



Beaminster Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Skyrm Room, Public Hall commencing at 7.00 pm.

**2885 Members present** – Cllr Monks (Chairman), Cllr Anderton, Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Corbett, Cllr Goode, Cllr Gunning, and Cllr Woods; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk).

**Dorset Police** – the Chairman was delighted to welcome PC Kirsti Fracknell to the meeting who highlighted a number of incidents including anti social behaviour, criminal damage and theft, unfortunately in most cases no action had been possible due to the lack of identifiable evidence. With regard to issues relating to anti social behaviour in Yarn Barton car park, Dorset Police were working with Dorset Council on measures to deter this behaviour including the installation of CCTV cameras.

Other incidents included a punctured tyre on a car parked in the Square and a fire in a flat in St Mary's Gardens with a person being arrested and charged with arson.

PC Fracknell advised staffing resources were spread thinly across this area of West Dorset and urged the public to report all incidents to Dorset Police including any relevant useful information.

**Dorset Councillor** – In her absence Cllr Mrs Knox had submitted a written report, a copy of which was circulated to members, a copy is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

**Enforcement Officer** – In the absence of the Enforcement Officer the Town Clerk read his report for September, a copy of which is attached to the minutes of this meeting.

**2886 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Biggs and Dorset Councillor Mrs Knox.

**2887 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

**2888 MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

The minutes of the Extra-ordinary Town Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

**2889 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

No declarations of interest or dispensations were received.

**2890 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

**Payments & Receipts for the month of September 2023**

Members were circulated with details of the payments made in September 2023 including cheque numbers 1058134– 105843, direct debits, bank payments including cheque numbers 100027 - 100030 from CB3 account totalling £39,344.93; also receipts totalling £4,422.40 (copy attached). Members **RESOLVED** adoption as presented.

## 2891 RESOLVE MINUTES OF FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### (a) Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023

The minutes of the Community Resilience Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

### (b) Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

## 2892 COUNCILLOR TRAINING

### (a) Finance Training

The Town Clerk reminded members with regard to the availability of online finance training and reiterated the benefits of attending.

### (b) New Councillor Induction

The Town Clerk advised four training sessions were available on the 16<sup>th</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> November should new members of the Council be interested.

## 2893 PROPERTY VALUATION

Subsequent to the recent insurance renewal for 2023/2024 the council's insurers had recommended the council obtain an up to date property valuation and offered two preferred companies that would undertake a desktop valuation. Members **RESOLVED** to obtain a valuation from BCH at a cost of £85 + vat.

## 2894 GRANT POLICY

Members had previously been circulated with a draft Grant Policy, amended in line with previous discussions. Members **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Grant Policy and Grant Agreement as circulated.

## 2895 INTERNET BANKING

In view of increasing purchases via the internet in order to secure goods at reduced cost members had previously been circulated with details of both a business debit or credit card for consideration. **RESOLVED** to obtain a business credit card, the balance to be cleared at the end of each calendar month.

## 2896 GRIT BIN

Staff, having recently undertaken an audit of the grit bins within the town, highlighted the need for a replacement bin at Flaxfield Rise, the current bin being damaged beyond repair. **RESOLVED** to replace the grit bin at a cost of £215 + vat via the Community Development EMR.

## 2897 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

### (a) Dorset Council Housing Strategy

Dorset Council had invited comments on their housing strategy which aimed to set out their vision for future housing in the Dorset Council area, members **AGREED** to submit individual comments rather than a corporate view.

## 2898 CORRESPONDENCE

### (a) BT- removal of payphone

Members considered a planning application at its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September to remove the payphone from the telephone box at Hogshill, Clay Lane to which there were no objections. However the committee had expressed an interest in adopting the redundant telephone box for community use. **RESOLVED** to apply to adopt for community use at the cost of £1.

