

VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

27th October 2020

PRESENT: Councillor M.Parker (Mayor)
Councillors Mrs.S.Bhose
A.Biggs
Mrs.L.Clark
Mrs.L.Dedden
S.Flower
S.Gibson
Mrs.S.Grove
M.Hudson
Ms.J.Russell
Miss B Salmon
Miss K Stephens
M.Thorpe

Apologies from Cllrs: Mrs.T.B.Coombs, P J Mann, Mrs.P.Morrow & Mrs S Rose

In Attendance:- Mrs.V.Bright Town Clerk & Mrs M Saunders Admin Assistant

Public: 0

41/20 Declaration of Interests.

Councillors S.Flower and S.Gibson declared an interest in recommendation 35/20 as they are Dorset Councillors and took no part in the discussion or resolution.

42/20 Minutes of the meeting held 23rd September 2020 as circulated, were confirmed and signed.

43/20 Policing.

No Report but a meeting is being arranged with the Police, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and members were asked if they had any questions to let the Town Clerk know.

44/20 Clerk's Report.

- a) **Residents' Enquiries and Complaints** were copied to all members and were noted.
- b) **Trinity CE VA First School** sent an email with information on a community consultation relating to Trinity School moving across to the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust. Information was sent to all members. This was noted.
- c) **Blue Haze Development**, Veolia sent an email that Hampshire County Council has stated they no longer put EIA Scoping requests on their website, which is a recent change by the Council. A planning application should shortly be online. This was noted.
- d) **DAPTC** sent an email regarding 'Standards Matter 2: Public consultation and public sector surveys'. The Consultation runs from 22nd September to 18th December 2020. This would be an agenda item at the next Finance & General Purposes meeting.

45/20 To revoke part of Standing Order 13 (vii) Committees

At the Plans Consultative Committee meeting it was decided by committee members that the previous Chairman would be re-elected for the ensuing year. The Chairman of the said Committee has been Chairman for two years. Members were asked to revoke part of Standing Order 13(vii) for one year which is 'The term of office shall not exceed two consecutive years, subject to the provisions of Standing Order 33'.
RESOLVED that part of Standing Order 13. 'The term of office shall not exceed two consecutive years, subject to the provisions of Standing Order 33' will be revoked for one year.

46/20 The Reports of the Plans Consultative Committee meetings held 23rd September, 6th October Special Meeting and 14th October 2020 as circulated, were confirmed, adopted and signed.

47/20 The Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held 13th October 2020 as circulated, was adopted and signed.

48/20 White Paper on 'Planning for the future'.

A response was copied to all Members and after discussion it was RESOLVED that the response be sent to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

49/20 Motions put forward to the DAPTC AGM and approve a representative to attend.

Information was circulated to all members and the five motions were considered and RESOLVED as follows:

Motion 1 Submitted by: Beaminster & Bridport Town Councils

Beaminster and Bridport Town Councils would like DAPTC to request NALC to lobby Government to act with due urgency to update both the NPPF and Supplementary Planning Guidance, to assist all councils to deliver their respective Climate and Environmental Change strategies. We believe that Planning will be a key driver to enable local authorities to deliver their climate mitigation obligations, and once appropriately updated, NPPF and supplementary guidance, will be a powerful tool to reduce our carbon footprint and also facilitate local communities to be effective through their Neighbourhood Plans. Legislation is required:- 1. To ensure that energy efficiency and sustainable building materials are included as standard requirements within both private and business development. They should not necessarily be vetoed automatically in Listed Building and Conservation Areas as so often happens currently. 2. To ensure that the default policy of Planning Authorities should be for renewable energy generation from wind, water and solar to be accepted as a positive contribution of the community's desire to de-carbonise their built environment. 3. To ensure that Listed Buildings, whether in Conservation Areas and AONBs or not, should be equally entitled to benefit from the addition of energy conservation and generation assets

RESOLVED that the Verwood Town Council support the motion.

