



VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

22nd February 2022

PRESENT: Councillor Matthew Parker (Mayor)
Councillor Simon Gibson (Deputy Mayor)

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| Councillor Sharmilee Bhose | Councillor Martyn Hudson |
| Councillor Alan Biggs | Councillor Andy Maw |
| Councillor Lucy Clark | Councillor Jane Russell |
| Councillor Toni Coombs | Councillor Kate Stephens |
| Councillor Lindsey Dedden | Councillor Mark Thorpe |
| Councillor Spencer Flower | |

In Attendance: Carrie Lloyd Town Clerk & Jan Sebire, Assistant Town Clerk
Public: 2

209/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors: Sandra Grove, Philip Mann, Pat Morrow, Shelley Rose, Bridie Salmon and Mark Thorpe.

Members noted that Councillor Rose would not be attending meetings for 3 months and sent their best wishes to her.

210/21 Declaration of Interests

Councillors Coombs, Flower and Gibson declared an interest the item on Dorset Council's Governance Review as Members of Dorset Council and took no part in the discussion thereon.

211/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2022

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2022 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Mayor.

212/21 Actions Arising from Previous Meetings

Members noted that the meeting with the Police had been postponed by Storm Eunice. Cllr Flower advised that he had received a reply to his email to the Police & Crime Commission which is attached at Appendix A to these Minutes.

The Clerk was requested to circulate the email from the PCSO regarding the on-going anti-social behaviour in Verwood.

(Action; Town Clerk)

Councillor Coombs requested to be involved in looking at an alternative Constitution for the Youth & Community Management Committee prior to bringing it back to Council.

(Action; Town Clerk)

213/21 Policing.

Members noted the comments from the previous item and strongly expressed the need to resolve the anti-social behaviour problem.

214/21 Clerk's Report.

- (i) Damage to Coat – Members noted the Report of the Clerk and were pleased to note that the plaques had been removed. **RESOLVED** that the resident be reimbursed £50 towards the purchase of a new coat and a future meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee consider amending Financial Regulations to permit the Town Clerk to handle any issue like this and report retrospectively to the Council.
(Action; Town Clerk)
- (ii) Youth Centre's Confidential Data – Members noted the need for a robust database and **RESOLVED** that UpShot be purchased at £1,100 per annum with £1,487.50 database migration and training costs.
(Action; Youth Worker)
- (iii) Dorset Council Community Governance Review – Members noted that the Review recommended an additional Councillor for Three Legged Cross Ward. Cllr Hudson expressed an interest in standing in that Ward if 2 Councillors are to represent it in future. **RESOLVED** that this Council agrees to 2 Ward Members for Three Legged Cross Ward.
(Action; Town Clerk)
- (iv) Change of Accounting software – Members **RESOLVED** that Xero be used from 1st April 2022 and a licence be purchased as soon as possible to enable migration from Sage.
(Action; Town Clerk)
- (v) Change to Signatory on Mayor's Charity Account – Members **RESOLVED** that Ms. C.A. Lloyd be added to the HSBC account as signatory and Mrs. V. Bright be removed.
(Action; Town Clerk)
- (vi) Changes to Lloyds Charge Card – Members noted the need for more on-line payments and **RESOLVED** that Finance and General Purposes Committee amend Financial Regulations and the new Town Clerk be authorised to hold a card with £2,000 limit, the Youth Worker's Card have an increased limit to £1,500, the Assistant Town Clerk's limit be increased to £700 making a total credit limit of £4,200 per month.
(Action; Town Clerk)
- (vii) Small Strip of Land between 21 – 25 Purbeck Drive – Members had looked into this matter and Councillors Parker and Hudson advised that a search had been carried out on the Town Council's behalf revealing that the developer was still freeholder of the land. **RESOLVED** that;
(a) the Clerk write to the freeholder requesting that they clear the site and maintain it in future; and

- (b) the Clerk be authorised to set up a business account with Land Registry and carry out searches when needed.

(Action; Town Clerk)

- (viii) Platinum Jubilee and VJ Day Memorial Benches – Members considered various options. Whilst recycled material benches were preferred, on this occasion Members felt that benches reflecting the occasion should be purchased. **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk investigate the suitability of the ASA Forces Charity Platinum Jubilee bench for Champtoceaux Green and purchase it if suitable and the David Ogilvie circular bench with cherry blossom be purchased for Liederbach Green.

(Action; Town Clerk)

215/21 The Report of the Plans Consultative Committee meetings as circulated, were approved by the Committee and signed.

As Dorset Council no longer sent out neighbour notification letters when an application was received, Members considered that the Town Council should do more to publicise applications being considered by the Consultative Committee using social media and the Council's website.

(Action; Town Clerk)

216/21 The Report of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings held 8th February 2022 as circulated, approved by the Committee and signed.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) the Review of the Effectiveness of the Internal Controls be approved;
- (ii) the Risk Management Statement for 2021/22 be approved; and
- (iii) that Maintaining Environments be contracted to replace the Town Council Offices' radiators for £4,723.65 plus VAT and additional work (supply & install electrical bonding to the gas metre pipe work within the cupboard, alter heat sensor so this would be installed above the boiler and replace the mains water stop cock) for £1,097 plus VAT, be approved.

(Action; Town Clerk)

217/21 A Report from the Verwood Youth & Community Management Committee

Members noted that the next meeting would be 5th April 2022

218/21 Report from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The opening of the County Museum held by the High Sheriff, had shown excellent refurbishment work to the building.

219/21 Report of Representatives on Other Bodies.

Cllr Dedden had produced a written report on the DAPTC Larger Councils' Meeting which would be sent to Councillors.

220/21 Verwood Youth & Community Management Committee & Youth Worker.

Members noted the report by the Youth Worker. Members were pleased to hear from Cllr Coombs that the fridge had now been replaced. Members questioned whether the solar panels had been approved by the Council's landlord. The Clerk undertook to follow this up and report back to Finance and General Purposes Committee with more details for approval.

(Action; Town Clerk)

221/21 Internet Councillor

None

222/21 Press & P.R. Councillor

The one query was noted.

223/21 Reports from the Dorset Councillors.

Cllr Flower updated Members. Of particular note was his discussion with Government Ministers regarding changes to the National Planning Framework; the appointment of a Director to implement the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Moors Valley Country Park's Gold Tourism Award for Large Visitor Attraction.

224/21 Accounts.

The reports were not available for approval.

225/21 Monthly Budgets.

These were not yet available and would be circulated as soon as possible.

226/21 Items of report and matters for future agendas.

It was noted that Three Legged Cross had poor mobile digital signal and Members requested that an item be brought to the next meeting for discussion.

(Action; Town Clerk)

The meeting closed at 8.07p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 23rd March 2022 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Three Legged Cross.

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Mayor