



VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

22nd March 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Simon Gibson (Mayor)

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| Councillor Alan Biggs | Councillor Martyn Hudson |
| Councillor Toni Coombs | Councillor Pat Morrow |
| Councillor Charmaine Crossley | Councillor Matthew Parker |
| Councillor Lindsey Dedden | Councillor Jane Russell |
| Councillor Sandra Grove | Councillor Carol Traves |

In Attendance: Carrie Lloyd, Town Clerk
Insp Turner and Sgt Moore
Public: 1

270/22/23 **CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

271/22/23 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors; Mark Thorpe, Spencer Flower, Revd Julian Macro, Andrew Maw, Philip Mann and Kate Stephens. For the purposes of the six-month rule, Members approved and accepted the reason for absence for Cllr Mann (family bereavement).

272/22/23 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None other than those declared at the time of debate, noted below.

273/22/23 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

274/22/23 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2023 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

275/22/23 **ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Members noted the actions and updates from previous meetings.

276/22/23 **POLICING UPDATE**

Insp. Turner and Sgt Moore attended from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. Members voiced their concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and the incident reporting system.

The Officers advised that steps were being taken to address the problems caused by some young people's actions with both the young people and their families. The reporting of incidents was considered very important and the public were encouraged to contact 101 to report any criminal activity even if the Police could not take action due to lack of evidence or low priority criminality, as it helped build up a picture for the Neighbourhood Team. Resources had been deployed to major incidents in the last month which then

detracted from the good work of the Neighbourhood Teams. Events being planned in the coming months had not proved to be a problem in previous years but a review would be undertaken to ensure order was kept during the events.

277/22/23 **REQUEST FROM SECOND CHANCE**

This item was withdrawn.

278/22/23 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

7TH FEBRUARY 2023

247/22/23 **HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT STATEMENT**

RESOLVED that subject to amending a Control Measure for Computer File back up, the Risk Management Statement be agreed.

248/22/23 **BUDGET FOR HONORARY FREEMEN CEREMONY**

RESOLVED that a budget of £3,000 created from Reserves to fund the celebration.

249/22/23 **FUNDING FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE – VERWOOD BRASS BAND**

RESOLVED that CIL funding of £25,000 be offered to the Band Hall Repair Fund in view of the significant community contribution that all of the Brass Bands make to the Community of Verwood.

250/22/23 **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

RESOLVED that the appointment of Heelis & Lodge to carry out the 2022/ 2023 Internal Audit.

14TH MARCH 2023

256/22/23 **INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

RESOLVED that the Strategy be approved and any funds with Lloyds Bank be withdrawn at the appropriate time and reinvested with either Unity Trust, Scottish Widows or CCLA subject to the interest rates at the time.

Cllr Grove declared an interest in the Community Group application and took no part in the discussion or decision. Cllr Morrow advised that she was a Member of the Friendship Club.

259/22/23 **GRANT APPLICATIONS 2023/24**

RESOLVED that;

- (i) Verwood Friendship Club be awarded £850 and advised that the Social Prescribers at West Moors

Doctors surgery also needed to be contacted to include
Three Legged Cross Residents;

- (ii) Verwood Community Group be awarded £500;
- (iii) Verwood Carnival Committee be awarded £1,500 towards safety barriers subject to a prior written letting agreement for Community & Town Council use free of charge.

(Action: Town Clerk)

279/22/23 **RECOMMENDATION FROM AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

266/22/23 **FIELD IN TRUST – THREE LEGGED CROSS
RECREATION GROUND**

RESOLVED that Counsel's advice be sought on the best way forward to protect the Recreation Ground.

(Action: Town Clerk)

280/22/23 **RESPONSE TO PURPLE HAZE PLANNING APPLICATION**

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk submit this Council's concerns following discussion with Hilly Chittenden, Cllr Flower & Councillor Traves.

(Action: Town Clerk)

281/22/23 **INTERNAL AUDITOR 2022/23 – SCOPE OF WORK**

Members noted and agreed the Scope of Work suggested by the Internal Auditors.

(Action: Town Clerk)

282/22/23 **PLANT BASED TREATY**

Members noted that draft Treaty and whilst some Members were sympathetic to the cause, it was considered that the majority of its contents were not within the Council's decision-making remit. **RESOLVED** that the Treaty is not adopted.

(Action: Town Clerk)

283/22/23 **COMMUNICATION FROM DAPTC**

Members noted the contents of the email from DAPTC. It was noted that the Council could send two representatives to the Larger Parish & Town Council Committee.

(Action: Town Clerk)

284/22/23 **GRANT TO CITIZEN'S ADVICE BUREAU**

Further to Minute 134/22/23 (ii)(e), when Members awarded £4,000 to the East Dorset Citizen's Advice Bureau on the understanding that a further £2,000 may be available in March 2023 (subject to applications from other local CAB and details of how the restructure has benefited the residents of East Dorset particularly Verwood & Three Legged Cross), Members confirmed that information received satisfied their request and **RESOLVED** that a further £2,000 be awarded from the 2022/23 grant budget. The Clerk

undertook to ensure that Cllr Grove, as the Council's representative, was invited to their meetings.

(Action: Town Clerk)

285/22/23 **DELEGATION TO TOWN CLERK – PLANNING APPLICATION RESPONSES**

RESOLVED that Town Clerk be authorised to respond to Planning applications which fall outside of the consultation period between meetings of the Planning Consultative Committee (and an extension to the response cannot be agreed) or when a meeting is inquorate following electronic consultation with the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

(Action: Town Clerk)

286/22/23 **REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

Cllr Dedden advised that she would be circulating notes from a recent Larger Parishes & Towns DAPTC meeting shortly.

Cllr Coombs update Members on the plans for the Coronation. The next meeting of the Working Group would be 7pm on 27th March.

(Action: Town Clerk)

287/22/23 **REPORT FROM THE YOUTH WORKER**

The Report was noted. The Y&CC Working Group would start to meet in April. Cllr Grove undertook to sit on the Working Group as some of its Members would not be available for the first few meetings.

288/22/23 **REPORT FROM THE INTERNET COUNCILLOR**

None

289/22/23 **REPORT FROM THE PRESS & P.R. COUNCILLOR**

None

291/22/23 **REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Coombs updated Members on the road closure between Three Legged Cross and Verwood commencing 12th April.

Councillor Coombs updated Members on the lengthy consultation process undertaken by Dorset Officers to bring the Eastworth Play Area Scheme to fruition (if not achieving consensus from all residents).

292/22/23 **APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**

Members approved the payments made in January and February 2023.

293/22/23 **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Presentation to Honorary Freeman – 20th May 2023
- Committee Structure for 2023/24 and Scheme of Delegation – Apr 2023

294/22/23 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature or debate of the business to be transacted;

- (i) Parking

Cllr Dedden declared an interest as a homeowner adjacent to thr car park

295/22/23

PARKING

Members noted the discussions that had taken place regarding the Potters Wheel Car Park and **RESOLVED** that

- (i) in principle, this Council agrees to take the car park on a long term lease at peppercorn rent from Dorset Council subject to repairs to the lighting; and
- (ii) Members consider the financial & budgetary implications as soon as practicable.

The meeting closed at 9.06 p.m.

.....Mayor

DRAFT