

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

9th February 2021

This meeting was a video conference call.

PRESENT Councillors: M Thorpe (Chairman)
Mrs T Coombs
Mrs L Dedden
S Flower
S Gibson
Mrs S Grove
P Mann
Mrs P Morrow
M Parker
Ms J Russell
Miss B Salmon
Miss K Stephens

Also in attendance: Mrs.V.J.Bright, Town Clerk & Mrs.J.Se bire, Assistant Town Clerk.
Public: 2

140/20 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations.

None.

141/20 Clerk's Report.

- a) Dorset Council sent an email regarding land adjacent to Casa Velha, Ringwood Road, Verwood. The new development will require a new road name and the Town Council are asked for their suggestions. Discussion took place and four names were suggested, Woodcutter Way, Woodcutter Close, Travellers Rest or Balls Pond. It was agreed that all four names be suggested to the developer for their consideration.
- b) A request to use the MUGA on Verwood Memorial Ground Recreation had been received from Dorset Disability Cricket Club. It was felt that the Trustees should be informed of the request. Discussion took place and it was agreed that the MUGA was the same as the Recreation Ground in that anyone can use the facilities but they must realise that other users are entitled to use the facility as well

142/20 Monthly Budgets.

The monthly budget reports for December 2020 and January 2021 were circulated to all members and no issues were raised.

143/20 Risk Management Statement.

A copy of the statement was copied to all members. Discussion took place regarding GDPR, Freedom of Information and councillors email addresses. The Clerk was asked to contact NALC for best practice regarding councillor's email addresses. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Risk Management Statement be accepted.

144/20 To consider Grant Funding for the 97 Bus from Alderholt

Alderholt Parish Council had sent an email, which was copied to all members, regarding asking for funding towards the 97 Bus Route. Discussion took place that the Town Council had previously contributed to this bus service. It was felt that the businesses in Verwood would benefit rather than the residents and it was suggested that Morrison's could be approached to see if they were willing to donate towards the service. It was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Town Council would contribute £500 towards the 97 bus service.

145/20 To discuss the provision of dog bins in the civil parish

The Town Council has received many complaints from residents regarding the emptying of dog bins in the parish. The bin on the corner of Station Road and Dewlands Road, Verwood, gets full very quickly and the Town Council had requested that the bins be emptied more frequently. Councillor Mrs. T.Coombs also contacted Dorset Council and received the following information: that Dorset Council were no longer replacing dog or litter bins like for like but replacing them with 140ltr wheeled bins which would be placed at an agreed collection point. Dorset Council are trying to move towards wheeled litter bins where possible as this reduces the manual handling issues related to removal of bin bags from bin liners. Town and Parish Councils would be responsible for any cost relating to securing posts or housings. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Town Council ask Dorset Council to replace the dog bin on the corner of Station Road and Dewlands Road with a new bin and the Town Council will pay for the earth anchor and restrictor. The Town Council will consider replacing other bins in the Civil Parish at a later date.

146/20 To consider further funding of the Verwood Community Support Group

A written report was circulated to all members giving an update on the Verwood Community Support Group. Information was given on the shopping and prescription collection, the foodbank and a request for permission to site a container on the existing concrete footprint outside of the Youth and Community Centre for a period of six months. The Constitution of the Support Group was sent to the Town Clerk. Further information was given that a container was being offered free of charge. Discussion took place on the excellent work that the Community Support Group were giving to the residents and suggested funding from the Town Council. It was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that a sum of £1,500 be set aside for the group to draw down with receipt of the relevant receipts and that permission is given for a container to be placed on the existing concrete footprint outside of the Youth & Community Centre for six months.

147/20 Reports on Health & Safety aspects from the Amenities Committee members.

The inspection of the Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces and the Cemetery had taken place and issues were being dealt with by the Town Clerk.

148/20 Other reports and items for future agendas.

a) **Verwood Youth & Community Centre.** A report was circulated to all members giving an update on preparations for the deep clean, repair work by Dorset Council, a quotation is being sought for decoration to be carried out, PAT testing, utilities, an audit of musical equipment, waiting for planning permission, obtaining tables and chairs and that two interviews would be taking place on Friday. Questions were asked regarding usage and a list of users was given.

b) **Travellers and Enforcement in Three Legged Cross.** Information had been circulated to all Members on a plot of land in Three Legged Cross which has been cleared, surfaced and fenced. Enforcement action is ongoing and has progressed to a temporary Stop Notice. Concern was raised regarding the lack of power and action by Dorset Council as the plot would not have got planning permission for a family home due to the environmental constraints and Green Belt. It was also noted that the Traveller Liaison Officer does not get involved therefore there is no council involvement in litter management etc. It was explained that Dorset Council had to follow a planning process.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.58 p.m.

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Chairman