

LYTCHETT MINSTER & UPTON TOWN COUNCIL

A **MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** was held in the Council Chamber, 1 Moorland Parade, Moorland Way on **TUESDAY** the **19 March 2019** and commenced at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs J M Richards in the Chair
Councillor Mrs M Pryor
Councillor P F Johns
Councillor R Griffin
Councillor J R Burns
Councillor Mrs R J Wood
Councillor M Chase
Councillor Mrs J Marston
Councillor R Holloway
Councillor S McKell

Also in attendance: Mrs B Lake, Office Manager
Mrs S Berry, Office Cover
Elliot Bell, Youth Advisor

508/18 APOLOGIES: Councillor J C Small (personal)
Councillor F H Drane (PDC meeting)
Councillor P King (personal)
Councillor K Brooks (work commitments)
County Councillor W T Pipe (PDC meeting)

509/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:
There were no declarations of interest.

510/18 MINUTES: of the Town Council meeting held on the 19 February 2019 as circulated were confirmed and signed.

CLERKS REPORT:

- a. Valuation Report Regarding Land at Hibbs Close and its Potential Disposal.** No further information..
- b. Minute 343/17 & 75/18 & 382/18 & 518/18 To consider possible transfer of land parcels from Purbeck District Council.** An update to be given at the meeting. A letter was received from the Chief Executive, PDC regarding the two pieces of land that will be retained by them whilst the possibility of using the site for an affordable housing development is explored. If a decision is made not to proceed with the proposal the Town Council will be given the opportunity to take on the ownership of the land in question. (MATCAPR19DOC1).
- c. Minute 123/18 To discuss the renewal of the lease of the Recreation Ground.** An update will be given at the meeting. (MATCAPR19DOC2).
- d. Minute 150/18 Risk Assessment of land susceptible to trespass within the Town.** See Environment minute 528/18/
- e. Minute 202/18 Lytchett Bay Nature Park Partnership.** Nothing to report.
- f. Minute 316/18 To consider providing an information board on ‘Upton in Wartime’.** A list of possible topics was circulated to members (MATCAPR19DOC3).
- g. Minute 317/18 To consider the provision of lighting at the front of the Town Council Offices.** In hand.
- h. Minute 321/18 Annual Newsletter.** One report has been submitted thus far.
- i. Minute 384/18 Operation London Bridge.** No further information.
- j. Minute 386/18 To establish a protocol around a 3rd party agreement towards a flooding scheme.** This was left in abeyance until such time as an agreement is required.
- k. Minute 515/18 To appoint a fire warden for each Town Council owned premises.** Fire wardens are yet to be appointed for 1, 1A, 1B Moorland Parade and the Grove.
- l. Minute 516/18 Remedial Works required to Clocktower and associated quotes.** Quotes are being sought. The door and clock from the tower have been returned by the company who maintain the clocktower.

512/18 CORRESPONDENCE:

A copy of Clerk and Councils Direct was received and passed to Cllr Mrs Richards.

513/18 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) The report of the Environment committee held on 26 February 2019 as circulated was confirmed, adopted and signed.
- b) The report of the Amenities committee held on 5 March 2019 was confirmed, adopted and signed.

514/18 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS/DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:

**Cllr Mrs J M Richards – Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council
Dorset Shadow Council – 14 March 2019**

The motion presented by Cllr. S Bartlett was as follows:

That there has been a failure of the Shadow Executive Committee to fulfil a promise to involve members from minority groups on Task & Finish Groups, which were originally set up to formulate policies and procedures for the new Dorset Council. That the Shadow Council agrees that it has not, as promised, involved or engaged adequately with Town and Parish Councils regarding their future contribution to Dorset Council or any potential impact of establishing the new council on the services they provide. That the Shadow Council acknowledges the importance of ensuring a clear statement of intent is placed on record such that in future within the Dorset Council there be cross party involvement immediately in the development of policies and procedures, as set out within the approved structure of the Dorset Council Constitution. And that further, Town and Parish Councils will be robustly engaged, on an ongoing basis, in respect of future service provision by the Dorset Council, which may have an impact on their councils. The motion has been supported by:- Cllrs J A Andrews, N J Ireland, S Jefferies, M E Rennie, S Hosford.

Continued.....

514/18 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS/DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:(Cont)

There were speakers from 3 parish councils - Corfe, West Lulworth and one other. Written support from several other parish councils

An amendment was proposed by Cllr. R Knox which was hotly debated as it appeared to be a new motion rather than an amendment but it was voted through. Cllr. S Bartlett then proposed an amendment to the new motion which was (after much debate) voted through.

Unfortunately I did not manage to note all the wording but the paragraph inserted by cllr. Bartlett was as follows:

“We ask that Dorset Council will acknowledge the value of councillors and undertake to robustly include in all committees, task & finish groups, working groups, informal committees and executive advisory panels members of all political minority groups or single members”.

