



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 26th November 2024 in the Cowie Room, Public Hall commencing at 7.00 pm.

3058 Members present – Cllr Turner (Chairman), Cllr Anderton, Cllr Corbett, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Gillings, Cllr Gunning and Cllr Tuff; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk).

3059 Dorset Police – in the absence of a police representative the Town Clerk read a report received from PCSO Alex Bishop advising:

- In the early hours of Wednesday 23rd October a vehicle was broken into in the Square and ransacked but it would appear nothing stolen. A vehicle in Beaminster also had its number plate stolen a few days later which was recovered in a suspected stolen vehicle seized by the police in Sherborne.
- A resident of Beaminster has been a victim of a romance scam, they had been sent a friends request by unknown people on Facebook. Following conversations the victim was asked to send gift vouchers as they needed money to pay for various things.
- PCSO Bishop would be available at the Walk in Wednesday at St Marys Church on Wednesday 4th December.

3060 Dorset Councillor – Cllr Craig Monks reported on the following issues:

- Whitcombe Road resurfacing works were due to commence week commencing 9th December 2024
- Rural connectivity – he had been in conversation with officers regarding the poor mobile phone signal in some areas of his ward and early discussions had taken place with contractors to ascertain the worse affected areas, in particular Mosterton and South Perrott. He had also spoken with the Post Office regarding rural banking services and had shared the information with Ed Morell MP. He believed the shift over the next 2/3 years banking services will be absorbed by the Post Office.
- The gate on the footpath between The Beeches and Ridgeway View had been causing access issues for those using motorised scooters, the gate had now been reconfigured to allow easier access.
- He had raised two questions at a recent cabinet meeting 1) general progress on Parnham House and the timeline with regard to the planning applications currently under consideration and he was pleased to report the response had been positive and 2) the problems with housing need, in particular those families with high dependency children who were being housed some considerable distance out of the town
- The pilot scheme undertaken in a small number of car parks had resulted no significant increase in the use of the car parks, the results had proved to be inconclusive but would form part of the wider car park review.

3061 Enforcement Officer – In the absence of the Enforcement Officer the Town Clerk read a report submitted by the Enforcement Officer which advised of concerns he had dealt with:

- Speeding vehicles along New Town
- Signs had been removed at Pease Hill; also dogs allowed to foul and owners not picking up
- Groups of children/teenagers lighting fires in the School woods
- Horse riders using footpath at Eggardon Close
- Private gardens being affected by dog fouling

3062 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Body, Cllr Tuff and Cllr Woods.

3063 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2024

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24th September 2024 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3064 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest or dispensations were received.

3065 CO-OPTION TO FILL CASUAL VACANCIES

Members considered the application received from Mr Kevin Watts expressing an interest in becoming a town councillor. Cllr Dawkins proposed the co-option of Mr Watts, seconded by Cllr Turner and **RESOLVED**.

Mr Watts duly completed and signed his declaration of acceptance of office and took his seat at the Council table.

3066 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Members were circulated with details of the payments made in November 2024 including cheque numbers 106007 - 106015, direct debits and bank payments totalling £34,413.74; also receipts totalling £5,291.27 (copy attached). Members **RESOLVED** adoption as presented.

Cllr Turner asked for the CB3 and Machinery fuel to be shown separately on the Payments & Receipts. **AGREED**.

3067 RESOLVE MINUTES OF FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) CB3 Management Committee meeting held on 14th October 2024

The minutes of the CB3 Management Committee meeting held on 14th October 2024 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

(b) Finance & General purposes Committee meeting held on 22nd October 2024

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22nd October 2024 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

(c) Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 12th November 2024

The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 12th November 2024 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

Cllr Turner asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Simon Wakely and Mr Ben Smith to express the council's gratitude for their continued support in sponsoring and erecting the Christmas tree.

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

(d) Town Amenities Committee meeting held on 19th November 2024

The minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held on 19th November 2024 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

3068 BUDGET COMPARISON

Members having previously been circulated with a copy of the budget as at 20th November 2024 **NOTED** the actual against the budget. No concerns or items of significance were raised.

3069 HSBC – CREDIT CARD APPLICATION

Members were advised of the requirement by HSBC to supply evidence that the Council had resolved to apply for a credit card to facilitate online and one off purchases. Council **RESOLVED** to apply to HSBC for a credit card with a credit limit of £5,000, the balance to be cleared on a monthly basis.

3070 CEMETERY REGULATIONS

Members had previously been circulated with draft cemetery regulations for consideration, in the main the regulations mirrored those already in place with the exception of additional controls with regard to the removal of floral decorations, the prohibited use of plastic frames and oasis and vases must not be placed on the area of the grave but at the head of each space. Members **RESOLVED** adoption of the regulations.

3071 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

No consultation documents had been received.

3072 CORRESPONDENCE

No significant items of correspondence had been received.

3073 PROGRESS REPORT

Members **NOTED** progress as follows:

- Boundary hedge around the children's play area had been cut back.

3074 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr Dawkins requested an approach be made to Dorset Police to enquire whether a sign could be erected at the fire station to indicate the presence of a police station.

3075 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 revised financial implications.

(a) Provision of public toilet – Memorial Playing Field

The Town Clerk advised a meeting had taken place with representatives from the BCCP at which the proposal to provide a public toilet within the existing pavilion was put forward for discussion.

The discussion turned to the future of the pavilion and the need to recruit new Trustees as it was the intention of some of the existing Trustees intended to step down at the AGM in December.

Members having been fully appraised of the circumstances and options **RESOLVED** to clarify the Councils position with regard to the Council becoming the sole Trustee.

3076 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Tuesday 21st January 2025.

3077 MEETING

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.45pm

Chairman
21st January 2025