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VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

26th September 2023

Council Offices, 28 Vicarage Rd, Verwood BH31 6DR

PRESENT: Councillor Toni Coombs (Mayor)
Councillor Matthew Parker (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor Alan Biggs	Councillor Rev'd Julian Macro
Councillor Charmaine Crossley	Councillor Philip Mann
Councillor Spencer Flower	Councillor Andy Maw
Councillor Simon Gibson	Councillor Jane Russell
Councillor Elizabeth Ingram	Councillor Carol Traves

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

130/23/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors: Martyn Hudson, Tony Smith, Kate Stephens, Pat Morrow and Lindsey Dedden. Apologies for absence were accepted & approved for Councillor Sandra Grove.

131/23/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Toni Coombs, Councillor Spencer Flower and Councillor Simon Gibson declared an interest as Dorset Councillors in item 17 and did not take part in the debate; and
Councillor Toni Coombs, Councillor Spencer Flower and Councillor Simon Gibson declared an interest as Dorset Councillors in item 18 and did not take part in the debate.

132/23/24 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A Member of the public asked what long terms plans were for the overgrown laurel on Ringwood Road. Members agreed that an item should be placed on the next agenda for discussion and decision.

Members were asked about abandoned vehicles. The Member of the Public was directed to Dorset Council's website [Report an abandoned vehicle in Dorset - Dorset Council sel - Introductionf-service portal \(achieveservice.com\)](https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/achieveservice.com)

133/23/24 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

134/23/24 UPDATES ON ACTIONS ARISING

Members noted the updates. It was noted that a meeting between the Allotment Committee and interested Members would be set up in future.

135/23/24 POLICING UPDATES

Members noted that no update had been received.

136/23/24 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEESFinance & Policy Committee 19th September 2023**121/23/24 Draft Financial Regulations**

RESOLVED that the draft Financial Regulations at Appendix A be approved.

Action; Town Clerk

123/23/24 Grant Applications 2023/24

Members **RESOLVED** that the following grants be made and that the Grant Policy be amended and brought back to the Committee in due course for consideration;

Citizens Advice - £3,000 and they be invited to re-apply in 6 months time with additional statistics on Verwood and Three Legged Cross attendance and usage;

Hillside Community First School – Members liked the principle of the project but without out any project costs were unable to support the current application. The School were encouraged to re-apply with a breakdown of costs that they wished the Town Council to cover;

Music for the Mind - £325

Verwood Concert Brass – Members were mindful that they had contributed £25,000 of public funds to the Hall Project earlier in 2023 and felt that without estimates and plans that they could not commit any further public funds at present but encouraged the Concert Brass Band to re-apply in the March 2024 tranche of Grant Funding with detailed costs and plans;

Verwood & District Rambling Club up to £450

Verwood Evening Townswomen's Guild - £150

Verwood Pantomime Society - £2,000

Verwood & Three Legged Cross Dementia Friendly Community Association - £500

Verwood U3A - £1,500

Three Legged Cross Village Hall - £2,500 and the Village Hall Committee be encouraged to apply to Three Legged Cross Solar Farm Fund with Members willing to consider a further application in 2024.

Total Grant funding agreed

£10,425

137/23/24 REPORT FROM THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor advised that her Civic Duties had included Verwood Rotary Rustic Fayre, Wareham Civic Day, Blandford Forum Civic Day, Ferndown Civic Service & Open Day Police HQ Winfrith.

Dorset Police – Informal Stakeholder Event

The police are looking to improve their communication with the public. To this end there is a new website <https://www.police.uk/>

Although traditional means of communication still stand the 101 email service is turned off and the public are being directed to the website where crimes can be reported online.

Following concerns raised by several of those attending regarding communication, the Police are looking to improve their engagement with

councillors as they appreciate our role is to communicate with the public and so can be helpful in disseminating information. This will be in the form of Neighbourhood Engagement Contracts.

Members were encouraged to sign up to Dorset Alerts <https://dorsetalert.co.uk/> if interested in having a dialogue with the Police by email or phone at not personal cost. The aim is to send information that will reduce the opportunity for crime and Anti Social Behaviour or help the Police to solve a crime.

