



VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

26th April 2022

PRESENT: Councillor Matthew Parker (Mayor)

Councillor Sharmilee Bhose	Councillor Spencer Flower
Councillor Alan Biggs	Councillor Sandra Grove
Councillor Lucy Clark	Councillor Philip Mann
Councillor Toni Coombs	Councillor Pat Morrow
Councillor Lindsey Dedden	

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

Public: 1

282/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors: Simon Gibson, Martyn Hudson, Andrew Maw, Shelley Rose, Kate Stephens, Jane Russell and Mark Thorpe

283/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

284/21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

285/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2022 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Mayor.

286/21 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Members noted the actions and updates from previous meetings.

287/21 POLICING.

Members noted the report and the update from the Mayor regarding young people starting fires and climbing onto the roof of the Memorial Hall.

The Town Clerk was requested to ensure that the Youth Worker was liaising with the Fire Service as she had done in previous years.

(Action; Town Clerk / Youth Worker)

288/21 REGISTERING FOR VAT

Members noted that following advice from HMRC, the Council had now registered for VAT.

289/21 HELPING HEDGEHOGS

Members noted the information that had been sent to all Town & Parish Councils. It was felt that the Council should be supporting wildlife and **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk contact local schools etc to see if they were interested in the idea.

(Action; Town Clerk)

290/21 CCTV IN THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Members noted the report of Officers. **RESOLVED** that internal CCTV be installed subject to the Council's CCTV Policy being updated to take into account the new CCTV.

(Action; Town Clerk)

291/21 REQUEST FOR NEW TRAFFIC REGULATIONS OUTSIDE TESCO EXPRESS

Members noted the request from the Store Manager. Members were concerned that in trying to fix one problem it may create more. Furthermore, Members were aware of other traffic problems highlighted on social media recently near Merryfield Close junction with Ringwood Road and that a local resident wished Dorset Council to consider additional traffic calming or Road Orders. Members felt that this could be a joined up problem-solving exercise and they would wish to look again at issues in 6 months to a year.

RESOLVED that the outcome of discussions with Dorset Council be reported back to Members in due course.

(Action; Town Clerk)

292/21 BANK ACCOUNTS

Members considered the report by the Town Clerk. Concern was expressed at the impact of removing the Council's bank accounts on the viability of the local branch. Officers advised that the Council's Savings Accounts would remain at Lloyds Bank. With Unity Trust banking would be carried out by telephone the majority of the time and issues encountered in accessing Lloyds Bank was impacting the efficient working of the Town Council.

RESOLVED that the Council switch its current account to Unity Trust Bank and an account also be set up for the Mayor's Charity.

(Action; Town Clerk)

293/21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Plans Consultative Committee held on 13th April were approved & signed by the Mayor.

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 5th April approved and signed by Cllr Dedden.

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

- (i) **274/21 Financial Regulations - RESOLVED** that a Working Group be set up to meet for a limited time to audit the draft Regulations and report back. Cllrs Dedden, Bhowe and Mann to be on the Working Group along with any other Member not present at the Council meeting who wished to be on it.
- (ii) **275/21 Health & Safety Matters – RESOLVED** that Amenities Committee be requested to carry out a review of Council benches.
- (iii) **278/21 Employee Matters – RESOLVED** that adjustments be made to standardise full-time hours worked per week to 37 hours without causing detriment to part-time staff, an alternative be found one day a week to open and close the toilets to meet with Working Time Regulations and the Nationally Agreed 2021/22 Cost of Living increase for employees back dated to April 21 be noted.

294/21 REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor advised that he had attended the Age Concern Christmas Meal (postponed from 2021). He wished to look into a Community Expo in the coming year to bring together all of Verwood's Community Groups and to assist mutual support.

295/21 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

None

296/21 REPORT FROM THE YOUTH WORKER

None this month. Members were reminded of the Youth & Community Centre Grand opening taking place on 4th May at 4.30pm.

297/21 REPORT FROM THE INTERNET COUNCILLOR

None

298/21 REPORT FROM THE PRESS & P.R. COUNCILLOR

None

299/21 REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS

Cllr Flower updated Members on the discussions regarding Dorset Local Plan and hoped to expand this further by June 2022.

300/21 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Members approved the payments made in March and April.

(Action; Town Clerk)

301/21 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Members were advised that a Memorial for Jan Page would be taking place at 11am on 6th May. Cllr Dedden had details and would arrange car-sharing if necessary.

The Mayor advised Members that a letter was going to all local stores & the petrol station regarding the sale of disposable Barbeques and requesting that during a time of heightened fire risk that they not be sold.

Cllr Mann raised the matter of a fire path at St Stephens and problems that had been encountered in getting all agencies together. In light of recent events it was thought that this meeting was important.

The Town Clerk was requested to ensure that the Fire Service were liaising with the Youth Worker to promote Fire Safety again this year.

(Action; Town Clerk)

The meeting closed at 8.15p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for 23rd May (Mayor-making) and 24th May (Annual Council) both at 7.30pm at the Council Offices.

.....Mayor

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