## 2899 PROGRESS REPORT

Members **NOTED** progress as follows:

- (a) **Replacement fascias, soffits and guttering** – due to lead in time of 10-12 weeks the work had been put back until Spring 2024 with a provisional date of late April.
- (b) **Grit bin – The Square** – replacement bin had been installed however it had to be repositioned following impact from vehicles.
- (c) **Windows – Public Hall** – work had started on the painting of the ground floor windows, first floor to be undertaken in Mid May in conjunction with fascia's etc.
- (d) **Plaques for planters** – the Town Clerk advised of a further quotation received together with advice received that stainless steel would be a less labour intensive material. **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation received from Brunel Engraving in the sum of £728.40 + vat.

Under this heading the need for better signage for the Memorial Playing Field was highlighted, **AGREED** the Head Groundsman to make enquiries.

## 2900 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items were raised.

## 2901 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

## 2902 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 terms of a licence agreement.

### 2903 (a) Beaminster Cricket Club

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the proposed new Licence Agreement with Beaminster Cricket Club, members **RESOLVED** acceptance and authorised signature of the document.

## 2904 MEETING

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2023



## Dorset Council Report September 2023

### **Axe Valley Ring and Ride**

The Axe Valley Ring and Ride is very much at the forefront of local concern. Sadly at the moment there is no sign of a solution to finding funding specifically to support the service from Dorset Council. The only grants DC has to offer are to seed fund new “start-up” schemes, with the idea that after a year the scheme becomes self-sustaining – either through ticket sales or fundraising. DC does not support any Community Transport schemes currently, apart from new start-ups.

The last grant that was given by DC was in 2019 and as far as DC is aware the service has not asked for any funding since. I understand that they receive grants from Devon County Council, East Devon District Council, Bridport, Beaminster and Lyme Regis town councils and a few parish councils.

There is a discussion and hopefully there will be some acknowledgement and therefore funding to be found from the NHS or Adult Social Care considering how the service helps to reduce social isolation and improves mental health and wellbeing for users but this is not going to be imminent. The Cabinet member for the service sits in the Place Directorate and he has spoken to some users. The conversation needs to spread to the other departments which benefit from the service - it needs to fall into other finance pots not just transport.

### Have Your Say On Housing

The residents of Dorset are being urged to have their say about the future of housing. It is coming to the end of the Consultation but there is a week to go if matters have arisen since the Town Council first had sight of it.

Residents who do take part, and tell us what’s important to them, will have the opportunity to influence the council’s approach to housing over the next five years.

The Housing Strategy will not be produced until the consultation and engagement process comes to an end on 2nd October 2023.

It’s quick and easy to take part and should only take a few minutes. There’s also an evidence-based document alongside the questions, which provides a picture of the current housing climate in Dorset.

[Please visit our website to take part in the consultation.](#) There are also short videos about residents’ experiences as part of our Voices of Dorset. The consultation is open until 2 October 2023.

If you are unable to complete the consultation on -line or wish to request a paper copy, please call [01305 221000](tel:01305221000) for further information.

### Let’s Banish Disposable BBQs – update from Litter Free Dorset

As you know, we have been campaigning on the issue of disposable barbecues for several years now. Our campaign began with providing customer messaging on safe usage and disposal at point of sale; it has since developed into a call for customers to stop using them and for retailers to stop selling them altogether.

We have seen considerable success in the last 18months, with Southern Co-op, Waitrose, Aldi and M&S permanently removing disposable BBQs, as well as some Tesco and Morrisons stores in close proximity to either a national park (Morrisons Verwood) or the site of a heathland fire (Tesco Canford Heath and some Express stores).

We are also grateful to all the local retailers, caravan parks, and garden centres that have removed disposable barbecues from sale. They are helping to spread the simple message that Dorset does not do disposable BBQs.

#### Dorset in Government Pathfinder Programme

Dorset Council has been recognised for its ground-breaking work with children and families and has been selected as one of three local authorities to be a pathfinder in the government's new programme to ensure families are better supported.

Families First for Children is the name the government is using for its project to implement some of the most significant reforms to Family Help, child protection, kinship care and safeguarding partners in recent years.

