



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 22nd July 2025 in the Cowie Room, Public Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

Theo Langdon addressed the Council with regard to agenda item 10 – Conversation with Dorset Council – Community Resilience and sought the Council's support.

3168 Members present – Cllr Gunnings (Chairman), Cllr Anderton, Cllr Biggs, Cllr Corbett, Cllr Gillings, Cllr Turner and Cllr Watts; also Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Cllr Craig Monks (Dorset Council) and one member of the public.

3169 Dorset Police – in the absence of a police representative the Town Clerk read a brief report on behalf of PCSO Alex Bishop that advised:

- On the evening of 5th July the police received a report of an attempted break in at a sheltered accommodation property in Beaminster. The resident heard the door handle being rattled, no entry was gained and no one seen. There have been no similar reports.
- On 5th July police were called to the Playing Fields for a report of a young person firing a catapult at others and the pavilion. On the arrival of the police a young person came forward and said he and his friends were playing around and handed over the catapult to officers. His parents were spoken to and advised of the incidents, no damage or injury was caused.
- The police are aware of a young person riding an electric push bike around the town in an anti-social manner. The police will visit with a warning letter from Dorset Council for the anti-social behaviour element, for a report of their riding anti-socially at the school. The police will continue to monitor during patrols.

3170 Dorset Councillor – Cllr Monks reported that:

- A trial booking system would be introduced at four Recycling Centres in Dorset, this did not include Bridport.
- Equipment had been put down in Clay Lane in June to collect data for consideration when discussing the request for a pedestrian crossing. He would seek a meeting once the information was to hand.
- Following the withdrawal of Neighbourhood Plan funding he had raised the concern at Dorset Council who were now looking at ways to make CIL monies available to Town and Parish Councils to assist with costs.
- Following changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, Dorset Council were undertaking a number of consultation events with regard to the proposed new Dorset Local Plan. Consultation would commence on 18th August until early October.
- There would appear to be number of E-bikes that are being ridden around the town in an anti-social manner causing damage to property.

- He was delighted that the long awaited repair of the railings at Prout Bridge were underway and appealed for volunteers to assist with the painting of the railings on Thursday 31st July.
- He had voiced his concerns with regard to road signs being obscured by overhanging vegetation and hoped it would be dealt with. He anticipated that weeds along the roadside kerbs would be cleared in the coming weeks.
- He had discussed parking issues in Hogshill Street/Shadrack Street with Cllr Woods and had advised that any processes had to be instigated by the Town Council.
- He had expressed his concern at the lack of parking during the Fleet Street road closure in early August and had enquired whether Dorset Council would consider free parking for Fleet Street residents for the duration of the closure, this would be pursued with the contractor, National Grid.

3171 Enforcement Officer – In the absence of the Enforcement Officer the Town Clerk read a report on his behalf advising of the issues he had dealt with since the last meeting:

- Numerous complaints with regard to E-bikes and the damage they have caused to green open spaces and the use of pavements causing a danger to pedestrians.
- A couple of complaints from residents who live next door to dog owners whose dogs bark for long periods of time, this should be reported to Dorset Council.
- Complaints with regard to vehicles parking on the bend in Whitcombe Road and on the zig zag markings at the pedestrian crossing in Hogshill Street.
- The CCTV post has been treated with anti-climb paint following a number of instances of youngsters climbing the pole and placing stickers on the cameras.
- Vehicles driving too fast along Memorial Lane, details of one driver was forwarded to the police and they were spoken to.
- Complaints of noise from the skatepark which would probably increase during the summer holidays which also includes E-bikes and loud music.
- Dog owners were advised to be mindful of walking their dogs in the recent hot weather as pavements and road surfaces get very hot; also leaving them in hot cars.
- A number of locations reported with regard to overhanging vegetation.
- Ongoing investigation into a recent fire at Edmund Coombe Coppice.

3172 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Body.

3173 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest were received.

3174 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

Members were circulated with details of the payments made in July 2025 including cheque numbers 106096 - 106207, including cheque number 100059 from the CB3 account, direct debits, credit card and bank payments totalling £34,227.05; also receipts totalling £7,586.00 (copy attached). Members **RESOLVED** adoption as presented.