This was voted through again after much debate.

DAPTC 22 February 2019

The DAPTC Chief Executive presented her report which focussed predominantly on local government reorganisation and the Association's activities in representing the local council sector in Dorset. Particular attention was drawn to the decision of the Shadow Dorset Council to amend the proposed constitution for Dorset Council to allow parish councils to be part of the process to refer planning applications to committee for determination. This reflected the approach currently taken in North Dorset, West Dorset and Weymouth and Portland. However, it was noted that the

decision to refer an application to committee was at the discretion of the chairman of that committee and therefore local councils needed to ensure that any objections were made on material planning grounds.

The Chief Executive reported that she had been heavily involved in the creation of new town councils in Weymouth and Christchurch and the community council in Highcliffe and Walkford.

Work was currently underway on a full programme of training and development events for the coming year, including induction for new councillors and new chairmen, and details of this would be published shortly. Members requested that opportunities for planning training be prioritised as it was important that all councillors, even those who were re-elected, were aware of the new National Planning Policy Framework.

Dorset Councils Partnership update

Mr Hill presented the quarterly update report from the Dorset Councils Partnership (DCP) which focussed on local government reorganisation and recent decisions made by the three councils. This also provided an update on decisions about the shape of Weymouth Town Council.

In response to a Member's question about the introduction by West Dorset District Council and Weymouth and Portland Borough Council of the new system to enable members of the public to search and comment on planning applications, Mr Hill explained that this had been in train for some time to bring the Dorset Councils Partnership councils onto a single system. He explained that legacy systems would remain in place for the time being as the new Dorset Council came into being. It was noted that these systems would not correspond with the proposed planning committee areas and it was likely that the procurement of a single system to be used by the new council would be progressed in due course but this process could take up to three years. It was noted that a calendar of meetings for the Dorset Council had been agreed, with proposed venues for the area planning committees. However, the Committee was informed that these were subject to change as the practical arrangements were put in place.

514/18 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS/DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:(Cont)

The Chairman reiterated that it would be an advantage for parish and town councils to have dedicated link officer(s) to act as a conduit for enquiries into the principal council, perhaps on a locality basis. Mr Hill reminded the Committee that Dorset council would be 'digital by default' and an emphasis would be placed upon ensuring that information was available on the website so that local councils and residents could find the answers to their queries.

Motion of no confidence

With the agreement of the Chairman, Cllr Bartlett of Wimborne Town Council informed the Committee that, in his capacity as a County Councillor, he had submitted a motion of no confidence against the Leader of Dorset County Council. This would be debated at an extraordinary meeting of the Council, which was anticipated to be held on 1 March 2019. He detailed his reasons for submitting this motion, which were based upon the lack of wider member engagement in the shaping of Dorset Council, particularly with town and parish councils, contrary to statements made by the Leader recognising the need for inclusivity.

As it was anticipated that there would be no opportunity for public participation at this extraordinary meeting, Councillor Bartlett invited parish and town councils, as well as individual councillors, to send him any comments or evidence in relation to this motion which would help to inform his introductory statement to reflect the views of the local councils sector.

However, as this meeting would be a public meeting, he also encouraged as many parish and town councillors to attend to show their support.

Members shared their concerns and frustration about the lack of engagement with local councils on such issues as planning, council tax harmonisation and the devolution of services. Concern was also expressed that most meetings of Dorset Council were likely to be held during the day, which reduced the opportunities for engagement as well as precluding working people from standing for election.

The Committee **resolved** to support the submission of the motion in recognition of the lack of engagement and consultation with parish and town councils in the shaping of Dorset Council and communication about the impact of reorganisation on the local council sector.

Cllr P F Johns – Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council

In my earlier reports to the council I explained that the DCC Flood Risk Management Team (FRMT) have identified nine properties in the village at risk of being flooded and there are other properties that I know are at risk. In addition, I have found two further problems that considerably increase the risk of flooding, but due to people not being available it has not been possible to have a meeting with the FRMT and I am waiting for their team manager to arrange a date for the meeting.

The problems are complex, and I believe that the village residents need the FRMT to agree what action can be taken and for them to apply for the Local Levy funding before the new Dorset Council takes over in May.

I will give you further information in our meeting, but in order to reduce the flood risk for numerous residents I strongly believe that it is vitally important for our council to make an offer now to provide £5000 to go towards the cost of the necessary remedial work and if we offer £5000 that would help to persuade the FRMT to apply for further funding to carry out the work.

Cllr J R Burns – LUBCA

The Charity Commission have approved the charity status for the new organisation.

The Ladybirds Play Group are awaiting the outcome of the recent inspection.

continued.....