Work will start on the programme in the autumn and the three local authorities (Dorset Council, Lincolnshire County Council and City of Wolverhampton Council) will work with police, health and education in their areas over the following two years. The programme will attract funding for the Dorset Council area to help with the implementation.

#### **This is the report given verbally to the Cabinet by the Deputy Leader:**

We are now 4 and a half years into this new Unitary Authority and I know you, like me, often get people asking why it was done and what's the benefit, especially as so many rate the Councils achievements by the weeds outside their house. Perhaps on the face of things the old system of District Councils and a County Council worked well and there is no doubt that it did for many years following reorganisation in 1974 however, those involved could see the winds of change, the financial challenges on the horizon meant that the old system would fail and public services would suffer.

The aim of this reorganisation was to save the Public from service cuts and ensure the continuation of local Govt in Dorset. The budget that we tackle each year does its best to achieve that goal, but as I have said over the years the Govt funding for this authority is considerably less than we require and so each year is a fight. Central Govt needs to change its funding formula and ensure that weighting is given to age of population and rurality and until that happens financial life in this council will always be a challenge.

This also means that so many of the things that we want to do and support in our communities are impossible to fund from our scant resources, this leads to the need to explore external funding sources and each year there are numerous grants and other funding that Govt will release, only those who bid with the most ambitious targets and are able to demonstrate the ability to deliver are going to be successful and in Dorset we have been able to bring significant grant funding to this authority.

Based on the committed future funding we have been able to achieve £121.6M. The paper gives more detail of the headline funds including £19.5M for Weymouth Regeneration, £18.8M for public sector decarbonisation, £14.2M for the DfT transforming cities fund and far more detail is in appendix 1. This money enables us to do things that under normal annual funding would be impossible and we have to thank all those involved in the grant applications that show the professionalism that lives within this authority and the confidence it gives and because of those attributes the money flows to us.

You get nothing for poor grant applications, we are successful because this authority is recognised as excellent.

But we also have been working to transform the 6 into 1 and this has meant significant changes and savings and over the short life of this Council we have achieved savings of £96.4M, all of which has been reinvested in front line service. If we go back to where we started and think and about the old regime I cannot see that we would, as individual Councils ever have been able to make these savings, but as I said at the beginning this was all about the financial crisis on the horizon, only as a Unitary authority has the future of local Govt in Dorset been secured and only as a Unitary authority have we been able to make these savings.

We are dealing with an organisation with a complex structure from Childrens and Adults Social Services to picking up the bins outside your house. This is an enormous organisation that deals with everything you see from the moment you leave your house in the morning until you return in the evening.

It's so difficult to explain this to the general public, the majority of our budget goes on things that in your daily life don't touch you at all and yet there is so little money left to provide the things that affect you most, the litter, the weeds, the roads, your bins, I would say that this Council has continued to provide the services that matter most in difficult circumstances. For this we should say thank you to all the directorates of this council who work hard to achieve, they are the swan in the river serene and effortlessly gliding against the flow but beneath the surface feverishly pedalling like mad.

Remember the task of finance is simple; spend £10 with £9.





The following are the issues I have dealt with during September:

- Anti social behaviour at Yarn Barton Carpark - I think this has now been well documented and is something being looked at by various parties. With a lot of broken glass in the car park dog walkers need to be vigilant.
- Reports of a small number of people walking their dogs around 7am at the Playing Fields. I have been going up there at that time and will continue to do. The 'No Dogs' bylaw is applicable 365 days a year with no time restrictions and it is a complete ban on dogs. With it being an enclosed area we can enforce the bylaw.
- I have received complaints about the state of the pavements in Beaminster were some are now becoming a trip hazard in places.
- I am still getting complaints about the motorbikes and speed of cars around Beaminster.
- There have been a number of complaints about anti social behaviour and now criminal damage which includes doors getting kicked, damage to cars, dog fouling, screaming, fighting, loud music and speeding of motorbikes. These instances are happening in a number of places around the town, new areas drawn to our attention includes from the corner of the Square near the co-op and Church Street, this is happening late at night for some considerable time and always the same small group from the reports being sent in.

