

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE8th June 2010

PRESENT Councillors: P.Richardson (Deputy Mayor)
 Mrs.G.Belcher
 Mrs.L.Dedden
 M.W.Dolan
 Mrs.J.Hazel (7.40pm)
 B.Mortimer
 V.Redpath
 Ms.J.Russell
 M.Simper

Apologies were received from Cllr's: Mrs.L.Clark, Mrs.A.Daymond & M.V.Daymond
 Also in attendance: Mrs.V.Bright, Town Clerk, Mrs J.Gaskell, Assistant to the Town Clerk &
 PC.Andy Robertson.
 Public: 0

40/10 Election of Chairman.

Upon nominations being called for Councillor B.Mortimer was proposed and seconded and he was duly elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

41/10 Election of Vice Chairman.

Upon nominations being called for Councillor Mrs.L.Dedden was proposed and seconded and she was duly elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

42/10 Declarations of Interest.

None

43/10 Policing.

Sgt. Partridge had sent a written report which included information on: crime figures, anti-social behaviour, and speed checks. Information was given on beat officers for Three Legged Cross and an incident involving damage to trees in Pennine Way. Members asked questions regarding, increased litter in play areas, anti social behaviour, and who would be the new contact for Neighbourhood Watch. As a reply to the Clerk's letter regarding the opening hours of the Police Station had not been received, another letter would be sent Min. 342/09 refers.

44/10 Clerk's Report

- a) **Verwood Stroke Social Club** wrote thanking the Town Council for Grant Aid for 2010/2011. This was noted.
- b) **T.I.L.A.D** wrote thanking the Town Council for Grant Aid for 2010/2011. This was noted.
- c) **New Forest National Park** wrote enclosing a copy of the New Forest National Authority Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD, which was submitted to the Secretary of State on 27th May 2010. This was noted.
- d) **Minute 381/09 Lengthsman Working Party Report.** The Clerk will be contacting the three contractors to meet and discuss the Working Party's Report and also is in the process of purchasing fluorescent vests which will be worn by the contractors.
- e) **Minute 383/09 (a)** refers. The Clerk had obtained information that a Notary press with crest would cost £723.00 plus £22.50 carriage + vat. After discussion it was agreed that this matter would be withdrawn.
- f) **The Verwood and District Carers Group** wrote thanking the Town Council for Grant Aid for 2010/2011. This was noted.

g) **Robert Walter MP** has made a request to use the Town Council Offices for his surgeries. Two dates had been given Friday 16th July and Friday 29th October between 4pm to 6pm. After discussion it was felt that the Town Council Offices were not suitable to hold surgeries and asked the Clerk to suggest to Mr. Walter that the Hub would be a suitable venue.

h) **Sponsorship of Roundabouts.** The Clerk reported that she had been approached by a local company to sponsor the roundabout on Manor Road near Morrison's.

i) **Verwood Family Church** wrote requesting permission to use the Verwood Recreation Ground during the summer months to invite young people to join them to play games, conversation, invite them to events at the church and a barbeque. After discussion members felt that this type of activity should be carried out by the Youth Service and asked the Clerk to contact Mr.P.Cox Youth Leader for his views and the Youth Representative would bring the matter up at the next Youth Club Management meeting. The request would also have to go to the Trustees of the Recreation Ground.

j) **Bus Shelter Three Legged Cross.** The Clerk was asked for information about the progress of erecting a bus shelter in Verwood Road, Three Legged Cross. The Clerk reported that a price was being sought to remove the seat and clear the area and once that had been done the shelter would be ordered.

45/10 Monthly Budgets

The monthly budget reports for April and May were circulated to all Members and no issues were raised.

46/10 Access & Disability Audit

No report.

47/10 Freeman/Freewoman

A report, by Councillor Mrs.L.Dedden, had been circulated to all Members asking them to consider the instigation of the Award of Freeman/Freewoman Status. Much discussion took place regarding the merits of this initiative and some concerns were raised, however, it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that Full Council investigate the instigation of the Freeman/Freewoman Status.

48/10 Policy for Communicating with the Press and Media.

Members were asked to consider a draft policy for communicating with the Press and Media, which had been copied to all Members. This item had been brought up by the Standing Orders Working Party at one of their meetings as it is in the new model Standing Orders. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Draft Policy be accepted.

49/10 Service Level Agreements.

Members were asked to consider setting up a working party regarding Service Level Agreements min. 380/09 refers. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that Councillors B.Mortimer, Ms.J.Russell and M.Simper would be members of the working party.

50/10 Reports on Health & Safety aspects from the Amenities Committee members and the Verwood Community Association.

The report from the Verwood Community Association regarding Potterne Park had been received. The inspections of the Cemetery and Recreation Grounds had been carried out. The Clerk will arrange for any necessary work to be carried out.

51/10 Other Reports and Items for Future Agendas.

a) It was reported that many other parish and town councils were investigating the Lengthsman Scheme and that they may be interested in the Lengthsman Report by the Verwood Town Council. The Clerk explained that the report is now in the public domain.

b) A question was raised regarding collection of rubbish left on the Verwood Recreation Ground. The Clerk informed members that the Recreation Ground was cleared of litter on a regular basis.

c) Information was given that the Clerk was to have a meeting with the contractors regarding the Lengthsman Scheme.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35p.m.

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Chairman