One Network

<https://one.network/> This new website the shows live traffic information and forthcoming roadworks. Dorset Council has partnered with one.network to enable the Dorset data to be included.

It is a very powerful tool and local data on events can be uploaded eg festivals, Remembrance Sunday etc.

It is also possible to post alerts directly onto Facebook pages.

It is free to use and it is strongly recommended to sign up to get full functionality. One.network also offer online training, which only takes 30mins.

138/23/24 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Bournemouth International Airport Consultative Committee – Cllr Biggs	Members were requested to submit their responses to the Bournemouth Airport Consultation to the Clerk prior to 13 th October.
Verwood Memorial Hall Trust Committee – Cllr Crossley	Report circulated to Members and noted

139/23/24 REPORT FROM THE YOUTH WORKER

Members noted the Report and update on the Garden Project

140/23/24 REPORT FROM THE INTERNET COUNCILLOR

None

141/23/24 REPORT FROM THE PRESS & P.R. COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gibson advised that 2 adverts had been commissioned to publicise the Extravaganza and would appear in Viewpoint Magazine.

142/23/24 REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS

Councillor Spencer Flower updated Members on the start of the Budget process at Dorset Council, hopes for a devolution deal and requested that as many people as possible complete the Housing Survey.

Members were advised of the Community Forum which would take place at 7pm on 9th October at The Hub and every other month thereafter.

After a lot of negotiation, Newtown Lane would now be re-surfaced in the early part of 2024.

The Mayor updated Members on the Manor Rd closure & confirmed that this was for the removal of the large oak which stood in the grounds of The Manor House. Dorset Council Officers were arranging for the tree to be made into a bench which would sit on Champtoceaux Green.

With respect to Verwood Pharmacy's licence, dialogue was progressing well, after some intervention by Dorset Councillors and a positive outcome was anticipated.

Members responded to a question regarding Potterne Park and confirmed that the advertisement on RightMove had been an administrative error and had now been removed. Discussions were on going to enable improved recreational facilities on the site for the benefit of the community.

143/23/24 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Members approved the payments made in July and August 2023.

144/23/24 MAKING HEADSTONES SAFE

Members noted the discussion paper circulated by the Clerk and would await further clarification at future meetings. A Member requested that the approved height of memorial stones be increased from 90cm to 1m. **RESOLVED** that the Regulations be amended to reflect that memorial stones could be 1m in height.

(Action: Town Clerk)

145/23/24 MOVING FUNDS

Members **RESOLVED** that Council's Scottish Widows Account and two Lloyds Bank 32 day Accounts be closed & funds be moved to CCLA. It was noted that later in the year, CCLA will be opening up another investment account and members will have the option to consider longer term investment.

(Action: Town Clerk)

146/23/24 MEDICINAL PACKAGING RECYCLING

Members noted the suggestion by Verwoodians on Waste and **RESOLVED** that the Mayor's Charity Fund 22/23 and the Mayor's Charity Fund 23/24 purchase one recycling bag each as a trial on the uptake of the scheme.

(Action: Town Clerk)

147/23/24 CONVEYANCING

Members noted the quotes received and **RESOLVED** that MJP Law be used as the Council's solicitors subject to an agreement that the conveyancing will take no more than 10 hours.

(Action: Town Clerk)

148/23/24 DORSET HOUSING STRATEGY

Members considered the survey and requested that Councillors respond to the Clerk with their views before 2nd October.

(Action: Town Clerk)

149/23/24 VILLAGE GREEN STATUS V FIELD IN TRUST

Members noted the options and **RESOLVED** that Three Legged Cross Recreation Ground become a Field in Trust.

(Action: Town Clerk)

150/23/24 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Laurel Bushes on Ringwood Road
- Signs regarding responsible dog ownership
- Parking on St Stephens Lane update
- Details of Remembrance Sunday

The meeting closed at 8.56p.m.

Next meeting is 31st October 2023 at 7.30pm at the Town Council Offices.

.....Mayor

DRAFT