



Minutes of the Virtual Town Council meeting held on Wednesday 24th June 2020 via Zoom.

2411 Members on line – Cllr Monks (Chairman), Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Body, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Mrs Cooke, Cllr Corbett, Cllr Langridge, Cllr Mrs Page and Cllr Turner; also the Town Clerk.

2412 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dawkins and Cllr Drinnan.

2413 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest were received.

2414 MINUTES OF THE MATTERS RESOLVED DURING LOCKDOWN

Having previously been circulated with a copy of the minutes of the matters dealt with via email consultation during lockdown members **RESOLVED** their adoption, to be signed by the chairman.

2415 MINUTES OF STAFFING SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Having previously been circulated with a copy of the minutes of the Staffing Sub-committee meeting held on 4th March 2020, members **RESOLVED** their adoption, to be signed by the chairman.

2416 MINUTES OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Having previously been circulated with a copy of the minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17th March 2020, members **RESOLVED** their adoption, to be signed at the next committee meeting.

2417 PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS

Having previously been circulated with a copy of the payment for the month of April in the sum of £12,470.58; together with receipt amounting to £1,474.62.

Having previously been circulated with a copy of the payment for the month of May in the sum of £26,847.93; together with receipt amounting to £110,959.63 members **RESOLVED** their adoption, to be signed by the chairman.

The Town Clerk drew attention to an issue raised by the internal auditor regarding two minor oversights with regard to the payment of invoices, these oversights can be attributed to the current payment method whereby monthly payments span two calendar months. Members **RESOLVED** from 1st June 2020 payments to be made at the end of each calendar month, together with receipts circulated to members prior to formal approval at the next Town Council meeting.

2418 TOWN COUNCIL'S FOCUS 2020/21

Members were circulated with an update report from the Town Clerk with regard to outstanding projects, **NOTED**.

Cllr Cheeseman stressed the need to kickstart the campaign 'Restart Beaminster' to put the Town on the map and assist the businesses. A small Working Group consisting of the Gary Bartelings (BOB), Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Monks, Katy Robert, Sam Pearce and the Town Clerk had been holding a series of virtual meetings to formulate a campaign that included:

Welcome to Beaminster signs – the Town Council had an allocated budget for new signs, however discussions with regard to possible sponsorship had held up the placing of an order. **RESOLVED** to place an order for the signs subject to amended quotation within budget allocation.¹

Bunting – **NOTED** an amended scheme that would require a reduced amount of bunting at a cost of £288.60 with an additional £500 to put up/take down. **RESOLVED** to place an order.²

Teardrop Flags – the working group put forward the suggestion of purchasing flags to site in the existing brackets in Hogshill Street, the Square and Prout Bridge at a cost of £940. The Town Clerk confirmed the cost could be borne from existing budget allocations. **RESOLVED** to place an order.

Hanging Baskets – brackets to be manufactured and installed early July, hanging baskets to follow. **NOTED**.³

Al Fresco dining – in conjunction with Dorset Council Highways team the possibility of Al Fresco dining in the Square had been discussed. Following consultation with the local food traders there were potentially three businesses that might wish to take advantage of the initiative.⁴

The Working Group were also considering an advertising campaign, music in the Square, treasure hunts and ghost walks.

With regard to the Community Resilience Team – Cllr Cheeseman advised the team had been extremely busy assisting the community and some businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic co-ordinated by Sam Pearce.

2419 PLANNING APPLICATION

Due to a tight consultation deadline in respect of Planning Application WD/D/20/001177 – 42 The Beeches, having studied the documents members **RESOLVED** to Recommend Approval.

Under this heading the Town Clerk drew attention to Planning Application WD/D/20/000583 – 82 East Street and notification the application would be determined by Dorset Council's Planning Committee on Thursday 9th July to which the Town Council, via written statement, could make further representation. Following discussion members **AGREED** to make written representation to the Chief Executive requesting the application be deferred until such time as the Town Council were able to make personal representation.⁵

¹ Received amended quotation £3,192.58, within budget and order placed awaiting installation date.

² Bunting put up on Wednesday 15th July.

³ Hanging baskets erected Thursday 9th July.

⁴ Al Fresco dining dropped due to lack of interest from businesses

⁵ Response received, delay not possible and a further written submission forwarded to Dorset Council. Cllr Turner observed the virtual meeting and decision deferred pending site meeting.

2420 BEAMINSTER PRE-SCHOOL

The Town Clerk, having spoken to the applicants to advise the circumstances in which a grant had been awarded, it was clear they would not be able to proceed on the proposed basis due to their financial circumstances.

Cllr Cheeseman drew attention to a number of second hand sheds that were to be available in the coming weeks and suggested they might be suitable. With regard to the purchase of paint the suggestion was to purchase via a Council account, the Town Clerk to pursue the options with the applicant.

2421 DEVELOPMENT AT FORMER CLIPPER TEA SITE

Members had been invited to comment on the development name put forward by the developers or to submit a suggestion of their own.

During discussion a small number of names were suggested, with no preference, it was **AGREED**, via social media to seek public opinion.⁶

2422 CLIMATE & LONG TERM RESILIENCE PLAN WORKING GROUP

Members had previously been circulated with an update report from Mr Michael Dower dated 24th March together with a draft approach to meetings of the Working Group. **NOTED.**

Cllr Cheeseman advised plans were ongoing for the ECO Fair due to take place on 17th October and it would be the intention to involve the schools from September.

2423 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) **Raucous Chorus – NOTED** a letter of thanks for the donation of £50.
- (b) **Mapperton Estate – NOTED** a letter of thanks for the grant of £500.
- (c) **Beaminster Branch RBL – NOTED** a letter of thanks for the financial contribution of £75 towards hire of the band for the Remembrance Day Parade and **NOTED** that it was unlikely there would be a Parade in 2020.
- (d) **Prout Bridge Project – NOTED** a letter of thanks for the support grant of £5,000.

2424 MEETING

The meeting which commenced at 7.00pm, closed at 9.35pm.

CHAIRMAN

⁶ Ridgeway View subsequently adopted by the developer