Working Party for further discussion, seconded by Cllr Mrs Beeny. **AGREED.**

435 70 FLEET STREET – REQUEST TO CONSIDER NAME

The owner of 70 Fleet Street had submitted a request to name the property "Beech Cottage". Members of the Town Council had no objection.

436 PURCHASE OF LAWNMOWER

The Clerk advised that the present lawnmower used mainly in the Cemetery (approx. 7 years old) had reached the end of its useful life. Three quotations had been received for a replacement machine as detailed:

- Crewkerne Horticultural £690.00 incl. VAT
- OHE £1185.00 incl. VAT
- Bugler's £589.01 incl. VAT

It was **NOTED** that the type of machine quoted by Bugler's was of a slightly different specification to the other two quotations.

Cllr Beazer proposed to accept the recommendation to purchase a new lawnmower from Crewkerne Horticultural, seconded by Cllr Armstrong.
AGREED.

437 BEAMINSTER COMMUNITY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Berry gave a brief update on the current situation with regard to:

- Proposed improvements to 11kv cables around Memorial Playing Field had been deferred until the Autumn
- Drainage to the outfield would be undertaken when ground/weather conditions were suitable
- Confirmation was awaited from the Football Foundation prior to announcing the successful contractor in respect of the pavilion project

438 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- **St Mary's Beaminster PCC** – letter of thanks for grant towards the cutting of St Mary's churchyard 2009
- **Dorset County Council**- investigation work in Beaminster Tunnel – during the recent closure three aspects of the tunnel were looked at :
 - 1) the tunnel structure – a consultant was employed to undertake investigation work to the tunnel lining including taking core samples. The core samples will be tested for strength and composition Samples of the concrete sprayed surface were also taken and will be tested
 - 2) the street lighting contractor took the opportunity to carry out maintenance to the lighting system and survey for the proposed new lighting system
 - 3) highway surfacing – surveyed the road surface through the tunnel and took core samples for testing.

The main works were proposed for September 2009.

439 PROGRESS REPORTS

- **Town Council Website** – Sam had completed her 10 hours training, the site was now at the point where the design of the initial pages is complete and information was being added to them.

Mollie Baldwin was working with a colleague in Lyme Regis with regard to the release of the domain name from West Dorset District Council. The initial cost quoted of £20 per year would unfortunately increase to £50 per year due to the .gov.uk domain name and the change of the internet service provider.

A further four training sessions will be required in order to complete the design, add photographs, links etc. just prior to the website going "live".

- **Floor in the rear Lobby area and WC's** – remedial works to the anti-slip flooring would be undertaken by the original contractor at no cost to the Town Council. This was being treated as a matter of urgency.
- **Public Works Loan Board** – borrowing approval had been granted by the Secretary of State's Office and an application submitted to the PWLB for £140,000 over a term of 20 years – approx. repayment £10,289 per annum
- **Allotments** – tenancy agreements had been sent out to every plot holder for signature

440 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items identified for the June agenda were:

Administrative paperwork in connection with Honorary Townsperson Award

441 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.05pm.

CHAIRMAN
22 June 2009