If anyone has these sort of problems they must ring Dorset Police on 101 or 999 if they feel threatened; also report to PCSO Alex Bishop, tell me (Enforcement Officer), Town Council and County Council. We can't start to help if we don't know what and where the problems are, as a Town Council we can't promise we can help or a quick fix but we do need to know.

My email and phone number has been passed on at these problem areas.

I think the council should look into a camera in the Square, I know its at a cost but i do think we are at that point now where we must start to strongly think about it.

- There are a high volume of cigarette butts on certain days as you go into Yarn Barton Carpark off Fleet Street. It's probably when the Fleet Social Club is open or the Public Hall rooms are hired out. Could we have something in place for people who go outside to smoke in this area, there is a fine for dropping cigarette butts, if there is already something here for disposal of butts then it isn't enough to cope with the issue.
- There have been complaints at night about the ongoing problem with youngsters around the St Mary Gardens area near the Spar. Benches in this area have been damaged/destroyed in the past and some elderly residents are wary of going out in the evenings even just to sit outside.

Stephen Amatt  
Enforcement Officer  
Beaminster Town Council

**BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - SEPTEMBER 2023**

<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
D/D	Autorama	30.42
D/D	British Telecom	45.90
D/D	Concorde	46.41
D/D	Dorset Waste Partnership	107.32
D/D	Ecotricity	126.72
D/D	Ecotricity	22.72
D/D	E.on next	74.75
D/D	HSBC	33.42
D/D	HSBC	24.59
D/D	Lex Autolease	388.75
D/D	NOW Pensions	24.00
D/D	NOW Pensions	676.67
D/D	O2	30.77
D/D	UK Fuels	4.80
D/D	UK Fuels	117.07
D/D	UK Fuels	95.96
D/D	UK Fuels	165.69
D/D	UK Fuels	203.20
D/D	VPW Systems	129.79
D/D	Water 2 Business	132.91
Bank Payment	S. Beare	22.00
Bank Payment	C. Bright	119.00
Bank Payment	Cilla & Camilla	25.00
Bank Payment	Donovan Ateyo	10,523.19
Bank Payment	Dylan Ross	150.00
Bank Payment	Dylan Ross	150.00
Bank Payment	Eden Enterprises	188.00
Bank Payment	OCD Cleaning Services	992.00
Bank Payment	S. Pearce	14.10
Bank Payment	Woodley Building & Carpentry	2,358.00
		<b>C/FWD 17,023.15</b>

	Van Service Plan	
	Telephone - Cowie Room	
	Photocopies	
	Wheely/Recycling Bins - August	
	Electricity charges	
	Gas charges	
	Gas charges	
	Bank charges - Council	
	Bank charges - CB3	
	Vehicle lease	
	Pension admin. Fee	
	Pension contributions - August	
	Mobile phones	
	Fuel card charges	
	Fuel card charges/CB3 and machinery fuel	
	Fuel card charges/CB3 fuel	
	Fuel card charges/CB3 and machinery fuel	
	Fuel card charges/CB3 and machinery fuel	
	Remote backup	
	Water charges	
	Reimburse (Postage Stamps)	
	Reimburse (Zoom renewal)	
	Monarch's Trail prize	
	September Salaries	
	Website support/hosting - July	
	Website support/hosting - August	
	Marketing - August	
	Contract clean public toilets - August	
	Reimburse (Refreshments - Resilience meeting)	
	Supply and install new doors at Public Hall	



**BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS - SEPTEMBER 2023**

Sum-up CB3		<b>3,746.89</b>
Bus fares		112.59
Bus fares/donations		562.92
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,422.40</b>

**NOTES FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION**

The above payments are approved expenditure items within existing contracts and / or the agreed budget framework. Councillors expenses having been vetted and authorised by the Chairman / Town Clerk or in the case of the Chairman's expenses, by Vice Chairman. Receipts are those from expected sources and within budget projections. Salary Cheque excludes employers and employees pension contributions. Payments include VAT where applicable.

Christine Bright

Responsible Finance Officer

Date