

DAPTC Eastern Area Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in the Barrington Centre  
Ferndown

The Mayor of Ferndown, Cllr Kathy Lugg was in attendance and made a statement about issues Ferndown Town Council has with DAPTC. She explained that Ferndown Town Council left DAPTC, re-joined and has now voted to leave again but this was due to a political block vote of members some of whom do not often bother to turn up. However she raised the following issues:-

- Training offered is not in this area and is in the evening. Many Councillors are working and cannot attend evening training sessions involving long journeys (Dorchester)
- Lack of specific training, for example on code of conduct and the chairing skills course should be held more often
- Password for the NALC website has been requested and not received
- The wrong paper work was supplied for a Public Works Loan. The paper work received was out of date. This led to a prolonged delay in the start of a project involving a play area. This project will not be able to be started until the summer and it is not possible to work on a play area during school holidays.
- DAPTC agreeing to 5 year terms for Town and Parish Councils in line with elections to the new Unitary Authorities in Dorset. This could be a problem as resignations increase as the term proceeds and too many co-options could lead to loss of the General Power of Competence. Ferndown Town Council was not consulted before DAPTC agreed to this.
- DAPTC is slow to disseminate information.
- Ferndown Town Council asked in March for a meeting with the Chairman and Chief Executive but so far have not been given a date.

Tony Gibb who is one of the DAPTC trainers answered some of the above points by explaining that training is carried out in Dorchester and Tarrant Keynston Village Hall. He also stated that bespoke training can be carried out at a Council's own offices. West Parley had commissioned some training and opened it to other local Councils.

*In informal discussion following the meeting, several committee members expressed the belief that no agreement about Council terms has been made, although the suggestion has been made that Town and Parish Councils might wish to co-ordinate their elections with the Unitary Authorities to reduce the costs.*

Following Cllr Lugg's statement, the meeting commenced according to the agenda. The Chairman asked for feedback on the recent Conference. Most people present felt that the conference had been very successful. There was some criticism about the time allowed for questions. One committee member felt that questioning had been shut down too quickly. Another member stated that few questions had been asked and that most people were making statements. The 2019 conference will be held just before the new Unitary Authorities become operational. The Chairman asked that suggestions for topics to be included and speakers to be fed back.

The committee then discussed the re-organisation and the relationships with new Authorities. The chairman reminded those present that Town and Parish Councils will be the only

Councils in Dorset to continue, all other Councils will be new. The priorities for the new Authorities will be to ensure that statutory services continue. Relationships will be lower priority and receive attention at a later time. It was agreed at the last Executive Committee meeting it was agreed that all area committee chairmen will write to all Councils in their areas to ask what they want. No one knows what the new Unitary Authorities will do and they will want to start to talk to Towns and Parishes about aspirations. No one is yet thinking about future relationships. Copies of a chart showing current services provided by District/Borough Councils, the County Council and Town and Parish Councils. Councils will be asked to say which services they wish to see continued in their areas regardless of which Council provides it at present. Town and Parish Councils will not be committing to providing the services they say they wish to see continued.

The Chief Executive sent a written report giving up to date information about LGR, new model Standing Orders issued by NALC in the light of legislation introduced since the previous model standing orders were issued, LGR magazine, Section 137 spending, GDPR, training events and GP practice Participation groups networking events. (Copy of the report is available from the Town Clerk)

The report from EDDC included briefings on LGR in Wimborne, submission of possible plan sites which have been submitted for possible inclusion in the local plan, anti fly tipping campaign and leaflet, Moors Valley Country Park in the final of a national competition, the retirement of Lindsay Cass after 42 years service, and new cinema equipment at the Hub. There was a discussion about the cost of parking at Moors Valley Country Park. It was stated that the high cost is leading to dangerous parking on roads and verges.

The Chairman reported on a Government consultation on unauthorised encampments. It was agreed that the Secretary would provide information and a link to the consultation.

Members Items reported were as follows

**St Leonards and St Ives:** plans for allotments continue

**Corfe Mullen:** plans for a skate park are now on display following consultations with young people.

**Holt:** Travellers have now been moved on apart from 1 caravan.

**Wimborne Minster:** A public meeting was held to discuss the legal problems around the cemetery. This has been reported in the press.

**Cranborne and Edmondsham:** Work should be carried on local roads will be carried out on 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Alderholt:** New gym equipment will be installed on the Recreation Ground when weather permits.

**Knowlton:** Activity on the former traveller site at Mannington. Further information about the situation was given by Verwood, based on information given at the Forum for Three Legged Cross by Cllr Ray Bryan.

**Vale of Allen:** The clerk has resigned and the Council is urgently looking for a replacement.

**West Parley:** New fitness equipment has been installed. There seems to be a delay in submission of a planning application for the large development planned. There is great concern and frustration about the effect on roads and action to be taken. DCC has declined to meet the Parish Council to discuss the issue.

Those present were made aware that there have been changes to some NALC legal topic notes and clerks should be encouraged to consult the legal topic notes regularly.

The next meeting will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> July in the Cecil Hall, Cranborne.