



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 21st September 2009 in the Skyrm Room at the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7.00pm

55 PRESENT – Cllr Mrs I Maling (Chairman), Cllr Baker, Cllr Mrs R Beeny, Cllr Berry, Cllr Elliott, Cllr Mrs R Knox and Cllr Mrs J Page

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

57 APOLOGIES - Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Mrs V Baldwin and Cllr Beazer.

58 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH AUGUST 2009 AND MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD SEPTEMBER 2009

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17th August and the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 3rd September having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Town Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 5 – Receipts and Payments and would leave the room if any discussion took place in respect of the payment to reimbursement expenses.

60 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS FOR:

(a) Dorset Police Representative

In the absence of a Police representative the Clerk read short report submitted by PC Tim Poole, advising that an item raised at a recent PACT meeting regarding commercial vehicles parking illegally in Beaminster was in hand. **NOTED**

(b) West Dorset District Councillors

Cllr Mrs Payne reported that she had recently attended training with regard to supplementary planning issues. The District Council were putting together a consultation document in respect of developers future planning obligations (section 106).

(c) Dorset County Councillor

Cllr Mrs Knox advised that she had recently attended a meeting of the Mountjoy Working Group at which an invitation was extended to a representative from the

Town Council, to join the group, as an informal consultee. This invitation was accepted with thanks.

With regard to the scheduled work at Beaminster Tunnel Cllr Mrs Knox advised that she had requested that “weed” at both entrances to the tunnel be removed and work to the memorial cross be undertaken at the same time.

Cllr Mrs Beeny enquired on the future of the Meals on Wheels service, in response Cllr Mrs Knox advised there would be a review of some ‘in the home’ services provided by the County Council.

(d) Reports from Outside Organisations

BAVLAP – Members had previously been circulated with a report from Cllr Mrs Beeny, a copy of which is attached.

61 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Payments totalling £8,189.05 and receipts totalling £1,760.68 as detailed in the report to the meeting were submitted for approval. Cllr Berry proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Mrs Beeny and **AGREED**. A copy of which is attached.

62 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Due to the number of apologies it was **AGREED** to defer this item to the October meeting.

63 HONORARY TOWNSPERSON LITERATURE

Members had previously been circulated with copies of the proposed documentation in respect of recording details of nominations received, together with the proposed information leaflet to assist those members of the public wishing to make a nomination.

Cllr Berry suggested a number of minor amendments as follows:

Second paragraph – ‘for voluntary services of **a diverse and** outstanding’

Seventh paragraph – ‘It is **only** on the information

Tenth paragraph – ‘..... informing you of the result. **If successful a** formal ...’

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the documentation as circulated, with the inclusion of the minor amendments. Some discussion ensued with regard to the voting procedures and exclusion of public and press, the Clerk was asked to clarify these points for inclusion in the information pamphlet.

64 TO CONSIDER RESCINDING THE DECISION TO HOLD TOWN COUNCIL AND PLANNING ADVISORY & HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETINGS ON THE SAME EVENING

The Town Council, at its meeting on 16th February 2009, resolved to hold Town Council and Planning Advisory & Highways Committee meetings on the same evening. Cllr Mrs Page proposed that the decision be rescinded, seconded by Cllr Mrs Beeny and **AGREED**.

65 TO CONSIDER WHETHER, IN FUTURE, TOWN COUNCIL AND PLANNING ADVISORY & HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MEETINGS TAKE PLACE ON THE SAME EVENING OR SEPERATE EVENINGS

Cllr Elliott stressed the Council had considered this issue on a number of occasions and he felt that whatever decision was reached it should be implemented until the next Council elections in 2011. **AGREED.**

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to hold the Town Council meeting on a separate evening to Planning Advisory & Highways Committee to be implemented following investigations into streamlining the consideration of planning applications.

66 DAPTC – AGM RESOLUTIONS

Members discussed the following resolutions put forward by a number of Town & Parish Councils to ascertain a consensus, based on which, the Town Council's representative would vote at the AGM.

- That DAPTC urge all licensing authorities in Dorset to agree by way of policy to notify the relevant parish or town council of any application for a licence that is in their parish as soon as possible giving sufficient details to enable that council to ensure the appropriate people are made aware of the application - **SUPPORT**
- That the DAPTC, with the aid of NALC and our local MP's, does everything in its power to effect a change to the national regulation, so that Town Councils will have the same mandatory right of rate relief on their buildings as Parish Councils do on Parish Halls - **SUPPORT**
- That the DAPTC strongly urges all district and borough planning authorities to:
 - i. Consider as a matter of policy, greater use of Article 4 Direction to remove Permitted Development Rights from sensitive designations, including Conservation Areas, AONB, Heritage Coast, and Green Belt
 - ii. Engage with Parish and Town Councils in preparing lists of areas and locations where such rights should be removed in order to protect them from unsuitable and inappropriate development
 - iii. Include specific proposals in their Local Development Framework

