

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Extraordinary meeting held in the Cowie Room on **Tuesday 23rd June** at 7.00pm.

3315 MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr R. Gunning (Chairman), Cllr Gillings (Vice Chair), Cllr Dawkins, Cllr S. Gunning and Cllr Wallbridge; also Sara Cradock (Town Clerk).

3316 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Acton and Cllr Anderton.

3317 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations received.

3318 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the applicant's co-option application.

The applicant, Mrs Ally Ginder, was invited to address the Council and outlined her reasons for seeking co-option. Mrs Ginder spoke of her love for Beaminster and how she enjoyed being on the council prior to moving away.

She spoke about her background in sales, recruitment and being a business owner. Mrs Ginder explained how she likes to be involved in the community and is still a part of Speedwatch.

Following questions from Members, the applicant withdrew from the meeting whilst the Council considered the application.

It was proposed by Cllr S. Gunning, seconded by Cllr Gillings and **RESOLVED** (unanimously) that Mrs Ally Ginder be co-opted to Beaminster Town Council.

Mrs Ginder then rejoined the meeting and, having signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Town Clerk, took her seat as a Councillor.

3319 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Members **NOTED** the appointment of BDO as external auditor for the financial year 2025/2026 and **RESOLVED** there would be no conflict of interest.

In response to a query from Cllr S. Gunning regarding the appointment of BDO, it was confirmed that neither the Finance Assitant nor the Town Clerk were aware of the background to the current arrangement. It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would investigate alternative external audit arrangements and report back on any potential cost savings.

3320 INTERNAL AUDIT

Members had previously been circulated with a document reviewing the effectiveness of internal audit for the financial year 2025/26. Members **RESOLVED** acceptance of the review.

3321 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Members had previously been circulated with Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, being the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26, and **RESOLVED** to approve the Statement and submit it to the external auditor.

3322 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

Members had previously been circulated with Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, being the Accounting Statements for 2025/26, and **RESOLVED** to approve the Statements and submit them to the external auditor.

3323 MEETING

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 7.30pm.

Chairman
21st July 2026