



Beaminster Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 24th January 2023 in the Public Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

The owner of Wintergreen Barn addressed the council to clarify the confusion with regard to the drawings submitted with the amended planning application.

A number of residents from Monmouth Gardens expressed their concern at Dorset Council's proposal to create an additional access to the Beaminster School site within Monmouth Gardens. The issues they faced were linked to the volume of traffic currently using the cul-del-sac as a drop off/pick up point.

2784 Members present – Cllr Monks (Chairman), Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Biggs, Cllr Body, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Mrs Goode and Cllr Turner; also the Town Clerk and 9 members of the public.

Dorset Police - In the absence of a representative the Town Clerk read a report submitted by PCSO Bishop as follows:

“On Christmas eve there was a report of theft of number plates from a vehicle in Gerrards Green.

Since Christmas there have been some incidents of young people kicking/hitting doors and ringing door bells along Hogshill Street and neighbouring streets, on one occasion a light had been damaged. We have been given some CCTV footage however it is not sufficient to identify anyone. If anyone has an incident like this occur CCTV/door bell camera footage can be used to evidence the activity and hopefully identify those responsible.”

Monthly meetings were held at St Mary's church, the next scheduled meeting would take place on Wednesday 1st February at 11am if anyone wishes to speak to PCSO Bishop.

Dorset Councillor - In the absence of Cllr Mrs Knox her written report submitted had would be circulated to all members following the meeting, a copy of which is attached.

Enforcement Officer – in the absence of the Enforcement Office the Town Clerk read his report in which he highlighted some of the issues he had been asked to assist with:

- Problems with contractor's vehicles parking on the pavement and at junctions in East Street
- Concern at the lack of signage at the Ford which has been dangerous during recent back weather; also parked vehicles on the junction of Woodwater Lane/East Street causing visibility problems
- Speed limits in East Street
- Young people congregating in Clay Lane, Fleet Street and the school woods causing a noise nuisance, using bad language etc.
- Dogs being brought into the children's play area
- Removal of fly tipping in Clay Lane

2785 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Drinnan, Cllr Langridge: also Dorset Councillor Mrs Knox.

2786 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

The Town Clerk confirmed Cllr Biggs had been granted a dispensation to participate in any meeting at which a matter was discussed that would have a bearing on the level of Parish Precept set.

2787 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29TH NOVEMBER 2022

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th November 2022 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

2788 MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH JANUARY 2023

The minutes of the Extra Ordinary Council meeting held on 10th January 2023 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

2789 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

(a) Payments & Receipts for the month of January 2023

Members were circulated with details of the payments made in January 2023 including cheque numbers 105718 - 105732, direct debits and bank payments totalling £27,250.43 including cheque number 100026 from the CB3 account; also receipts totalling £9,355.87 (copy attached). Members **RESOLVED** adoption as presented.

2790 RESOLVE MINUTES OF FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 20th December 2022

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 20th December 2022 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

There being no items raised for discussion, members **RESOLVED ADOPTION**.

2791 STREET NAMING

Members had previously been circulated with the suggested names put forward by members of the public for consideration. Following brief discussion members could not reach a decision and the Town Clerk was asked to put forward suitable suggestions to the developer for consideration.

2792 BUDGET FRAMEWORK FOR 2023/2024 AND PARISH PRECEPT

Members had previously been circulated with the proposed budget framework for 2023/2024 together with a copy of the Town Clerk's report.

Cllr Biggs had prior to the meeting circulated members with his concern with regard to the need to reduce the projected deficit on the budget and put forward a number of suggestions for consideration during discussion.

Members were broadly in agreement with the suggestions put forward however some concern was expressed with regard to the proposal to withdraw financial support to CAB and the Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring & Ride both of which were well used by residents of the town. In order to reach agreement members **RESOLVED** to revisit financial support for those two organisations at the end of the financial year if sufficient funds were available.

Members **RESOLVED** to **IMPLEMENT** the other adjustments as presented and **RESOLVED** a 10% increase in the Parish Precept resulting in a levy of £241,935 for 2023/2024.

2793 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

(a) Planning Application P/FUL/2022/02899 – Wintergreen Barn, Higher Meerhay Farm

Members had previously been circulated with an amended planning application which, after consideration, had been recommended for refusal. Subsequent to the decision it had become apparent that the drawings had been confusing, following clarification by Dorset Councils planning officer the Town Council were asked to consider the application in light of the new information.

Having listened to the applicants clear explanation and assurance there were no material amendments to the use of the current site members had no further objections and recommended approval of the application.

2794 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Kingcombe Visitor Centre

Members were pleased to accept an invitation extended to the Town Council by the Kingcombe team to visit the Centre to get a flavour of the site through a walk and talk.

(b) Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring & Ride

Members **NOTED** a letter of thanks received for the Council's continued financial support of the community transport service.

(c) Small Authorities Audit Appointments – notification of external auditor

Members **NOTED** the appointment of BDO as the external auditors for the 2022-23 financial year for the 5 year period until 2026-27.

2795 PROGRESS REPORT

Members **NOTED** progress as follows:

- **Gents toilet** – new flooring to be laid and toilets installed by the end of January.
- **Gutter hopper** – a hopper had been installed by the contractor however it was not sufficient to take the water run off during heavy rain – further action required.
- **CCTV** – a camera had been installed at the rear of the Public Hall to monitor the public toilets and community fridge.
- **Children's play area** – the sand in the play area had been replenished
- **Memorial Lane** – repairs had been undertaken where necessary on the surface of the lane and car park
- **Proposed toilet/store** – a planning application was awaited for approval prior to submission to Dorset Council
- **Public Hall ceiling and lighting** – contractors had been approached for estimates to replace the ceiling and lights – responses awaited.

2796 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Two items were put forward:

- Further consideration with regard to the installation of solar panels on Public Hall building
- Further consideration with regard to 'pay to enter' doors on the public toilets

2797 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Tuesday 28th March 2023

2798 PUBLIC BODIES (Admission to meeting) Act 1960

RESOLVED to exclude public and press from the meeting whilst discussion took place on the following items on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted in respect of consideration of staffing issues, consideration of quotation received and potential licence agreements.

2799 STAFFING – POSTHOLDER 301 AND OTHER ISSUES

Members had previously been circulated with the Town Clerk’s report containing updated information following the resignation of postholder 301. Members **RESOLVED** to advertise the vacant position based on the revised job description as a full time position (flexible), salary commencing at SCP13.

Members **RESOLVED** to commit to rent additional office space for a period of 18 months.

Postholder 401 - Members **RESOLVED** an incremental increase to SCP10

2800 MEMORIAL LANE

The Town Clerk advised of correspondence received in which the Town Council were asked to consider the granting of a right of way over Memorial Lane to access the rear of a neighbouring property. Members having been appraised of the background with regard to a previous request **RESOLVED** to decline the request for the granting of a right of way.

2801 DORSET COUNCIL

Members had previously been circulated with details of a proposed improved access into the Beaminster School site via a further access point in Monmouth Gardens for which Dorset Council were seeking comment from the Town Council.

Members questioned the need for an additional ‘walk to school’ route via Monmouth Gardens when in reality children were arriving by car. Bearing in mind the concerns of the residents members considered a more suitable proposal would be for Dorset Council to make changes to the traffic movement/parking at the Tunnel Road car park to provide a drop off/pick up point rather than encourage the use of a residential cul-del-sac.

2802 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members had previously been circulated with the support fee proposal received from Andrea Pellegram Ltd, **RESOLVED** to accept.

2803 MEETING

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 9.30pm

Chairman
28th March 2023

