



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 in the Cowie Room, Public Hall commencing at 7.00 pm.

3078 Members present – Cllr Turner (Chairman), Cllr Body, Cllr Gillings and Cllr Gunning; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Cllr Craig Monks (Dorset Council) and one member of the public.

3079 Dorset Police – in the absence of a police representative the Town Clerk read a report received from PCSO Alex Bishop advising:

- There had been a number of break ins to outbuildings across the wider area. On the night of Wednesday 11th December the police had been called to a garage break in at Netherbury where several power tools were stolen. Subsequently there were also reports of break ins to sheds with the loss of power tools along the stretch of road from Netherbury to Pymore.
- On the night of Monday 6th/7th January police were called by three separate residents from Netherbury, Bowood and Marshwood, reporting two male intruders attempting to gain entry to outbuildings. The latter ended in an assault to one of the victims who confronted the intruder. A vehicle was later located near Dorchester containing a number of power tools.
- PCSO Bishop would be available at the Walk in Wednesday at St Marys Church on Wednesday 5th February 2025.

3080 Dorset Councillor – Cllr Craig Monks reported on the following issues:

- Following correspondence received by the Town Council from pupils of St Mary's School expressing their safety concerns crossing the road in Clay Lane Cllr Monks had made initial enquiries with relevant officers at Dorset Council with regard to possible funding for provision of a pedestrian crossing. The site had previously been assessed in 2016 at which time it did not meet the necessary score for a crossing however at that time a scheme had been introduced including coloured road surface and pencil bollards to give some indication as to the presence of the school. A meeting was to be arranged with the relevant officer with a view to a new assessment.
- Dorset Council had published their budget ahead of formal adoption by Full Council in February, savings had been identified in order to achieve a balanced budget. Within those budget considerations there were proposals to increase car park charges and introduce night time charging at a flat fee, Cllr Monks expressed his concerns in respect of night time charging and the impact for residents who, with no private parking and used the car parks in the town. He also expressed his concern at the proposal to repeat the pilot parking scheme introduced last summer at a cost of £280,000.
- With regard to devolution proposals he expressed his two main concerns – the impact on town and parish councils with regard to delegation of some services and the introduction of a Mayoral system.

3081 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:

- Ongoing concerns from residents of East Street with regard to the impact the construction work is having on the properties with HGV movement close to properties
- Two litter bins have been installed one in Tunnel Road at the entrance to the Beeches and one at the entrance to St James.

3082 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Anderton, Cllr Corbett, Cllr Dawkins and Cllr Watts.

3083 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2024

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26th November 2024 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3084 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest or dispensations were received.

3085 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Members were circulated with details of the payments made in January 2025 including cheque numbers 106024 - 106030, direct debits and bank payments totalling £20,734.54; also receipts totalling £20,404.52 (copy attached). Members **RESOLVED** adoption as presented.

3086 RESOLVE MINUTES OF FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) CB3 Management Committee meeting held on 16th December 2024

The minutes of the CB3 Management Committee meeting held on 16th December 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 17th December 2024

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17th December 2024 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

(c) CB3 Management Committee meeting held on 13th January 2025

The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 13th January 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

Min. No. 063 – Guidance Documents

The Town Clerk advised that subsequent to the Committee meeting it had deemed necessary to increase the number of reserve seats for passengers wishing to join the bus service at Netherbury had been increased to two. **NOTED**.

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

(d) Town Amenities Committee meeting held on 14th January 2025

The minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held on 14th January 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

3087 BUDGET COMPARISON

Members having previously been circulated with a copy of the budget as at 14th January 2025 **NOTED** the actual against the budget. No concerns or items of significance were raised.

3088 BUDGET FRAMEWORK 2025/2026

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the proposed budget framework for 2025/2026, the Chairman took members through page by page and invited comment. Members then considered the content of the Town Clerk's budget report and following discussion **RESOLVED** to **LEVY** a Precept of £303,483 representing a 12% increase on 2024/2025.

3089 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

No consultation documents had been received.

3090 CORRESPONDENCE

No significant items of correspondence had been received.

3091 PROGRESS REPORT

Members **NOTED** progress as follows:

- The lighting in the main hall had been replaced with LED lights.

3092 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items were highlighted.

3093 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 lease agreement.

(a) Fleet Club

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Town Clerks confidential report, following discussion it was **AGREED** to arrange a meeting with the lease holder.

(b) Prout Bridge

The Town Clerk appraised members of the current position with regard to discussions concerning the condition of the railings at Prout Bridge. **NOTED**.

3094 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was **NOTED** as Tuesday 25th March 2025.

3095 MEETING

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 9.05pm

Chairman
25th March 2025

