



BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

405 IN ATTENDANCE – Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Cllr Mrs Payne (West Dorset District Council) and four members of the public.

The Chairman introduced Mrs Carol Annetts, Chairman of the Chamber of Trade who, following their Annual General Meeting, gave a brief update on issues the organisation were hoping to develop in 2009, these included:

- Updating the Chamber of Trade Website
- Encourage Membership
- Develop a link with neighbouring Chamber of Trade organisations
- Explore access to funding
- Instigate a “Shop Local” Campaign – to encourage use of local shops
- Hold a meeting open to all businesses in the Town – to share information and offer support
- Build on and encourage participation in an Easter Egg Competition, Beaminster Festival and Christmas celebrations
- Host information events relevant to local businesses ie. Health & Safety issues, COSH etc.
- Work closer with the Schools in respect of careers/work experience students

On behalf of the Town Council the Chairman, Cllr Beazer thanked Mrs Annetts for a very detailed and interesting presentation.

406 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Baker.

407 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2009

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 19th January, having previously been circulated were signed by the Chairman, as a correct record.

408 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.

409 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 that a refuse collection vehicle had been involved in an accident during the recent bad weather which had put the refuse collections behind, however normal collections had now resumed.

Cllr Mrs Payne congratulated Cllr Mrs Knox and members of the Square Review Group on their report.

Cllr Mrs Page advised that the District Council had published a booklet entitled "Helping West Dorset during the Recession" which provided details of where to go for help on matters such as housing, benefits, travel etc. The Clerk confirmed copies were available in the Council Office.

(c) Dorset County Councillor

In the absence of Cllr Gregson no report was received.

Under this heading Cllr Berry drew attention to the land slippage on both sides of the Beaminster Tunnel, it was **AGREED** to enquire of the County Council what action, if any, they propose to take.

(d) Reports from Outside Organisations

Cllr Mrs Baldwin advised there had not been a Crime Prevention Panel meeting for several months, due largely to the lack of police availability.

Cllr Armstrong advised that the Twinning Association had recently held its Annual General Meeting and was pleased to report that plans for the visit of the party from Saint James in May were progressing well.

Cllr Mrs Knox advised that the Community Swimming Pool were holding their Annual General Meeting on 10th March, in the Red Lion commencing at 7.30pm.

Cllr Mrs Beeny advised that she had attended a recent West Dorset Partnership meeting at which it was confirmed that Beaminster Town Council had been awarded £2,200 of funding to enhance the playing field or purchase equipment for older children. There had also been a presentation from the Home Community Agency, this initiative would enable those on the housing register to bid for vacant property.

410 CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Council **NOTED** that the Chairman had undertaken one official engagement on 10th February – Licensing of the new vicar at St Mary's Church, Beaminster.

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

411 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Payments totalling £6,428.29 and receipts totalling £1,688.21 as detailed in the report to the meeting were submitted for approval, Cllr Berry proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Mrs Baldwin and **AGREED**.

Cllr Beazer returned to the meeting.

412 DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL – TO CONSIDER CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE POSSIBLE REBUILD AND RELOCATION OF MOUNTJOY SCHOOL

Dorset County Council had recently completed a period of formative consultation with regard to the replacement of the existing buildings known as Mountjoy Special School in Bridport with a new, purpose built building in Beaminster. This had now moved to public consultation which expired on 18th February 2009, on which the Town Council had been invited to submit a formal response.

Those members who had attended public meetings, both in Bridport and Beaminster, outlined the background behind the proposal to relocate the school due in the main, to inadequate facilities and space at the present site in Bridport.

Some concerns were expressed with regard to the proposed site at Beaminster School due to ground conditions, the loss of a sports facility and traffic issues.

It was **AGREED** that the issue was too important to simply tick “support” or “not support” and it was requested that a meeting be pursued with representatives from the County Council to discuss in more detail.

413 WEST DORSET HYDROPOWER GROUP – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The West Dorset Hydropower Group had been set up by a group of mill owners and others, working within the public sector to assist mill owners and others with responsibility for riparian sites, to understand more about the practicalities of generating electricity from the energy in rivers. An invitation had been extended to the Town Council to send a representative to the Group’s first Annual General Meeting, which would take place on 6th March at 7.00pm.

Cllr Mrs Page **AGREED** to attend on behalf of the Town Council.

414 BEAMINSTER SQUARE REVIEW GROUP – TO CONSIDER THE REPORT AND DISCUSS THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN (DECISION)

The Beaminster Square Review Group had been established by the Town Council in August 2007 with the remit to “carry out a detailed review of the layout, appearance and usage of Beaminster Square and its related roads and footpaths, and to consider proposals for improving the area for the benefit of the town, its residents, retailers, businesses and visitors”.

