



Minutes of the Virtual Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via Zoom.

The Chairman introduced Michelle Maidment, Rural Engagement Manager, Openreach who spoke with regard to the government funding scheme to bring Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband to those properties served by the Beaminster Telephone Exchange. The Scheme relied on residents and businesses pledging their Gigabit Broadband voucher with Openreach.

**2479 Members on line** – Cllr Monks (Chairman), Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Body, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Corbett, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Drinnan, Cllr Langridge, Cllr Mrs Page and Cllr Turner; also Dorset Councillor Mrs Knox, the Town Clerk and one member of the public.

**Dorset Police** - In the absence of PCSO Bishop no report was received.

**Dorset Councillor Mrs Knox** advised:

- The draft Dorset Local Plan would be presented to the Cabinet meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 prior to public consultation in January 2021
- Dorset Council continued to lobby Central Government for Tier 1 status from the easing of lockdown on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.
- She was concerned with regard to the number of planning applications coming forward that depended on retrospective determination. Cllr Cheeseman advised it was a concern previously expressed by the Town Council.

**2480 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Cooke and PCSO Bishop.

**2481 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

All Councillors had previously been granted with a dispensation to enable them to participate in discussion in respect of setting the precept levy.

**2482 MINUTES OF THE BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020**

Having previously been circulated with a copy of the minutes of the virtual Town Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were amended prior to **RESOLVED** for signature by the chairman.

**Min No. 2458 – members on line**

The minutes were amended to record Cllr Langridge as present at the meeting.

**2483 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY BEAMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020**

Having previously been circulated with a copy of the minutes of the virtual Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were **RESOLVED** for signature by the chairman.

**2484 PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS**

Members had previously been circulated with details of the payments & receipts for the month of November 2020 (copy attached). **RESOLVED** their adoption.

**2485 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE**

Members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the virtual Christmas Lights Committee meetings held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020. **NOTED.**

As Chairman of the Committee, Cllr Mrs Page expressed her gratitude to those who had worked hard putting the lights on the Christmas trees, on behalf of the Town Council she also thanked Dupont's for their generous donation.

There being no other issues raised the minutes were **ADOPTED.**

**2486 PUBLIC HALL WORKING PARTY**

Members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the virtual Public Hall Working Party meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Cllrs Body and Drinnan expressed their interest, having previously been members of the Working Group in re-joining. **AGREED.**

There being no other issues raised the minutes were **ADOPTED.**

**2487 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

Members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the virtual Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020. **NOTED.**

**Min No. 484 (c) – Precept Levy 2021/22**

Members had previously been circulated with a revised proposed budget framework for 2021/22, Cllr Body proposed a 10% increase in the precept and to levy a request of £199,947 for the financial year 2021/22, seconded by Cllr Drinnan and **APPROVED.**

There being no other issues raised the minutes were **ADOPTED.**

**2488 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

**NALC – Standards Matter**

Members had previously been circulated with a copy of a consultation document prepared by the Committee on Standards in Public Life as part of its review into institutions, process and structures in place to support high standards of conduct. Members **NOTED** the deadline and **AGREED** to feed individual comments back to the Town Clerk

**2489 CORRESPONDENCE**

No items of correspondence had been received.

**2490 CLIMATE & LONG TERM RESILIENCE PLAN WORKING GROUP**

Cllr Cheeseman advised the third meeting of the working Group had taken place and a draft Plan document would be prepared in early December. He also advised Mr Theo Langdon had sought Town Council support for his approach to Central Government to seek regional influence with regard to community resilience, members **AGREED** their support.

Dorset Council Climate and Energy Action Plan – comments were being sought on the Action Plan consultation, deadline for response **NOTED** as 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**2491 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Mrs Page advised the questionnaire was nearing completion and would be sent to Dorset Council for comment prior to circulation to Town Council members and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

**2492 PROGRESS REPORT**

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

**Skatepark funding** – Cllr Drinnan advised the final few queries had been answered and was hopeful a decision would be made at the December Board meeting.

**Discover Beaminster** – some clarification was sought as to the content of Phase 2, the Town Clerk understood the focus would be on the Town Council section of the Website. Cllr Monks advised that he was currently putting together information on the how the website/social media was performing.

**Electronic noticeboard in the Square** – Cllr Cheeseman **AGREED** to research this item and submit a report at a later date.

Under this heading Cllr Dawkins reported that the Foot bridge at Two River had been officially closed to the public due to its dangerous condition.

**2493 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

No items were raised.

**2494 MEETING**

The meeting which commenced at 7.00pm, closed at 8.45pm.

**2495 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Council meeting would take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00pm.

CHAIRMAN  
26<sup>th</sup> January 2021