514/18 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS/DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:(Cont)

Cllr R Griffin – Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council

Meeting with Hamwic Trust to discuss parking issues around the Upton Schools

The meeting was well attended with representatives from the Schools and DCC. Items to discuss this further and 'To consider the provision of double yellow lines in Purbeck Close' will be included on the agenda of the next Environment committee meeting. Safety measures in St Martins Road were also considered and Parking Services will reconsider the request from the Town Council to buy in some parking enforcement. The school are to run a Safety Design Poster competition and the Town Council will provide the trophies. The British Legion will be contacted with a view to providing a footpath at the rear of their premises into the Recreation Ground to make a safer route to school for children whose parents who park in the British Legion car park.

Cllr W T Pipe – Dorset County Council

Local Government Reorganisation

The last pieces of the jigsaw are almost now in place with the new council due to take control from the District, Borough and County Councils on the 1 April. As previously mentioned in other reports, the "place to go to" remains the same, i.e. Purbeck District Council offices for all of our

residents daily requirements across the board. Although we would like this transition to go as smoothly as is possible, hiccups will be the order of the day from the start and things will eventually run as smoothly as possible thereafter.

Health scrutiny

At the last meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee of Dorset, we had acknowledgement that the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care had received our referral and had passed it to the Independent Reconfiguration Unit for a decision on our concerns with ambulance travel times and the loss of community hospital beds in our more rural hospitals. As Chairman of the committee, I will be the first to know the outcome of the decision of the IRU and will waste no time in telling our residents of the outcome.

Criminal Justice Board/Community Safety Partnership

The Criminal Justice Board has met since my last report to council and continues to provide very high level support to the general public and to those cause up in the Criminal Justice system either as victims of perpetrators. The meeting was held at Upton House and we got through quite a hefty agenda. As vice-chairman of the Board, I was involved quite heavily in the Youth Justice Programme and the way ahead on the County Lines drug-running situation. We learned from the Chief Constable that targeted arrests had been made in the Bournemouth and Weymouth policing districts in respect of County Lines.

Local Elections and Redrawn Boundaries

I believe the candidates from the various parties have been selected for your new ward/division and many of you may have fallen victim to the knock on the door at stupid o'clock from your wannabee candidates!!

Pre-PDC Meeting Note

An item on the final agenda for the District Council tonight is one concerning funding for the Upton Day Centre which provides a venue, hot meals and drinks, social interaction and services from our local policing teams, district councillors, way-finders, a chiropodist and many others. I managed to secure a recommendation from council to support this funding which will benefit some of the most vulnerable of our elderly residents.

continued.....

514/18 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS/DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:(Cont)

Upton Children’s Centre at the Library

Despite rumours circulating in this pre-election period that the children’s centre is to close, I can assure all councillors and residents that the Director of Children’s Services at DCC tells me that there are no plans WHATSOEVER to close any children’s centres at all; in fact they are to receive extra funding under the new regime.

515/18 TO APPOINT A FIRE WARDEN FOR EACH TOWN COUNCIL OWNED PREMISES:

Fire Wardens are required for 1, 1A and 1B Moorland Parade and the Grove and these are yet to be appointed.

516/18 TO DISCUSS REMEDIAL WORKS REQUIRED TO CLOCKTOWER AND ASSOCIATED QUOTES:

One quote for £10,853.00 was received from the company who supplied the original clocktower and other quotes are being sought. The company who maintain the clocktower will be contacted to ask if the door and clock from the tower can be returned.

517/18 TO DISCUSS FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT:

See Representatives Reports. Cllr John advised there was now no need for funding from the Town Council. He will draft a statement to send to the Chief Executive of the new Dorset Council.

518/18 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LAND PARCEL TRANSFER:

Information relating to the parcels of land was received from the Solicitor. After discussion it was agreed to undertake maintenance of the plots in Factory Road but to check the Cherry Hill Grove land before a response is sent.

519/18 TO DISCUSS OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE:

Cllr McKell updated members and this is recorded as a Confidential Minute.

520/18 TO RECEIVE THE LATEST FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS:

This was reviewed by the committee and it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the financial summary of accounts up to the end of the month be approved.

521/18 TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND TO INSTRUCT MEMBERS TO SIGN CHEQUES AND AUTHORISE PAYMENTS:

It was then proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the accounts for March 2019 be approved.

522/18 ITEMS OF REPORT (INCLUDING PUBLICITY OPPORTUNITIES) AND MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

- a) Cllr Mrs Pryor reported that she contacted the Echo regarding Cllr Mrs Richards 100th blood donation. She will also advise them that Cllr Mrs Richards was nominated as Volunteer of the Year.
- b) The Mayor thanked Cllr Johns for all his years of service to the Council as he is not standing for re-election. He will, however continue in his role as Flood Warden.
- c) A Church service to mark the end of Purbeck District Council will be held on Friday 29 March 2019.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman..... Date.....