A report had been submitted to the Council in September 2008 when the decision was taken to defer the issue of identifying finance for the feasibility study to the Finance & General Purposes Committee, subsequently the sum of £5,000 was included in the 2009/2010 budget towards the cost of a feasibility study.

Cllr Mrs Knox advised the main change to the layout of the Square and therefore cost would be the introduction of a “one way” system and the revision

of car parking, which would mean the loss of four spaces.

Cllr Armstrong proposed to accept the recommendations of the Beaminster Square Review Group in respect of enhancements to the Square, seconded by Cllr Mrs Maling. **AGREED.**

Although a sum had been set aside for a feasibility study, in the first instance, funding would be pursued.

415 THURSDAY MARKET – TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF THE MARKET

Cllr Spooner was disappointed to report that he had taken the decision, at the end of January, not to continue to operate a Thursday Market. The Market had failed to attract the necessary stall holders which, in turn, failed to attract the public.

The Clerk circulated details of the financial costs associated with the Market and reported that a profit of £240 had been achieved over the three months, however with the drop in the number of stalls this would not be sustained.

Regrettably members **AGREED** with the decision and expressed their thanks to Cllr Spooner for his efforts.

416 TOWN CRIER HONORIUM

The Chairman advised that a letter of thanks together with the sum of £200 had been forwarded to the Town Crier in recognition of his tremendous service to Beaminster.

417 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2009/2010

Members had previously been circulated with a draft Calendar of Meetings for the next Council year.

The proposed dates retained Planning Advisory & Highways Committee meetings on a separate evening but reverting back to a Thursday.

Following discussion a vote was taken on whether to hold the Town Council and Planning Advisory & Highways Committee on the same evening. With 6 votes in favour to 3 against it was **AGREED** to hold both meetings on the same evening.

The Clerk was asked to revise the calendar of meetings accordingly, with the addition of a Strategy Meeting in September and a Road Safety meeting in June.

418 CATTISTOCK HUNT – BOXING DAY MEET

A request had been received to hold the 2009 Boxing Day meet In Beaminster.

Cllr Mrs Maling proposed to grant the request, seconded by Cllr Armstrong and **AGREED.**

419 WEST DORSET SPRING CLEAN

West Dorset Services were inviting Town and Parish Councils to take part in the annual West Dorset's Spring Clean Campaign between 1-30 April 2009. The

Town Council, having participated in the past, **AGREED** to undertake a spring clean on Monday 27th April, commencing from the Square at 6.30pm

420 BEAMINSTER EMERGENCY PLAN REVIEW GROUP

Members had previously been circulated with copies of the Town Council's Emergency Plan and the Town Council's Flood Warden Scheme's operational plan. Adoption of the plans, as working documents, was **AGREED**.

Cllr Armstrong gave a brief report on the background to the production of the two documents. He advised that the Review Group were hoping to arrange a "Launch Day" in March which would take place in the Square.

On behalf of the Council Cllr Armstrong expressed his gratitude to Sam Pearce for all her hard work in producing the Plan's which had taken many hours.

421 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- **Dorset County Council – Beaminster Tunnel**

The County Council had undertaken a visual inspection of the tunnel and the vegetation growing on the stone work of the tunnel was treated as low priority and not a cause for concern. The broken lantern had been reported to the street lighting contractor.

- **Humberts – White Hart**

Following discussions with the District Council, with regard to the formation of a car park to the rear of the above property, a revised scheme had been prepared. A tree survey had been undertaken to identify any impact the development might have on trees of any quality.

- **Dorset County Council – B3157 Bridport to Chickerell Road Safety Scheme**

A response had been received with regard to the omission of white lines and cats eyes on the above stretch of highway. The correspondence stated that in some instances there was clear evidence that when installed at appropriate locations, white lines and cats eyes contribute to road safety and collision reduction however, as demonstrated by the casualty and collision history on this road, motorists have been speeding and disregarding the many markings and cats eyes which warn of approaching hazards.

After completing the surfacing a report on options for replacing road markings completely or partially had been prepared and discussed by the B3157 Bridport to Chickerell Road Safety Partnership Board which decided to install edge of road marking for the entire length of resurfaced road, plus centre lines markings at sharp bends and junctions however the former deluge of warning signs and lines along the road had not helped to reduce casualties and therefore everyone working on the project recognised that simply replacing them would not improve driver behaviour and safety.

However, the County Council would now start to paint the lines and install cats eyes as soon as road conditions permit.

- **Dorset County Council – The County of Dorset (Various roads in the District of West Dorset) (Consolidation of Orders made for the regulation of Traffic) Order 2009**
Documents relating to the proposed Order were available for inspection in the office until **6th March 2009**.

422 PROGRESS REPORTS

Public Hall – internal decoration

The contractor would commence the internal decoration of the main hall on Monday 23rd February. **NOTED.**

423 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No Items for the March agenda were identified.

424 MEETING

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

CHAIRMAN
16 MARCH 2009