SUPPORT

- That DAPTC urge Dorset County Council to establish and implement a county standard for fingerposts, including grid reference finials, distance mileages, and the use of strong and traditional materials; and that lost and broken signs should be replaced speedily - **SUPPORT**
- That those members present and voting at the 2009 AGM give retrospective approval for the transfer to reserves of the surplus for the financial year ending 31 March 2008 – an amount of £4,224.96p - **SUPPORT**
- That DAPTC urges each Parish Council across the county to improve public access to information about their local government administrative function in the community – through maintenance of a website listing standard

information with meeting agenda, minutes, papers etc. and the work, responsibilities, and personnel of the Parish Council. Such websites should be accessible through the other local government information website for the county. As a means of ensuring small Parishes can develop, be trained in and maintain such websites and to provide economic use of public funds, DAPTC should seek to obtain funds for and to develop a standard model or template website for Parishes and provision of suitable training in their use. This work should build on and become added-value to the former excellent initiative of Connecting Dorset – **DELGATE DECISION DEPENDING ON THE CONSENSUS OF THE VOTING AT THE AGM.**

67 GRANT APPLICATIONS

Members of the Council were asked to consider the following applications

- **Beaminster & District Chamber of Trade** – to assist with cost of design and production of a new Town Guide. **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £100.
- **Bridport, Beaminster & Lyme Regis Crime Prevention Panel** – to assist with the purchase of “door alarms” @ £2.95 each also the purchase of a WMT-3000 wireless transmitter alarm @ £160.00 for demonstration purposes also a donation of £50-£100 is sought towards general administration costs. Following discussion it was **AGREED** to ascertain the number of door alarms distributed in Beaminster prior to making a decision.
- **Beaminster Area Over 50 Forum** – donation towards the hire of the Public Hall/Skyrm Room for weekly exercise group. It was **NOTED** that, as a regular hirer, the Forum currently received a discount, bearing this in mind and the danger that it would set a precedent it was **AGREED** that no award be given.
- **Vitalise** – the organisation provides respite breaks for disabled people to enable their carers to have a rest. Last year it cost Vitalise £35,959 to subsidise Dorset disabled people and carers. With no specific data relating to Beaminster it was **AGREED** that no award be given.
- **Dorset Blind Association** – to assist with the costs incurred in providing services and support which are of direct benefit to residents of Beaminster. There are currently twelve residents in Beaminster who regularly attend the social and activity club and eleven residents have received regular visits and support from the Sight Equipment Vehicle during the past year. Following discussion it was **AGREED** to ascertain details of the expenditure incurred in relation to Beaminster residents prior to making a decision

68 PUBLIC HALL WORKING GROUP – TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Public Hall Working Group at a meeting held on 9th September 2009 discussed the following items and put forward the following proposals -

- **First Floor windows** – five quotations had been sought, three were received and considered. The recommendation would be to accept the quotation from Moore & Cousins in the sum of £10,280 + Vat. **RESOLVED.**
- **Twinning Association** – a request to hang a painting presented to the

Association during a recent visit to Saint James in the Skyrm Room was considered. The recommendation would be to accept in principle subject to sight of the picture and its suitability, members viewed the painting and it was **RESOLVED** to grant permission.

69 RURAL SERVICES NETWORK – RURAL MANIFESTO

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Rural Services Network manifesto on which they were canvassing rural stakeholders and asking countryside communities what they would like from the next government. Following discussion it was **AGREED** to support the content of the manifesto, drawing attention in particular, to issues raised by Cllr Mrs Page which centred on the imbalance between urban and rural areas with regard to affordable housing, low wages, lack of employment opportunities, enhance cost in providing amenities and the lack of transport.

70 BEAMINSTER COMMUNITY CENTRE PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Berry advised that, currently the contract was two weeks behind schedule, with anticipated completion at Christmas.

71 CORRESPONDENCE

- **Dorset District Council – Beaminster Library and use of volunteers** - members had previously been circulated with correspondence received from DCC regarding recent media coverage on the issue of volunteer led opening hours at the library. **NOTED.**
- **West Dorset District Council – Town Council Election – NOTED** the vacancy to be filled by election on 29th October 2009.

72 PROGRESS REPORTS

- **Repairs to the boundary walls in Memorial Playing Field –**
Members **NOTED** the re-pointing of loose stones, capping and the filling of small holes had been carried out.

73 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

- Items that arise from the meeting with representatives from the Beaminster & District Chamber of Trade

74 MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 8.30pm.

CHAIRMAN
19 OCTOBER 2009