



Beaminster Town Council

Minutes of the Virtual Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2020 via Zoom.

2425 Members on line – Cllr Monks (Chairman), Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Body, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Mrs Cooke, Cllr Corbett, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Drinnan, Cllr Langridge, Cllr Mrs Page and Cllr Turner; also Dorset Councillor Mrs Knox and the Town Clerk.

In the absence of PCSO Bishop the Town Clerk read his incident report for the month of July.

Dorset Councillor Mrs Knox reported

- The Western Area Planning Committee were finding it difficult to arrange a site visit to land at the rear of 82 East Street, however she had been assured by the Committee Chairman that no decision would be taken until all members of the Committee had visited the site.
- As Chairman of the Dorset Council Health & Wellbeing Committee Cllr Mrs Knox reassured members that plans were in hand to minimise the impact of any possible second peak in coronavirus with a view to containing measures to as smaller area as possible
- No 6 bus – no new timetable available to date
- Dorset Council were running a campaign to raise awareness of the fire hazards associated with BBQ, bonfires and Chinese lanterns during spells of dry weather
- Social Care – the pandemic had found there were far more people in need of assistance than first anticipated, the services of local GP practices and Community Hospitals would become more vital than before
- Funding had been made available to establish "community fridges".

In response to a question from Cllr Monks with regard to funding for Climate change and green issues Cllr Mrs Knox advised the topic had been debated at a meeting held that day, Dorset Council whilst making the issue a priority, they were not approaching it in the same way as political activists would expect as the Council were considering more localised initiatives rather than County wide objectives.

2426 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2427 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

As the Town Council's elected representative Cllr Turner declared a personal interest in agenda item 9 – Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring & Ride

2428 MINUTES OF THE BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH JUNE 2020

Having previously been circulated with a copy of the minutes of the virtual Town Council meeting held on 24th June 2020, the footnote was amended to include Cllr Mrs Page as observing the Dorset Council virtual planning meeting and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2429 MINUTES OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the minutes of the virtual Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 14th July 2020.

Cllr Dawkins, having attended a Committee meeting of the St Marys Preschool extended their gratitude to the Town Council for the grant assistance given.

(a) Min No. 473 – Snooker table, Fleet Club

Member had previously been circulated with information obtained by the Town Clerk as requested by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. Following due consideration members **RESOLVED** to offer the snooker table, cues and score board for sale.

There being no other items raised for discussion members **RESOLVED** adoption of the Minutes.

2430 PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS

Members had previously been circulated with details of the payments & receipts for the month of June 2020. **RESOLVED** their adoption.

2431 ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ended 31st March 2020.

Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** and sign the Statement of Accounts and having confirmed compliance, **RESOLVED** to sign as **APPROVED** the Annual Governance Statement.

2432 PLAYGROUND HEDGE AND PROPOSED TREE PLANTING

Members had previously been circulated with Mr Michael Dower's proposals for further tree planting in the Memorial Playing Field and **NOTED** the recommendation regarding the play area hedge.

With regard to tree planting on the eastern end of the playing field members **AGREED** planting in that area should be postponed until completion of the skatepark project and further enhancements had been considered.

Members **AGREED** the proposal to plant trees on the northern edge of Pease Hill subject to the landowners permission.

Under this heading the Town Clerk drew attention to a request received to site a bench within the Playing Field in memory of a young person who tragically lost their life a few days prior to the meeting.

Members **APPROVED** the request, a suitable site to be agreed with the groundsman.

2433 OIGONG CLASSES – MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD

Members considered a request received from a qualified teacher to hold Oigong classes in the Memorial Playing Field on a Tuesday evening, the class would consist of no more than 15 participants, movements required 2-3 meters distance therefore social distancing would be maintained. **RESOLVED** to grant permission subject to the class being mindful of other users and abide by current regulations in place.

2434 BRIDPORT TOWN GUIDE

Members were asked to consider whether to retain the current advertisement in the 2020/21 edition of the Bridport Town Guide at a cost of £195.00. **RESOLVED** to retain the advertisement however in conjunction with the "Restart Beaminster" Campaign **AGREED** the advertisement should be redesigned.

2435 AXE VALLEY AND WEST DORSET RING & RIDE

Members considered a request received for financial support for the Ring and Ride service and **NOTED** Beaminster had the highest number of users of the service. A grant of £600 was **RESOLVED**.

2436 DAPTC – AGM

The Town Council had been invited to put forward resolutions for consideration at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for November 2020. Following discussion and some mention of ECO credentials within the planning system in regard of new developments, due to the tight deadline it appeared doubtful if a resolution could be submitted

2437 CLIMATE & LONG TERM RESILIENCE PLAN WORKING GROUP

Cllr Cheeseman advised the ECO Fair planned for October 2020 had been postponed until March 2021.

Two projects were under consideration 1)possible safe cycle route between Beaminster and Bridport and 2) establishing a community fridge.

2438 PROGRESS REPORT

Members had previously been circulated with a progress report to date **NOTED**.

Cllr Beswarick requested the drinking water station in the Square be pursued now things had returned to normal.

The Town Clerk was asked to enquire on a timescale for the installation of new rear door at the Public Hall.¹

Under this heading Cllr Turner advised further information had been requested by the insurers of the CB3 for consideration prior to renewal offer.

2439 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Two items were raised –

- Funding for ECO projects and future budget adjustments and precept consideration
- Improving internet access to council information

¹ The contractor not yet fully operational due to Covid-19

2440 PUBLIC BODIES (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960

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 potential staffing issue.

2441 MIN NO. 474 – ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Town Clerk's confidential report detailing the budget allocation for the employment of an Enforcement Officer.

RESOLVED to move forward with the recruitment of an Enforcement Officer on an initial twelve month contract. The Town Clerk was asked to enquire of other Town Council's as to whether they might be undertaking similar recruitment and be interested in sharing the training costs.²

2442 MEETING

The meeting which commenced at 7.00pm, closed at 9.10pm.

CHAIRMAN

² An expression of interest had subsequently been received from Charmouth Parish Council, Weymouth Town Council also Lytchet Minister & Upton Town Council.