

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE11<sup>th</sup> November 2008

PRESENT Councillors: Ms.J.Russell (Chairman)  
 Mrs.G.Belcher  
 Mrs.L.Clark  
 Mrs.J.Hazel  
 P.Richardson  
 V.Redpath  
 M.Simper

Apologies were received from Cllr: M.V.Daymond, M.W.Dolan, B.Mortimer, A.R.Nicholls & Mrs.L.A.K.Nicholls.

Apologies were also received from: W.Wells, Mayor's Advisor.

Also in attendance: Mrs.V.Bright, Town Clerk, Mrs J.Gaskell, Assistant to the Town Clerk, Mrs.R.Kingsnorth, Admin. Assistant & P.C.Andy Robertson.

188/08 Declarations of Interest.

None

189/08 Policing.

Sgt. Partridge had sent a written report which included information on: crime figures; anti social behaviour; speed checks in the area; an arrest of three local youths for drug related offences. PC Andy Robertson gave information on alcohol seizures from young people, the Music Mayham event and reported that the Drink Driving Campaign would take place in November and December. Questions were asked by members regarding: the sale and seizure of alcohol from young people; a fire at a company on the Ebblake Industrial Estate. The Town Clerk asked for thanks to be passed on to the Police for closing the road off during the two minutes silence for Remembrance today.

190/08 Clerk's Report.

- a) **Min 149/08(b) East Dorset District Council & Christchurch Borough Council, Local Development Frameworks.** No member had contacted the Clerk with any comments before this agenda was sent out. This was noted.
- b) **Communities and Local Government** wrote regarding the consultation, Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power: Codes of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees – A Consultation. This can be viewed at [www.communities.go.uk](http://www.communities.go.uk) and responses are requested by 24<sup>th</sup> December 2008. A paper copy can be viewed at the Town Council offices. The Chairman and Clerk agreed to collate comments on the consultation which will be copied to members for their consideration at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.
- c) **Rallye Sunseeker 2009** wrote that the event organised by Croyden & District Motor Club Ltd & Southern Car Club Ltd will run on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The letter was copied to all members and was noted.
- d) **Dorset County Council** wrote that the Parish Maintenance Unit visit the parish twice a year for a period of roughly four weeks. During their time in the area they are able to carry out any minor highway related repairs. The team currently visit Verwood in the months of January and July. To allow them to best programme any requested works, a completed request form should be sent four weeks before the team are due to visit. This was noted.
- e) **Dorset County Council** wrote enclosing copies of their 'Managing Dorset's Rural Roads' leaflet, which are available at the Town Council offices. This was noted.
- f) **Institute of Local Council Management.** Members were asked to consider supporting the Town Clerk in an application for her to become a Member of the Institute of Local Council Management. Information was given on the criteria level needed to become a Member and the first year annual fee which is £65. After a short discussion it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Town Council support and pay for the Town Clerk to become a Member of the Institute of Local Council Management at the cost of £65.

g) A request has been received from the newly formed 50 plus Forum for consideration to be given to having a notice board in the Woodlinken area of Verwood, in order that residents can be kept up to date on events and meetings in the town. Discussion took place after which members were asked to inform the Clerk of any suitable places available for a notice board in that area.

h) **New Forest District Council** wrote that on 7<sup>th</sup> November they published a key document in the Local Development Framework for the area, the Core Strategy for New Forest District outside the National Park. All documents can be viewed on the District Council's web site at [www.newforest.go.uk](http://www.newforest.go.uk). All representations must be submitted to be received by no later than 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008. It was agreed that the document would be an agenda item at the Plans Consultative Committee meeting in December 2008.

#### 191/08 Monthly Budgets

The monthly budget report for October 2008 had been circulated to all members. They had been examined and no issues were raised. Members were reminded of the Informal Budget meeting which will take place in December 2008.

#### 192/08 Access & Disability Audit

The Clerk informed members that she had had an independent contractor examine the disabled gate on the Verwood Recreation Ground to ascertain its suitability for mobility scooters to negotiate. After a short discussion the Clerk was asked to investigate different sizes of mobility scooters to ensure all scooters are able to negotiate the disabled gate.

#### 193/08 Extension to the Town Council Offices. Four tenders have been received for the proposed extension which were

Burton Building Contractors	£67,430
Maidment & Carter Ltd.	£59,200
T. D. Rainford Builders	£47,476
Spetisbury Construction	£71,954

these prices were exclusive of VAT.

The above information had been copied to all Members. Information was given that there is £36,743 in the Premises Fund and as it was hoped that the extension would be built during March/April and that extra funds will be added to the estimates for the next financial year. Discussion took place after which it was proposed, seconded and

**RECOMMENDED** that the tender from Rainford Builders of £47,476 be accepted and that additional monies would be added to the Premises Fund in the estimates for 2009/2010.

#### 194/08 Reports on Health & Safety aspects from the Amenities Committee members and the Verwood Community Association.

The report from the Manager of the Verwood Leisure Centre had not yet been received. A member of the Amenities Committee had carried out the inspection of the Three Legged Cross Recreation Ground and would carry out the inspections of the Verwood Recreation Ground and Open Spaces tomorrow. An inspection of the Cemetery would be carried out this week. The Clerk will arrange for any necessary work to be carried out.

#### 195/08 Other reports and items for future agendas

a) It was reported that a letter was being sent from East Dorset District Council regarding a proposal to improve the footpath from Bay Close to Verwood Road, Three Legged Cross. A request was made that, on receipt of this letter, an agenda item be put on the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting to discuss this matter.

196/08 Confidential

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that in view of the nature of the business to be transacted it is likely that if a member of the public were present during the following item there would be a disclosure of 'Confidential Information' involving staff and they therefore be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

RECOMMENDED that the report attached in the minute book, regarding staff wages be accepted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

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Chairman