



## Beaminster Town Council

Minutes of the Virtual Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom.

**2558 Members on line** – Cllr Monks (Chairman), Cllr Beswarick, Cllr Body, Cllr Cheeseman, Cllr Mrs Cooke, Cllr Corbett, Cllr Dawkins, Cllr Drinnan, Cllr Langridge and Cllr Turner; also the Town Clerk, Dorset Councillor Mrs Knox, Chris Loder MP and two members of the public.

**Dorset Police** - In the absence of a representative the Town Clerk read a report received from PCSO Bishop.

**Dorset Councillor Mrs Knox** - started her report by commending the work of the Beaminster community particularly the Skate Park and the Prout Bridge Project working together.

In her report Mrs Knox highlighted:

- The success of the joined up approach with GP practices and other health services in respect of the Covid pandemic and subsequent vaccinations, the question now was how could that continue in order to achieve a positive outcome for health services
- The desire of the Town Council to promote climate change and make use of some of the dormant areas of the town, discussions were taking place and hope for a positive outcome in the coming months

Under this heading Cllr Langridge spoke of the work of BAVLAP and the importance of Beaminster acting as a hub to the neighbouring villages and highlighted its work to introduce a School Uniform Library.

**Enforcement Officer** – the Town Clerk gave a brief resume of the key issues contained within the Enforcement Officer's report.

### **2559 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from PCSO Bishop.

### **2560 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

No declarations were made.

### **2561 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2021**

Having previously been circulated with a copy the minutes of the virtual Town Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 were **RESOLVED** for signature by the Chairman.

At this point in the meeting, with Chris Loder MP in attendance and members of the public wishing to address the Council, members **AGREED** to bring forward agenda item 12 – Chris Loder MP – Dorset National Park.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Town Council, welcomed Chris Loder MP and invited him to address the meeting.

**2562 CORRESPONDENCE – CHRIS LODER MP – DORSET NATIONAL PARK**

Mr Loder informed the meeting that over the coming months the Government were to make a decision on the designation of further National parks across England, including the proposal for a Dorset National Park covering a large section of West Dorset.

He outlined his personal reasons against the proposed National Park based on -

- Employment in National Park areas tended to be considerably lower
- House prices in National Park areas on average were higher

As West Dorset member of parliament he represented some 81,000 electorate, having had personal experience of the difficulty in purchasing a house, together with the economic effect of Covid-19 on the rural area he felt it wouldn't be right for the community.

At this point Cllr Beswarick left the meeting.

Two members of public spoke in support of the proposal and general discussion ensued.

Members **RESOLVED** to reserve judgement pending further evaluations of the proposal.

Chris Loder MP left the meeting.

Cllr Body joined the meeting.

**2563 PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS**

Members had previously been circulated with details of the payments made in April 2021 including cheque numbers 105332 – 105344, direct debits and bank payments totalling £161,067.99 also receipts totalling £895.50 (copy attached). Members **RESOLVED** adoption as presented.

**2564 RECREATIONS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

Members had previously been circulated with the Minutes of the Recreations & Amenities Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021. **NOTED.**

**(a) Min. No. 164 (a) – Skate Park Project – new path**

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation received in the sum of £5,000 to reinstate the foot path removed to facilitate the new Skate Park.

**(b) Min. No. 167 (a) – Public Toilet/store**

Members **NOTED** the cost of £450 to obtain a budget costing to build a new toilet/store in the Playing Field. Cllr Cheeseman expressed his concern, with the lack of income in 2020/21 the Council should review its' overall spending before committing to a project for which no funds, at this stage had been identified.

Cllr Beswarick rejoined the meeting.

Members **RESOLVED** to put the project on hold until a financial review had been undertaken.

There being no further items raised for discussion **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT.**

**2565 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE**

Members had previously been circulated with the Minutes of the Christmas Lights Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021. **NOTED.**

There being no items raised for discussion **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT.**

**2566 INSURANCE ISSUES**

**(a) Cyber Risk Cover**

With no further information to hand members **AGREED** to defer the item to the next meeting.

**(b) Skate Park**

Members **NOTED** Public Liability in place under the Council's insurance policy however separate cover would be required for damage risk, **AGREED** to seek advice from the construction company.

**2567 PLANNING APPEAL**

Members **NOTED** an extended deadline in respect of the Planning Appeal in respect of planning application WD/D/20/000583 – 82 East Street. **AGREED** to re-iterate the Council's previous objections and make reference to further representations in support of the East Street residents.

**2568 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Members **NOTED** with the current Covid restrictions the decision had been taken to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting until late May when it was hoped that townspeople could attend, particularly those who did not have access to view on line.

**2569 PUBLIC HALL – SIDE DOOR**

Following a show of hands members **RESOLVED** the colour Green for the new side door.

**2570 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

**(a) Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority – consultation on Draft Community Safety Plan 2021-24**

The Town Clerk had previously circulated details of the Draft Plan and accompanying video to Councillors. **NOTED**, members were asked to feedback comments on a personal level.

**2571 CORRESPONDENCE**

**2572 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

No report given.

**2573 PROGRESS REPORT**

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

In response to a question regarding the broken railings outside Hogshill Stores the Town Clerk advised the railings were to be replaced with a galvanised safety barrier. **NOTED.**

Members were asked to view vinyl samples available in the office for the kitchen corridor in the Public Hall.

Cllr Turner was pleased to report passenger numbers on the CB3 were increasing.

**2574 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Five items were raised:

- Review of Council finances
- Possibility of an exercise path and gym equipment in MPF
- Pedestrian crossing in Clay Lane
- Bunting
- Formal launch of Skate Park – provisional date 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**2575 MEETING**

The meeting which commenced at 7.00pm, closed at 9.20pm.

**2576 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Council meeting would take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.00pm.

The **Annual Council** meeting had been brought forward to enable it to take place via Zoom, the date **NOTED** as Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 commencing at 7.00pm.

CHAIRMAN  
5<sup>th</sup> May 2021