

VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

26th May 2020

This meeting was a video conference call.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs.P.Morrow (Mayor)
Mrs.S.Bhose
A.Biggs
Mrs.L.Clark
Mrs.T.B.Coombs
Mrs.L.Dedden
S.Flower
S.Gibson
Mrs.S.Grove
P.J.Mann
M.Parker
Mrs.S.Rose
Ms.J.Russell
Miss B.Salmon
Miss.K.Stephens
M.Thorpe

Apologies from Cllrs: M.Hudson

In attendance:- Mrs.V.J.Bright, Town Clerk & Mrs J.Sebire, Assistant Town Clerk

Public: 1

322/19 Declaration of Interests.

None.

323/19 Minutes of the Meeting held 21st April 2020 as circulated, were confirmed and signed.

324/19 Policing.

A monthly report was sent to all members. A question was asked regarding the Skatepark at Potterne Park and that there was no mention of this on the report.

325/19 Clerk's Report

- a) **Residents' enquiries and complaints** were copied to all members and were noted. It was advised that the gym equipment at Potterne Park has been removed due to deterioration and would be replaced in due course.
- b) Information was given that DAPTC were keeping in contact with town and parish councils and were keeping a health check on them.

326/19 The Reports of the Plans Consultative Committee meetings held 21st April & 20th May 2020 as circulated, were confirmed, adopted and signed.

327/19 Annual Town Meeting.

Discussion took place regarding holding the Annual Meeting and it was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED that the Annual Meeting of the Town Council would be held in September.

328/19 Report from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

No Report

329/19 Report of Representatives on Other Bodies.

a) Verwood Coronavirus community support group report was emailed to members and included information that the group continues to be providing a valuable source of support within the community. The group is currently running very well, organised and everyone knows their role and how it all fits together.

Although the initial panic has settled as they move into week 11, they are still finding new residents approaching the group for help. Those referrals appear to be coming from other members of the community, doctors and medical staff. They are still using approximately 50 to 60 dedicated volunteers that are now juggling some back to work but still wishing to fit in volunteering. Thankfully the medical group phone is not taking many calls, which is a positive reflection of the health and support in the community they have now wound this down to just one phone. The shopping groups are working well and we have three groups which are being combined into just two this week to enable the group leaders that answer the phone to manage all the volunteers 3 or 4 days at a time each to fit in with back to work schedules.

Morrisons and the public continue to donate food weekly, we are supporting anyone that needs food in the community and the wider area. They have not turned away any requests for help. As the scout hut will possibly be looking to restart their meetings soon, they are currently looking to source and fund a small unit to enable the group to stay as a permanent support group in the community. It was suggested that future reports could be forwarded a few days prior to the Full Town Council Meeting.

330/19 Internet Councillor

It was reported that Facebook had been a good platform for providing advice to the community and that engagement had been good. It was also advised that by September 2020 it will be mandatory for Verwood Town Council website to have an Accessibility Statement but prior to that the website needs updating. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Town Clerk would be permitted to organise, in conjunction with the Internet Councillor to pick the appropriate company.

331/19 Press & P R Councillor

Information was given that there was nothing to report for the last month but at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic there had been a number of press releases and the Mayor had been on the local radio.

332/19 Reports of the Dorset Council Councillors.

County Council Report, Spencer Flower gave a verbal report on: that regular email updates were being issued by Dorset Council; virtual committees and advisory panels have been set up in relation to the new Local Plan, economic growth and recovery from COVID-19: car parks and public toilets will remain closed in order to discourage people from travelling to scenic areas of Dorset: the national media was blamed for the large crowds at Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door and Lyme Regis where there was anti-social behaviour but throughout the remainder of Dorset the 'Think Twice' campaign has been adhered to by residents; it was acknowledged that movement from lockdown could be difficult to manage.

333/19 Accounts.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the accounts £7,824.31 for May 2020 were approved for payment.

334/19 Monthly Budgets.

The monthly budget reports for March 2020 were circulated and no issues were raised.

335/19 Items of report and matters for future agendas.

- a) A question was asked regarding the spending priority for the CIL funds and it was advised that these funds are set aside for specific major projects in Verwood.
- b) Litter Picking will commence on the last Saturday in June and will be advertised via Verwoodians.
- c) The Rotary Club have requested an update on the location for a donated bench. Suggestions put forward included Potterne Park or one of the town bus stops.
- d) Statistics for mortality figures from COVID-19 in Verwood were sought and it was advised that the number was 4 people.
- e) It was advised that 32 of the residents of Roseberry Close had an issue with their drinking water supply. The Environment Agency and Bournemouth water tested samples and found no bacteria or risk to health but flushed the system to remove the taste and odour issue.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.13 p.m.

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Mayor