



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in the Public Hall, Beaminster at 7.00pm

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman informed members of the death of Mr John Cunningham, a former Chairman of the Town Council.

**2091 PRESENT** – Cllr Turner (Chairman), Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Corbett, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Faulkner, Cllr Norris and Cllr Mrs Page.

**2092 IN ATTENDANCE** – Mrs Christine Bright (Town Clerk), Dorset County Councillor Mrs R Knox; also one representative from the press.

**2093 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS FOR:**

**(a) Dorset Police**

In the absence of a representative from Dorset Police members had previously been circulated with a short report from PCSO Alex Bishop in which he had advised the following crimes had been reported between 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 :

- **Garage break-in** – at approx. 12.00 hrs on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November a garage of a house in Bridport Road, Beaminster had been broken into and a Stihl Strimmer, a battery and charger stolen.
- **Car Battery** – sometime between 20.00hrs on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and 22.30 hrs on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December a car battery had been stolen from a silver coloured Peugeot Sport car parked at Kittwhistle, Beaminster.
- **Theft from motor vehicle** – sometime between 18.00 hrs on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December and 07.00 hrs on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December a white coloured Ford Transit van parked in Clay Lane, Beaminster had been broken into and tools stolen. Stolen tools were a Bosch Drill set, Bosch Battery set, 2 saws, battery charger and a torch.
- **Theft of large quantity of meat** – in the early hours of New Year's Eve from the cold storage of a business in Beaminster.
- **Theft from motor vehicle** – sometime on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January a blue coloured Mercedes Benz parked in School House Close, Beaminster had been broken into a torch, windscreen cover and an amount of money stolen.
- **Punctured tyres** – during the evening of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January, there had been several vehicles with punctured tyres in the Broadwindsor Road area.

**(b) West Dorset District Council**

In the absence of a District Council representative no report was received.

**(c) Dorset County Council**

Cllr Mrs Knox advised the County Council were winding down their business ahead of the new authority on 1<sup>st</sup> April, with more business now being undertaken by the Shadow Executive Committee. In response to a question Cllr Mrs Knox confirmed no decision had been taken with regard to the location of the Unitary offices.

No additional funding would be forthcoming from central government for children services, unfortunately the number of children in care had reached a level around 400 and did not appear to be on the decline, with rising costs it was vital to encourage more foster carers and adoptions.

The County Council had injected funds (£1.5m) into patching and pothole repairs in West Dorset, the condition of the surface of the car parking area in the square currently being used as highway had been placed on a regular monitoring programme. In response to a question from Cllr Turner regarding the delay in resurfacing Hogshill Street Cllr Mrs Knox advised the work would be delayed until the ATM issue had been resolved.

**2094 APOLOGIES** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Baker, Cllr Body and Cllr Mrs Cooke.

**2095 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

No declarations of interest had been received.

**2096 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018 having previously been circulated were signed as a correct record.

**2097 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

**(a) Crime Prevention Panel** – Cllr Dawkins advised, in the coming weeks, members would be in Morrisons, Bridport to highlight issues around the safety of personal possessions when shopping in the supermarket.

**(b) CAB** – Cllr Dawkins advised he had attended a recent Trustees meeting at which funding had again been discussed.

**2098 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**(a) Min. No. 2082 – Beaminster Future's Town Plan**

Members **AGREED** the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group were best placed to review the Town Plan and prepare a report.

**2099 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

Members had previously been circulated with the schedule of payments, cheque numbers 104927 to 104964 issued, together with direct debit payments between 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 totalling £22,945.32; also receipts totalling £6,865.34.

Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the schedule, a copy of which is attached.

## **2100 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Members had previously been circulated with minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018. **NOTED.**

With the exception of Min. No. 409 (a) Appointment of Office Assistant, there being no items raised for discussion members **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes.

## **2101 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE**

Members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the Christmas Lights Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

With the exception of Min. No. 195 - budget implications 2019, there being no raised for discussion and members **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the minutes.

## **2102 PROJECTED BUDGET AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019**

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the projected budget at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, a copy of which is attached. **NOTED.**

The Town Clerk drew attention to items of expenditure for consideration:

- **Traffic speed in North Street** – following a number of complaints over many months with regard to the perceived speed of traffic in North Street the County Council's Highway team had suggested a site speed survey (monitoring strips across the highway) at a financial cost to the Town Council. In an attempt to obtain some clarity with regard to actual traffic speed members **RESOLVED** to proceed with monitoring at a cost of £250 funded via Community/Devolution budget.
- **Play Area Boundary fence** – members **RESOLVED** the planting of a boundary hedge around the new play area at a cost of £1036.18 (Hedges Direct – supply of trees only, planting kindly undertaken by volunteers) funded via Play Area budget.
- **Health & Safety issue – Children's Play area** – members **RESOLVED** expenditure (K. Hussey) to remove the identified trip hazard at a cost of £90.00
- **Beaminster Museum** – members considered a request for a grant to their extension project. **RESOLVED**, in principle a grant of £3,000, released on commencement of construction work.
- **RBL Beaminster Branch** – members **NOTED** the content of correspondence received from RBL in which it had been assumed the Town Council had approved a grant towards the cost of hiring a band for the Remembrance Parade. Regrettably the grant budget had been expanded for the current financial year therefore no grant was approved.

