



VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

23rd March 2022

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

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| Councillor Alan Biggs | Councillor Martyn Hudson |
| Councillor Lucy Clark | Councillor Shelley Rose |
| Councillor Toni Coombs | Councillor Jane Russell |
| Councillor Lindsey Dedden | |

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

Public: 4

249/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors: Sharmilee Bhose, Spencer Flower, Sandra Grove, Philip Mann, Pat Morrow, Bridie Salmon, Kate Stephens and Mark Thorpe

250/21 Declaration of Interests

There were none.

251/21 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2022 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Mayor.

252/21 Actions Arising from Previous Meetings

Members noted the actions and updates from previous meetings.

253/21 Policing.

Members noted previous comments regarding the need for a meeting.

254/21 Direct Debit Payments to Pennon Water

Members approved setting up the direct debits and signed the mandates. Members requested that a schedule of Direct Debit payments or potential payments be brought to a future meeting for approval.

(Action; Town Clerk)

255/21 Ramblers' 50th Anniversary and Walkabout Leaflets

Members noted the production of the leaflets at no cost to the Council. Cllr Russell agreed to represent the Council at the Ramblers' meetings provided that it was understood that she had no delegated authority to make decisions for the Council.

RESOLVED that the Council endorse the production of the leaflets and Cllr Russell represent the Council at meetings.

(Action; Town Clerk)

256/21 Mobile Phone Coverage – Three Legged Cross

Members noted the report of Officers. A Councillor advised that lack of mobile phone coverage stopped First Responders from doing their job properly and prevented installation of Smart Meters at a time when they are most needed. Using wi-fi calling was acceptable unless there were power cuts as in the recent storms. The provision of signal boosters similar to ones provided at Festivals was suggested. In view of Dorset Council being awarded £500,000 to spearhead a new pilot project to look at ways of boosting mobile digital coverage, Members **RESOLVED** that the Council be requested to consider Verwood & Three Legged Cross a priority.

(Action; Town Clerk)

257/21 Youth & Community Centre Graffiti Project

Members noted the report of officers. A question regarding the reporting line arose which, it was noted, once the new Terms of Reference/Constitution of the Management Committee are approved, should clarify matters. It was noted that The Snug does not form part of the Community hire space and was therefore for use by Young People only. **RESOLVED** that the project be approved.

(Action; Town Clerk)

258/21 .GOV EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR COUNCILLORS

Members considered the report by NALC and the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED that all Members be set up with their personal .gov email address.

(Action; Town Clerk)

259/21 .STATEMENT ON EVENTS IN THE UKRAINE

Members authorised the Mayor to sign the Statement on NALC's website on behalf of the Council.

(Action; Mayor)

Cllr Rose updated Members on the humanitarian effort. Once families from the Ukraine arrive, support would be provided through the foodbank, Verwood Community Support Group and Second Chance. The families would need community support, resources and useful information such as doctors, schools, dentists, etc. The Town Council were requested to compile this information.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk compile the necessary information.

(Action; Town Clerk)

260/21 .DORSET COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Members RESOLVED that the consultation should be promoted on Facebook to enable all residents with an interest to participate - [School Transport consultation - Dorset Council](#)

(Action; Town Clerk)

261/21 .CYCLE RACKS IN VERWOOD

Members considered the report of Officers and **RESOLVED** that 3 racks be purchased – 2 for the entrances to the Recreation Ground (subject to the Charity's approval) and one for the paved area outside Costa Coffee (subject to approval by Dorset Council).

(Action; Town Clerk)

262/21 .MINUTES

The Minutes of the Plans Consultative Committee held on 2nd March and 22nd March were approved & signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 8th March were approved and signed by the Mayor.

The Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 8th March were approved and signed by the Mayor.

In relation to Recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committee Members **RESOLVED** that;

(i) **Minute 232/21 - Report of the Internal Auditor**

The Report be received and accepted.

(ii) **Minute 233/21 - CCTV Policy**

The Policy be agreed.

(iii) **Minute 234/21 - Installation of Solar Panels on the Youth Centre**

Solar Panels be added to the Youth Centre.

(iv) **235/21 - Request by Verwood Concert Brass Band**

Approval be given for Ferrett Green and the Trustees of the Memorial Recreation Ground be requested to give permission too.

(v) **236/21 - Grant Aid Applications**

Verwood Community Group be awarded £450 and Verwood Friendship Club be awarded £800.

(vi) **237/21 - On-line banking**

Councillor Bhowe and Councillor Russell be added to the mandate.

263/21 .REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor advised that he had attended the flag raising for the Commonwealth along with young people from Three Legged Cross First School and Trinity First School.

264/21 .REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

None

265/21 .REPORT FROM THE YOUTH WORKER

Members noted the comprehensive report and thanked the Youth Worker for it.

266/21 .REPORT FROM THE INTERNET COUNCILLOR

None

267/21 .REPORT FROM THE PRESS & P.R. COUNCILLOR

None

268/21 .REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS

Members noted the report as circulated.

269/21 .APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Members approved the payments made in February and March.

(Action; Town Clerk)

270/21 .SUGGESTIONS FROM PLATINUM JUBILEE WORKING GROUP

Members noted the suggestions contained in the Minutes of the Working Group and **RESOLVED** that all suggestions be actioned and the Town Clerk be authorised to apply for grant funding where possible.

(Action; Town Clerk)

271/21 .FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr Coombs commented on the need to improve the Memorial Recreation Ground. Members were advised that a local resident had written in with a similar comment. It was agreed that this would be considered at the next Amenities Committee.

A letter had been received regarding lack of use of the Hub. Whilst it was noted that The Hub was operated under Dorset Council, Members suggested that the Town Council could do more to advertise events at The Hub including an extra tab on the website and greater use of local notice boards. The Town Clerk undertook to discuss this with Mr Spreadbury & report back to next Council.

(Action; Town Clerk)

The meeting closed at 8.33p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for 26th April 2022 at 7.30pm at the Council Offices.

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Mayor

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