

VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

27th July 2021

PRESENT: Councillor M Parker (Mayor)
Councillors A Biggs
Mrs L Clark
Mrs T B Coombs
Mrs L Dedden
S Flower
S Gibson
M Hudson
Mrs P Morrow
Mrs S Rose
Ms J Russell
Miss B Salmon
M Thorpe

Apologies from Cllrs: Mrs S Grove, P J Mann & Miss K Stephens

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

Also in attendance: PCSO Albert Pepper.

Public:2

28/21 Declaration of Interests.

None

29/21 Co-option for vacancy in Stephens Castle Ward.

Following a resignation in the Stephens Castle Ward the vacancy had been advertised. Members had agreed that interviews would take place prior to this Full Council meeting and two candidates were asked to attend.

RESOLVED that the voting would be taken by a secret ballot. After the count of voting slips it was

RESOLVED that Mr A Maw be co-opted onto the Town Council and he duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

30/21 Minutes of the meetings held 5th May & 23rd June 2021 as circulated, were confirmed and signed.

31/21 Policing.

A report was circulated to all members for June & July where crime figures were given. It was suggested that members sign up to Dorset Alert online for the crime statistics. A report would still be given at the council meeting. Questions were asked regarding travellers at Three Legged Cross which is under enforcement, theft of catalytic converters which had been mentioned in the press and telephone fraud which should be reported to Action Fraud

32/21 Clerk's Report.

a) **Residents' Enquiries and Complaints** were copied to all members and were noted. Information was given regarding the grass cutting in the Civil Parish.

- b) **Forest FM** wrote thanking the Town Council for Grant Aid for 2021/2022. This was noted.
- c) **Forestry England** responded to an enquiry regarding a barrier installation at the end of a new pathway parallel to B3081. Information was given that they had completed the work to the path and that an application was placed to Hampshire County Council highways for signage to highlight the crossing from the road in February this year. There are no current plans for barriers at the road edge as this is a multi-user trail and that barriers may impede certain users. They will monitor and will install barriers if deemed necessary. They also asked for any feedback to be sent to them.
- d) **Community Governance Review of Dorset Parishes** There will be a public consultation for 12 weeks seeking proposals/initial submissions. (5 August to 28 October 2021) What does a Review cover? Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes (grouping or de-grouping parishes). Increasing or decreasing the number of Councillors. Creating ward boundaries or changing existing Warding arrangements. Changes to Parish names. Correcting minor boundary anomalies. Changing a parish council into a parish meeting. The Clerk sent information on the review to all members. This will be an agenda item at the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting in September.
- e) **Dorset Council** sent an email regarding proposals for double yellow lines in Lake Road, Verwood. The information was copied to all Members and was noted.
- f) **Dorset Council** sent an email confirming that on 15th July the Wimborne St. Giles Neighbourhood Area was formally designated. This had been proposed by Knowlton Parish Council and includes small areas of two other neighbouring parishes (Cranborne & Edmondsham Parish Council and Vale of Allen Parish Council). This was noted.

33/20 The Report of the Plans Consultative Committee meeting held 14th July 2021 as circulated, was adopted and signed.

34/21 Times of Town Council meetings.

A request has been made for Councillors to consider meeting at 7.00pm rather than 7.30pm. This item was deferred

35/21 Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils Annual Subscription.

Information was sent to all Members. The subscription for 2020/2021 was £1,434.74 for 2021/2022 The subscription will be £1,477.78. Discussion took place and it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that the Town Council renew their subscription to the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils.

Cllr Mrs L Dedden, being a representative on the DAPTC for both Eastern Area and Larger Councils, took no part in the discussion or voting.

36/21 Report from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Mayor gave a verbal report on his visit to Ferndown Upper School for their 'Art Summer Show 2021' and also his first Mayors Charity Event which was an open air cinema, held on the Verwood Recreation Ground which raised over £600.

37/21 Report of Representatives on Other Bodies.

- a) **DAPTC Eastern Area** meeting held on Tuesday 13th July 2021. Matters discussed included an update on the preparation of the Dorset Local Plan; Dorset National Park.
- b) **DAPTC Larger Parishes and Town Councils** meeting held on 21st May. Matters discussed included a tribute to the late Vice President of DAPTC Councillor Jan Page; update on Dorset Council matters; information on a list of licensing applications protocol on town and parishes contacting Dorset Council; information on holding physical meetings again; reports from member councils; the next meeting will be held on 3rd September 2021
- c) **Citizens Advice** report from 30th March 2021. Matters discussed included information about the merger; finances, volunteers; grant funding; meeting venues; new website; reopening of the outreach locations.
- d) **Verwood Community Support Group/Food Bank** a verbal report was given, and it would be sent to all members after the meeting. Information was given on: Second Chance which is a registered Charity; that the Verwood Community Support Group had begun to wind down but shopping and prescription collections were still taking place and thanks to those councillors who supported the group; Verwood Community Foodbank where shopping was taking place for those who were shielding and information on food parcels delivered to those in need.
- e) **Bus Back Better Initial Stakeholder Engagement.** A report was given on this and it was suggested that this was an opportunity for councils to say what could be done with their local transport. It was suggested that members fill in the questionnaire individually as the closing date was 15th August. Information was given that Councillor S Gibson was meeting the Portfolio Holder of Transport to discuss the issue. If any member had comments to let him know by this Friday 30th July 2021.

38/21 Verwood Youth Centre

The minutes of the meeting of the Verwood Youth & Community Centre Management Committee and a report from the Youth Worker were copied to all members and three recommendations were put forward. Discussion took place and it was agreed that the recommendation regarding the storage container should go back to the committee regarding the period of notice, but it was agreed that they could remain for a further three months to allow the committee to meet and report back to the Council in September. It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that

- (a) Verwood Town Council would employ a part time youth worker on a 12-20 hour flexi contract.
- (b) That the Youth Workers probation review be brought forward and a subsequent pay rise considered following the review process.

39/21 Internet Councillor

No Report

40/21 Press & P.R.Councillor

Information had been sent to the press regarding the Mayors charity event on the Verwood Memorial Recreation Ground.

41/21 Reports from the Dorset Councillors.

The regular newsletters received from Dorset Council provide information and updates and are greatly appreciated. It was reported that information was being sought regarding the Purple Haze planning application from Hampshire County Council.

42/21 Accounts.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the accounts £29,569.28 for July 2021 were approved for payment.

43/21 Monthly Budgets

The monthly budget reports for April, May & June were circulated to all members and no issues were raised.

44/21 Items of report and matters for future agendas.

- a) A request was made for an agenda item regarding Stephens Castle Coopers Lane access in case of a fire.
- b) A request was made that papers for meetings, from the office and members, should be received the day before a meeting.
- c) A request was made for an agenda item at the next F & G P Agenda to discuss the CIL money.
- d) A report was given regarding an incident where an ambulance was called three times but the ambulance did not arrive until 3am in the morning. It was suggested that the Town Council get a briefing from the Integrated Care System. A request would be made for them to attend a meeting.
- e) Information was given regarding the resurfacing of Church Road, Three Legged Cross but unfortunately there was now a water leak on the road. Information was also given on works being carried out on the Ringwood/Horton Road.
- f) Information was given that the next litter pick will be this Saturday at 10.00am at Potterne Park by the skate park.
- g) The Mayor read out a letter from the Town Clerk giving her resignation. Having worked at the Town Council for nearly 30 years she would be retiring on 28th February 2022.

45/21 As the Council will be in recess for the month of August, it was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor be given power to act.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.04 p.m.

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Mayor