## **2103 BUDGET FRAMEWORK 2019/202 & PARISH PRECEPT**

Members had previously been circulated with the budget framework for 2019/2020, a copy of which is attached.

The Town Clerk took members through the budget and highlighted significant items of expenditure, including the £5000 provision for Christmas lighting. The budget as circulated included a provisional 10% increase in the precept resulting overall in a budget deficit of £20,154.

Members **RESOLVED** the 10% precept increase for 2019/20, with a levy to WDDC of £164,854, an increase of £8.91 per annum on Band D.

#### **2104 RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEMES**

Members had previously been circulated with an analysis of responses from consultation with residents in Shadrack Street, Church Street, St Mary Well Street, Fleet Street, North Street and Manor Gardens.

Based on the information gathered the Town Council would not have a robust case to present to the County Council for a residents parking scheme in any of the streets canvassed. From feedback received it was clear that workers coming in to the town and not using the public car parks was of real concern. Members **AGREED** to focus on addressing this problem, in the first instance it was **AGREED** to discuss parking issues with those who came into the town to work.

#### **2105 DEFIBRILLATOR**

Members were tabled with details of the proposed defibrillator, to be purchased from funding received via the Co-op's Community Fund and **NOTED** the change to the proposed location. Members **RESOLVED** to site the defibrillator at the front of the Public Hall adjacent the entrance to the Fleet Club as indicated in the report.

#### **2106 BEAMINSTER LOGO**

Cllr Faulkner presented the final design for the new 'Beaminster' Logo to members for approval. Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the 'Beaminster' Logo, a copy of which is attached.

#### **2107 CONSULTATIONS**

No consultation documents had been received.

#### **2108 CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **(a) Yarn Barton Centre**

Members **NOTED** a letter received expressing the Trustees appreciation of the financial contribution towards operational costs.

##### **(b) Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring & Ride**

Members **NOTED** a letter of thanks for the Council's contribution to the Ring & Ride service. The correspondence also invited a representative from the Town Council to attend their meetings, in light of the local council elections taking place in May it was **AGREED** to appoint a representative at the Annual Council meeting.

##### **(c) Town Crier**

Members **NOTED** Mr Craner's decision to retire from Town Crying at Christmas 2019. The Town Clerk was asked to express the Council's gratitude to Mr Craner for his services to the town, not only to the Council but to the wider community and wish him well.

Consideration to be given to his replacement in due course.

**(d) Green Weigh**

In light of the unsuitable site at the Church members considered the request from Green Weigh, a plastic free mobile shop, to stop in the Memorial Playing Field on Fridays between the hours of 12.30 – 2.30pm. Members **AGREED** to a six month trial period.

**(e) WPS Insurance**

Members **NOTED** confirmation of the settlement of the claim on a split liability basis. The Town Clerk was asked to obtain details of the claimant's evidence.

**2109 PROGRESS REPORT**

Members had previously been circulated with the latest progress report, the content of which was **NOTED**.

**2110 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

One item was identified:

- Parking permits

**2111 ADMISSION TO MEETING**

Members **RESOLVED** that public and press be excluded from the meeting whilst discussion took place on the next item on the agenda on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted in respect of a staffing issues.

**(a) Min. No. 409 (a) – Office Assistant**

Members **RESOLVED** the post of office assistant, four hours a week commencing at SCP 1 on a temporary six month contract from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

**Postholder 302**

The Town Clerk drew attention to an error in the minutes and members **NOTED** the amendment of additional 2.5 hours *per week* equating to a total of 41 hours per month with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018. Members **NOTED**, the Postholder had, in fact increased their duties with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 and **RESOLVED** to pay the arrears.

**(b) Yarn Barton Community Centre**

Members **NOTED** that on receipt of the current lease agreement between WDDC and the Housing Association a number of issues had been raised that required clarification and were being pursued.

**2112 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

**2113 MEETING**

The meeting which commenced at 7.00pm, closed at 9.40pm.

CHAIRMAN  
25<sup>th</sup> February 2019