

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE13th July 2010

PRESENT Councillors:

B.Mortimer (Chairman)
Mrs.G.Belcher
Mrs.L.Clark
Mrs.A.Daymond
M.V.Daymond
Mrs.L.Dedden
M.W.Dolan
Mrs.J.Hazel
P.Richardson
M.Simper

Apologies were received from Cllr's: V.Redpath & Ms.J.Russell

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

Public: 0

78/10 Declarations of Interest.

Councillor P.Richardson declared a personal and prejudicial interest under agenda item 3(d) as he is a member of the Licensing Committee at East Dorset District Council and therefore left the room whilst the matter was discussed and a recommendation made.

Councillor M.Simper declared a prejudicial interest under agenda item 3(d) as he is a member of the Licensing Committee at East Dorset District Council and therefore left the room whilst the matter was discussed and a recommendation made.

79/10 Policing.

Sgt. Partridge had sent a written report which included information on: crime figures; anti social behaviour; speed checks; information on staffing. Further information was given on the burglary figures, vandalism that had taken place and police training.

80/10 Clerk's Report

a) **Report of the Internal Auditor to Verwood Town Council – 2009/10 Final Internal Audit.** This was copied to all Members and was noted.

b) **Dorset County Council** wrote regarding the Dorset wide Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Joint Development Plan Document (DPD) request for potential sites. The Town Council is asked whether they know of any potential sites. This was noted.

c) **Dorset County Council** wrote again about the re-launching of its Parish Maintenance Unit Service on 1st July. This was noted.

d) **East Dorset District Council** wrote regarding the Licensing Act 2003 Consultation on Reviewed Draft Statement of Licensing Policy. Comments on the draft are required before 1st October 2010. A copy of the document was circulated to all Members and can be viewed at the Town Council offices. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council's only comment was a request that an addition be made to 6.9.4, that armed forces identity cards should be added to the list of approved proof of age cards as they show not only the date of birth but also a photo identity of the individual.

e) **Verwood and Three Legged Cross Twinning Association** wrote that they are finding it difficult to maintain their sponsored roundabout on Champtoceaux Avenue/Edmondsham Road and would like to relinquish their sponsorship as they understand that the Town Council are planting out other roundabouts in Verwood. The Clerk informed members that the cost of the Town Council maintaining the Champtoceaux Avenue/Edmondsham Road roundabout would be £285.70 plus vat. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Town Council take on the maintenance of the roundabout on Champtoceaux Avenue/Edmondsham Road.

- f) **Mr.C.Rowley** wrote asking for permission to use the Verwood Recreation Ground to hold a class on a week day evening for adults to increase their fitness and health. After much discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr.Rowley arranging a meeting with the Chairman of the Verwood Memorial Recreation Ground Trustees to discuss the matter.
- g) **Chairman of the Hub Trustees**, wrote in response to the Town Council's request for information on how the grant aid monies were spent. Minutes 20/10 & 73/10(e) refers. This was noted.
- h) **East Dorset District Council** wrote enclosing their new Corporate Plan for 2010-2016. This was noted.
- i) **Club 31**, have asked if some hedging at the rear of the Verwood Recreation Ground could be cut so that the signage for the Club can be seen from the road. After discussion it was agreed that permission would not be given.
- j) **Verwood Community Association** have sent their Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2010. This was noted.
- k) **Minute 44/10 (i) The Family Church**, had requested permission to hold barbeques on the Verwood Recreation Ground. The Clerk had been in touch with Mr.Phil Cox, Youth Leader in Verwood and he suggested some advice. Much discussion took place and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Family Church informing them of the advice which Mr.Cox had given.
- l) **CIPFA** have emailed to gauge the interest in a proposal to collect information on council budgets and other relevant data, initially in respect of, but not limited to, the 697 councils that have achieved 'quality status'. CIPFA Statistics are the leading independent source of comprehensive data about local government services and currently undertake more than 30 annual surveys of local authority operations. After discussion it was agreed that the email be referred to DAPTC and that it be discussed at the next DAPTC Town and Larger Parishes meeting.
- m) **Verwood Royal British Legion** wrote to the Mayor thanking the Town Council for giving permission to place the Memorial Book, together with its glass topped case in the front office of the Town Council Help Centre. This was noted.
- n) **DAPTC** Chief Executive's Circular 06/10 was copied to all Members. Information included: The Coalition: Communities and Local Government Reform Plan; CRB checks and the Independent Safeguarding Authority; Local Government Pay 2010/2011 and 2011/2012; Account tailored for Parish Councils; Writing Press Releases; Memorial and other structure cleaning; Internal Auditor available; Job vacancies. This was noted.