Cllr Biggs requested information from the Town Clerk with regard to the current photocopier lease agreement, social media agreement and electricity account for the pavilion.

3175 RESOLVE MINUTES OF FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 22nd May 2025

The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 2nd May 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

(b) CB3 Management Committee meeting held on 16th June 2025

The minutes of the CB3 Management Committee meeting held on 16th June 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 24th June 2025

The minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 24th June 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

(d) Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 26th June 2025

The minutes of the Community Engagement Committee meeting held on 26th June 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

(e) Town Amenities Committee meeting held on 16th July 2025

The minutes of the Town Amenities Committee meeting held on 16th July 2025 having previously been circulated were **NOTED**.

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

3176 CB3 FARE STRUCTURE

Members having previously agreed the reduction of charging zones from 4 to 3 had been subsequently advised the reduction indicated there would be a loss of revenue on the longer journeys. Having been circulated with an updated fare structure members **RESOLVED** its **ADOPTION**.

3177 RISK ASSESSMENTS & RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Risk assessments and Risk Management Policy had previously been considered in detail at the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting in June 2025, the Town Clerk advised the subsequent amendments had been made and members had previously been circulated with copies for adoption.

Cllr Biggs requested a risk assessment for the transportation of hazardous substances be put in place and a first aid kit be provided in the groundsman's workshop.

3178 CONVERSATION WITH DORSET COUNCIL – COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Mr Langdon, on the Councils behalf, had engaged in conversations with Dorset Council and other agencies with regard to long-term sustainability of community resilience capabilities.

Members had previously been circulated with a number of questions Mr Langdon wished to put before Dorset Council for formal consideration. No questions were raised and Council **RESOLVED** to formally **SUBMIT** the questions to Dorset Council.

3179 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Town Clerk appraised members of a meeting that had taken place attended by Gillian Fearnough, Chairperson of the Steering Group, Cllr Gunning, Cllr Gillings and the Town Clerk to consider the options available to the Council following the withdrawal of funding.

The meeting had concluded with two considerations 1) should the council opt for a basic Neighbourhood Plan with the opportunity to review in future years and 2) should further council funds be expended on a Plan just to achieve an additional 10% CIL monies?

The Town Clerk advised Dorset Council were anticipating the adoption of the new Dorset Local Plan before December 2026 and stressed the advantage of adopting a Beaminster Neighbourhood Plan ahead of Dorset Council.

Dorset Councillor Monks advised cross party work was being undertaken by Dorset Council with regard to a new build code for Dorset that would feed into the new Dorset Local Plan which could present a potential saving with regard to the development of a design code within the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Town Clerk was instructed to liaise with the appointed consultants with regard to a timelines and potential costs to achieve a Made Neighbourhood Plan prior to the end of 2026.

3180 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

No consultation documents had been received.

3181 CORRESPONDENCE

No significant items of correspondence received.

3182 PROGRESS REPORT

Members **NOTED** progress as follows:

Playing Field – Public Toilet

Anticipated completion of the contract on 18th July 2025

Playing Field – Controlled access

Installation of barrier scheduled for week commencing 21st July 2025

Path repairs

Work commenced on 30th June 2025 and completed.

External decoration of Public Hall

The painting of the front elevation woodwork began 30th June 2025 and completed.

CB3 – revised timetable

The revised timetable submitted to Office of Traffic Commissioner on 8th July 2025, response awaited.

3183 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items were highlighted.

3184 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 quotations received.

(a) Drainage issues – Memorial Playing Field

The Town Clerk advised a quotation had been obtained to excavate the drain behind the far goal and replace pipework in the region of £2,000. The Chairman advised he had met with the Chairman of the Football Club to discuss funding, he had also spoken with Cllr Watts who had volunteered to inspect the drainage system and offer advice. **NOTED.**

(b) Cleaning – Public Toilet, Memorial Playing Field

The Town Clerk advised a quotation had been obtained to open/close and clean the public toilet based on opening at 8.00am and closing at 8.00pm during the school summer holiday at a weekly cost of £175.

3185 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled Council meeting would be the Annual Council meeting which would take place on Tuesday 23rd September 2025. **NOTED.**

3186 MEETING

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.15pm

Chairman
23rd September 2025

