

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE10th February 2009

PRESENT Councillors: Ms.J.Russell (Chairman)
 Mrs.G.Belcher
 Mrs.L.Clark
 M.V.Daymond
 M.W.Dolan
 V.Redpath

Apologies were received from Cllrs: Mrs.J.Hazel, B.Mortimer, A.R.Nicholls, Mrs.L.A.K.Nicholls, P.Richardson & M.Simper.

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

Also in attendance: Mrs.V.Bright, Town Clerk, Mrs J.Gaskell, Assistant to the Town Clerk & PC Andy Robertson.

Public: 0

285/08 Declarations of Interest.

None

286/08 Policing.

Sgt. Partridge had sent a written report which included information on: crime figures; anti social behaviour; speed checks. Information was also given on incidents of petrol theft and how to prevent it, how fraud offences were recorded and speed checks around the schools.

287/08 Clerk's Report.

- a) **East Dorset District Council** wrote inviting three representatives of the Town Council to a Parish and Town Plan Spatial Planning Event – 26th February 2009 at the Verwood Memorial Hall at 7pm-8.30pm. After much discussion, Councillors Ms.J.Russell and V.Redpath agreed to attend the event.
- b) **Project 65**. A letter has been received regarding 'Project 65' which was set up to raise money for the benefit of six major Service Charities that exist to help members and ex-members of Her Majesty's Forces in their time of need. Their target is £500,000 and each of the following charities will receive a share of the money they manage to raise:- The Royal British Legion, the Army Benevolent Fund, the RAF Benevolent Fund, BLESMA, St Dunstan's and Help for Heroes. The main event, a run of 65 miles, will take place in June. As the runners will make their way through parts of Dorset and Hampshire they wish to create as much public interest and support for them as possible along the route. Therefore a representative is invited to attend a meeting to discuss this at The Wardrobe, in the Cathedral Close, Salisbury, on Thursday 12th March 2009. The Clerk was asked to find out if the runners will be coming through Verwood or Three Legged Cross, if so then arrange for a representative to attend the meeting.
- c) **Age Concern Verwood** wrote thanking the Town Council for Grant Aid for 2009/2010 This was noted.
- d) **Verwood Memorial Hall Trust** wrote thanking the Town Council for Grant Aid for 2009/2010. This was noted.
- e) **Verwood & Three Legged Cross Twinning Association** wrote asking where the Town Council think that the yellow telephone box, which is sited at the side of the Town Council Offices, could be located in the town. Dorset County Council has stated that the roundabout at the top of Champtoceaux Avenue is not suitable. After much discussion the Clerk was asked to liaise with the Town Council's representative on the Twinning Association to discuss the problems of where to site the box.
- f) **Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils** Chief Executive's Circular 02/09 regarding:- Royal Garden Party 2009; Safety of Burial Ground Memorials; Pay Claim 2009/2010; Community Foundation Grants; Young Parish Councillors Network. This was circulated to all Members and was noted.
- g) **East Dorset Citizens Advice Bureaux** wrote thanking the Town Council for Grant Aid for 2009/2010. This was noted.
- h) The Clerk informed members that she would be attending a Human Resources workshop and with the Assistant to the Town Clerk would also be attending a seminar on cemeteries, both would be held in March.

288/08 Monthly Budgets

The monthly budget report for January was circulated to all members. It had been examined and no issues were raised.

289/08 Access & Disability Audit

No report.

290/08 Review of the Risk Management Statement of the Town Council.

A copy of the Risk Management Statement of the Town Council was circulated to all Members. It was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Risk Management Statement for the Verwood Town Council is accepted.

291/08 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 been received. The inspections of the Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces and the Cemetery would be carried out this week. The Clerk will arrange for any necessary work to be carried out.

292/08 Other reports and items for future agendas

a) Information was given on the Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee meeting at East Dorset District Council which discussed the Financial Strategy and Budgets for the next financial year. It was reported that the Council Tax Base had gone down and that capital projects were dependent on the sale of land at Bakers Farm. There was no information from the County Council, Police and Fire Brigade on their Council Tax charges for 2009/2010. Discussion took place on new capital schemes, one of which is the purchase of land for use as Nature Education Area at Moors Valley. The existing Nature Education Area is identified as land that will be used to provide a nine hole golf academy course and there are no alternative areas to provide nature education. The Clerk was asked to write to East Dorset District Council and ask for more details on the project especially its financial implications.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

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Chairman