Motion 2 Submitted by: Bridport Town Council

Bridport Town Council notes that: a. Government departments, businesses, individuals, charitable organisations and principal local authorities have all seen specific funding support. b. Town and Parish Councils are arguably the only sector of society not to have received some form of direct government support. c. Those councils in tourist areas like Dorset are suffering not only more costs in adapting to the regulations to protect our society and organising community support networks, but also from loss of revenue from the restriction of visitors. Bridport Town Council requests that Her Majesty's Government recognises that: a. Town and Parish Councils are expected to rely on business income to supplement their precept revenue and, in the light of disappearing subsidies from higher authorities, are suffering financially during the present crisis. b. In many areas of our delivery of services and community support, we are no different from small businesses which currently are eligible for grants, loans and rate & tax reliefs to mitigate those financial shortfalls. Bridport Town Council therefore calls on Her Majesty's Government to: a. Ensure that affected Town and Parish Councils are given financial support during and beyond the present crisis.

RESOLVED that the Verwood Town Council support the motion.

Motion 3 Submitted by: Corfe Castle Parish Council [Full Submission Document]

Corfe Council Parish Council propose that DAPTC urge NALC to lobby the Government to make Town and Parish Councils (T&PCs) statutory consultees for all planning applications within their council areas thereby ensuring T&PCs' comments are given greater weight. They appreciate that Langton Matravers Parish Council have previously submitted this proposal and wish to add weight to their motion by resubmitting it.

RESOLVED that the Verwood Town Council do not support the motion.

Motion 4 Submitted by: Loders Parish Council

That the DAPTC takes the necessary measures to make sure it is accurately representing Parish Councils' views, concerns and issues in relation to the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. And makes these measures clear to its membership

RESOLVED that the Verwood Town Council do not support the motion.

Motion 5 Submitted by: Studland Parish Council

The parish and town councils throughout Dorset strongly object to the loss of local democracy outlined in the proposals contained in the White paper on Planning. Parish and Town Councils wish to retain the ability to participate in planning matters so as to reflect the views of the residents that they represent. The Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC), as the representative body for local councils, demand that there should be no loss of democratic contributions to the planning process. In support of this demand; a) The DAPTC urge Dorset Council to support the position of the Local Government Association on the proposed loss of democracy. b) The DAPTC urge NALC to work with others to lobby government to withdraw those proposals that remove local democratic contributions to the planning process. c) The DAPTC lobby all eight Dorset MPs over the proposed loss of democracy.

RESOLVED that the Verwood Town Council do not support the motion.

It was also

RESOLVED that Councillors Mrs.L.Dedden and Ms.J.Russell would attend the meeting as representatives of the Town Council.

50/20 Report from the Mayor

The Mayor gave a verbal report on a zoom talk by Dr Hayden Mort on Climate Change he and Cllr Miss B Salmon had attended as part of Gillingham's Civic Day. Also, that he would be attending, via zoom, the Dorset Youth Association Annual General Meeting and the Verwood & Three Legged Cross Twinning Association Committee Meeting.

51/20 Report of Representatives on Other Bodies.

a) **Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils Eastern Area**, a written report was circulated to all members which included information from the last meeting held where matters discussed included: that the Chairman had stood down and that at the next meeting the Chairman and Vice Chairman would be elected; that the new Dorset Council Portfolio holder hopes to attend the meetings; that DAPTC staff are working from home; that training was now being carried out on line; the AGM would be held on 14th November on line; that the constitution was being amended; DAPTC has asked Dorset Council for town and parishes to have more time to prepare their budgets and set their precepts; other councils gave updates on what they are doing.

52/20 Internet Councillor

A verbal report was given that the new Web Page was up and running and there had been a few glitches. Further training is taking place to update documents onto the web site.

53/20 Press & P.R.Councillor

A verbal report was given on press releases which had been sent out including the official photo of our New Mayor, plans for Remembrance Day on 8th November and the Mayor buying the first Poppy from Mr Bob Richmond.

54/20 Reports from the Dorset Councillors.

The regular newsletters received from Dorset Council provide information and updates. The Dorset Councillors would report any issues and they would be happy to respond to any queries Councillors may have on Dorset matters.

55/20 Accounts.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the accounts for October 2020 £46,070.86 were approved for payment.

56/20 Items of report and matters for future agendas.

- a) A request was made for two new flags at the Memorial Stone. The Clerk would action.
- b) A request for an agenda item at the next F & G P committee meeting regarding the living wage.
- c) Apologies had been given by Councillors Mrs.T.Coombs and Mrs.S.Rose as they were delivering food parcels in the community.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.37p.m.

.....

Mayor