

VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
26th February 2008

PRESENT: Councillor **A.R.Nicholls** **(Mayor)**
 Councillors **P.Baker**
 Mrs.G.Belcher
 Mrs.L.Clark
 A.R.Dedden
 Mrs.L.Dedden
 B.Mortimer
 Mrs.L.A.K.Nicholls
 V.Redpath
 Ms.J.Russell
 M.Simper

Apologies were received from Cllrs: Mrs.T.B.Coombs, Mrs.A.Daymond, M.V.Daymond, M.W.Dolan, S.Gibson, Mrs.J.Hazel & P.W.Richardson.

Apologies were also received from Mr.W.Wells, Mayors Advisor & Councillor S.Flower.

In Attendance:- Mrs.V.Bright, Town Clerk & Mrs.R.Kingsnorth, Clerical Assistant.

Public: 0

296/07 Declaration of Interests.
None

297/07 Minutes of the Meeting held 22nd January, 2008 as circulated, were confirmed and signed.

298/07 Clerk's Report.

- a) **Minute 271/07 Town Plan.** The Clerk has now contacted Mr.M.Goodwin to ask if he will come to talk to Members on Monday 14th April at 7.00pm at the Town Council Offices and it was reported that the date and time were acceptable to Mr.Goodwin. This was noted
- b) **Audit Commission** wrote that they propose to appoint BDO Stoy Hayward LLP as auditor to Verwood Town Council. The appointment will be for a five year period, commencing with the 2007/2008 accounts. The Commission also proposes to appoint a panel of its own officers that can be the external auditor to Verwood Town Council in the event that BDO Stoy Hayward is not able to continue with the appointment, or to assist with, or act solely on, additional work where necessary. This was noted.
- c) **East Dorset District Council** wrote regarding dog fouling patrols by the Animal Welfare Officer on land owned or managed by the Town Council. The Council were waiting for details of funding pending the transfer of responsibilities for strays from the police. The Town Council is asked for an indication of our interest in the proposed service, which will cost in the region of £15 per bank hour. The letter was copied to all Members. Members were informed that a fund had been set up for this scheme. After much discussion, which included the amount put aside in the fund, the amount of hours, the areas which were not included as they were not owned by the Town Council and how it would be administered. Members discussed problem areas on sites which were owned by the District Council and the Verwood Community Association. The Clerk was asked to ascertain if a bank of hours could be booked but only used as and when required as at this time there were no sites which had a serious problem. The Clerk was also asked to email members to identify other sites, which had a dog fouling problem and were not owned by the Town Council.

d) **East Dorset District Council** wrote regarding East Dorset Spring Clean 2008. The letter was copied to all Members. Discussion took place on the litter problem at Potterne and other sites in the area, which were the responsibility of the District Council. The Clerk would email members to ascertain other sites where litter was becoming a problem on land for which the District Council were responsible for her to pass them on.

e) **Minute 288/07 Conduct of Local Authority Members in England, by Communities and Local Government.** The Clerk contacted Mr.K.Mallet, Head of Legal Services, East Dorset District Council, regarding a briefing on the above, and he is awaiting the formal release of the final Regulation and Guidance on the new regime, and he will then put out an invitation to the local councils to attend a briefing on the subject. This was noted.

f) **Forestry Commission proposal for an Events Area in Ashley Heath Forest.**

Information was given that the Forestry Commission would be holding a drop in session, at the Hub on Monday 10th March 2008 between 4pm-7pm, for residents to see the proposals and raise their concerns.

299/07 The Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held 5th February 2008 as circulated, were confirmed, adopted and signed.

300/07 The Report of the Plans Consultative Committee meetings held 13th February 2008 as circulated, were confirmed, adopted and signed.

301/07 Report from the Mayor.
The Mayor gave a report on the functions and events he had attended which included: a musical quiz; charity luncheon; Youth Parliamentary Elections at Emmanuel Middle School. The Deputy Mayor had attended a Military Concert by the Light Infantry.

302/07 Report of Representatives on Other Bodies.
a) Verwood & Three Cross Twinning Association. A report was given that members would be visiting Champtoceaux between 2nd and 6th May this year and that it was hoped that the finger post would be erected very soon on Ferrett Green.
b) East Dorset District Council Budget Briefing. A report was given by the Councillor who attended the briefing that the slides relating to this would be forwarded to all councillors.

303/07 Internet Councillor.
It was reported that the web page was up to date and included the new Verwood Vista.

304/07 Press & P.R.Councillor.
Information was given that the Verwood Vista was now being delivered and that the Verwood Viewpoint was now called the Verwood & Wimborne Viewpoint.

305/07 Verwood Community Association.
A written report was submitted and copied to all Members. Information was given on the last Executive meeting where matters discussed included: the possible re-development of the Morrison's site and the implications to the Leisure Centre; finances.

306/07 Verwood Hub Community Association.
A written report would be submitted and copied to all Members.

307/07 Reports of the County & District Councillors.
County Councillor Mrs.T.Coombs submitted a written report on: the three year settlement which the council has received; funding and the implication on the County Council; Dorset Direct.

District Councillor Mrs.L.Clark gave a report on: Regional Spatial Strategy; District Council Budgets 2008/2009; car parks in Verwood will continue to be free of charge; information on capital resources; information on the Community Awards and that many local residents had been honoured.

308/07

Accounts

It was proposed and seconded and
RESOLVED that the accounts totalling £10,113.65 for February were approved for payment.

309/07

Monthly Budget Reports.

The monthly budget reports for January were circulated to all Members. They had been examined and no issues were raised.

310/07

Items of report and matters for future agendas.

- a) It was reported that several members had received information from East Dorset District Council, who were updating their data base, which stated that they were representatives of the Town Council on the LAG. The Clerk was asked to contact East Dorset District Council to inform them that there was no Town Council representative on the LAG.
- b) An agenda item was requested for the next Full Town Council meeting to discuss restoring the 3.2 acres of land within the Cemetery boundary.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.08p.m.

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Mayor