

VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
15th December 2020

PRESENT: Councillor P J Mann (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Biggs
Mrs T B Coombs
Mrs L Dedden
S Flower
Mrs S Grove
M Hudson
Mrs S Rose
Ms J Russell
Miss B Salmon
M Thorpe

Apologies from Cllrs: Mrs S Bhoose, Mrs L Clark, S Gibson, Mrs P Morrow, M Parker & Miss K Stephens

In Attendance: Mrs V Bright Town Clerk & Mrs J Sebire, Assistant Town Clerk
Public: 0

92/20 Declaration of Interests.
None

93/20 Minutes of the meeting held 25th November 2020 as circulated, were confirmed and signed.

94/20 Policing.
A report had been circulated to all members which included crime figures. Information was given on the public safety figures and a question was asked about the violence or threat figures for this month, the Clerk would investigate. Information was also given on damage by catapults.

95/20 Clerk's Report.
a) **Residents' Enquiries and Complaints** were copied to all members and were noted.
b) **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils** sent an email regarding the second phase of DAPTC Constitution Review. They also sent a link to their Area Committee Survey which is open until 5pm Friday 21st January 2021. The email was copied to all Members. It was suggested that members fill in the survey.
c) **Wimborne Academy Trust** are running a consultation on the School Admission Arrangements at Hillside First School for September 2022. The consultation notice, Hillside Admissions Policy, the letter to the parents and letter from the Headteacher were copied to all members. Figures were given for school places from 2015 to 2020 showing the reduction and projected forecast figures were given up to 2024. After discussion it was
RESOLVED that a letter should be sent from the Town Council stating that the potential reduction of places offered at Hillside was of a concern due to:

- i) The lack of Secular choice within the town
- ii) Impact on SEN children in the catchment area
- iii) Damage to the positive community involvement by the children of Hillside
- iv) Distance to get to a school from the eastern side of Verwood
- v) The effect on the Pre-School and Early Years Group who are located in the school grounds

d) **The Black Belt Academy** wrote to the Mayor regarding information he had received about the new pricing structure at the Verwood Hub. The letter was copied to all Members. Discussion took place and it was agreed that information be sought from Dorset Council with regards to the increases and would be reported at the next meeting. The Clerk would respond that it was being investigated.

96/20 The Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held 1st December 2020 as circulated, was adopted, and signed.

97/20 Report from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor
No report

98/20 Report of Representatives on Other Bodies
a) **DAPTC Larger Parishes and Towns Committee.** A copy of the report was sent to all member on 26th November 2020.
b) **Citizen's Advice Bureau.** Information was given that Purbeck and East Dorset are due to merge and relevant information would be left at the Town Council office.

99/20 Internet Councillor
No Report

100/20 Press & P.R.Councillor
No Report

101/20 Reports from the Dorset Councillors.
Councillor S Flower informed members that a new Cycleway from Verwood to Ringwood has been planned. It will go from Potterne Park to Moors Valley Country Park into the forest and linking up with the Castleman Trail at the Ringwood end. Major works will take place to upgrade the surface to make it suitable for cyclists and others to use safely and conveniently. The proposal has been included in the successful bid for the Transforming City's Fund and is planned to be started in the Spring of 2021, so should be open by the summer of 2021.
Cllr Mrs T Coombs advised that the Coats for Kids initiative by Dorset Council had been successful with donated supplies being distributed locally via various support groups.

102/20 Accounts.
It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the accounts £14,698.14 for December 2020 were approved for payment.

103/20 Monthly Budgets.

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

104/20 Items of report and matters for future agendas.

- a) Cllr Mrs B Salmon reported that she had attended the Climate Change webinar. She would put together a paper on the webinar and it was agreed that the F&GP committee could respond on behalf of the Town Council as the closing date is the day after January Full Council meeting.
- b) Cllr Mrs T Coombs advised that the Youth Centre lease signing was progressing and that an advertisement had been placed for a Youth Worker.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.59 p.m.

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Mayor