81/10 Monthly Budgets

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

82/10 Access & Disability Audit

Nothing to report.

83/10 Freeman/Freewoman

Minute 47/10 & 63/10 refers. A report, by Councillor Mrs.L.Dedden, had been circulated to all Members and it was agreed at the last Full Town Council meeting that the F & G P Committee should consider a format for the status. After much discussion which included concern regarding the selection process, nominations by residents and that the award should only be granted to exceptional candidates. The Clerk was instructed to contact Ringwood and Wimborne Town Councils, who have awarded the Freeman status, to ask what their criteria is for bestowing this award. It was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that this matter be delayed and if a proposal is made for a candidate to be put forward as a Freeman/Freewoman, the policy would then be addressed.

84/10 MUGA.

Minute 59/10(e) refers. A letter had been received from the Verwood Recreation Ground Trust regarding the proposed MUGA on the Verwood Recreation Ground to the Full Town Council, it was agreed that this should be discussed at this F & G P Committee meeting. The following questions were asked:-

a) As the Town Council is being placed as the 'lead authority' and will hold MUGA funds, who will draw up and sign the contracts for the MUGA?

A. *The Town Council.*

b) Does the contractor require any funding in advance of full completion of work?

A. *It is expected that there will be stage payments.*

c) Who will pay the invoices?

A. *The Town Council*

d) Who will ensure that the work has been completed according to contract?

A. *It is hoped that there will be professional support from the District Council.*

e) Who will be responsible if the contractor claims extra work has to be done?

A. *A contingency fund will be built in the contract with the contractor.*

f) Are there any costs to the Town Council in the whole project apart from maintenance?

A. *No other than the grant aid provision.*

It was then proposed, seconded and

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council with the Verwood Memorial Recreation Ground Trustees and the AGFA group progress this project forward for the installation of a MUGA on the Verwood Recreation Ground.

85/10 Speed Indicator Device.

Minute 59/10(i) refers. Information had been received by email that there is funding for half of a SID from East Dorset District Council. Discussion took place regarding, the purchasing of a SID for the Civil Parish, who would be trained to move the SID, involvement of the Neighbourhood Watch and whether to share the SID with another Parish. It was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that subject to funding, a SID be purchased.

86/10 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, which showed that some vandalism had taken place at the play area and some pieces of equipment had been removed. The inspections of the Cemetery and Recreation Grounds had been carried out and the Clerk will arrange for any necessary work to be done.

87/10 Other Reports and Items for Future Agendas.

a) An appeal was made for people to put their names forward as Trustees of the Dorset Community Action.

b) It was noted that the litter problem on the Verwood Recreation Ground had improved.

c) An update was requested on the proposed notice board which would show a map of the town. The Clerk reported that the Chamber of Trade had not responded to a letter asking if they would like to take on the project. The Clerk would investigate other sources.

d) A request had been made to promote the Hub in the Verwood Vista. After discussion it was agreed that as the Charity Status had now changed and there were new directors, the Hub would be given the opportunity to provide an article for the next Verwood Vista.

e) Councillor Michael Dolan thanked the Mayor for allowing him to conduct a mock Town Council meeting in the Council Chamber with pupils from Cranborne Middle School which was a great success.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.59 p.m.

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Chairman