

LYTCHETT MINSTER & UPTON TOWN COUNCIL

An **ON-LINE ZOOM MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** was held on **TUESDAY** the **16 FEBRUARY 2021** and commenced at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs M Pryor in the Chair
Councillor M Chase
Councillor J R Burns
Councillor S McKell
Councillor D Wilson
Councillor J Sheldon

Also in attendance: Mrs K Cane, Town Clerk
Mrs B Lake, Office Manager
Mrs S Samways, Admin Assistant

147/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

148/20 APOLOGIES: Members approved the following apologies:

Councillor F H Drane (personal)
Councillor Mrs J Marston (personal)
Councillor K Brooks (work commitments)
Councillor W T Pipe (Dorset Council meeting)
Councillor A Brenton (Dorset Council meeting)
Councillor A J Starr (Dorset Council meeting)

149/20 MINUTES: of the Town Council meeting held on 19 January 2021 as circulated were confirmed and signed.

150/20 CLERKS REPORT:

- a. **Valuation Report Regarding Land at Hibbs Close and its Potential Disposal.** This matter is in the hands of the respective solicitors.
- b. **Minute 123/18 To discuss the renewal of the lease of the Recreation Ground.** See Representatives Reports.
- c. **Minute 40/21 Speed Limit Reduction New Road, Lytchett Minster and associated access roads to Lytchett Minster School.** No further information.
- d. **Minute 61/20 Footpath Junction of Dorchester Road and Huntick Road to Courtyard Centre.** DC have agreed to install the sign to warn drivers of pedestrians in road – no further information.

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151/20 CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) Information on the Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation was received and made available for Councillors on the Members' Area of the website.
- b) A letter was received from the Carnival Committee advising that due to the on-going pandemic there will be no carnival in 2021.

152/20 TO DISCUSS UPTON CEMETERY:

Cllr Chase updated members on the water situation at the Cemetery which is caused by heavy rain as well as drainage issues. The main problem exists in the new cemetery area and BCP have been asked to undertake test digs on the circular area in the old cemetery in order that water levels can be monitored with a view to this location being used for burials. The Groundstaff continue to put bark down to try and soak up the water and make it easier for visitors to access the existing graves. The Clerk has presented members with a quotation from The CDS Group in regard to carrying out drainage improvement investigations; however members did not want to pursue this at this time. The Clerk also outlined the actions that have been taken thus far (all TC drainage maintained and checked, DC requested to check gullies on A350 and drain under Cemetery Road, and land investigation being made re land opposite cemetery which may also have drains which need clearing.) The Clerk reported that members of the public are still complaining about water issues, and the grave digger is struggling with digging. (Full report from Clerk on Members Area). After discussion it was agreed to invite a representative from the Environment Agency to visit the cemetery for their input into the groundwater discharge. It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to purchase a pump to support the grave digger in preparing burial plots.

The risk assessment for the Cemetery will be reviewed.

153/20 TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF PROFESSIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVICE:

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED not to proceed.

154/20 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE MUNICIPAL PLANTING SCHEMES FOR 2021:

Councillor Chase updated members on the plans for the planting of flowerbeds, troughs and towers during 2021.

155/20 TO CONSIDER THE INCREASE IN FEES:

After discussion it was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED that all fees should increase by 2% with the exception of the Cemetery.

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156/20 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS:

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that this be approved.

157/20 TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE TOWN COUNCIL WISH TO IMPLEMENT A 'LOCAL HERO' COMMUNITY AWARD, AND IN WHAT FORMAT THIS MIGHT BE DELIVERED:

After discussion it was agreed to implement a Mayor's Local Hero Award. The Clerk will produce an application form and publicity to make the community aware. Going forward the award would be presented at the Annual Assembly when gatherings are permitted after the pandemic.

158/20 TO CONSIDER THAT CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES BE PERMITTED TO DECIDE WHETHER TO HOLD VIRTUAL MEETINGS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEE:

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that as from Tuesday 6 April 2021 meetings will resume on a weekly basis unless there is insufficient business to warrant this.

159/20 TO AGREE THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE BE EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OF UPTON TOGETHER:

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that this be agreed.

160/20 TO CONSIDER WELLBEING IN THE COMMUNITY:

This was raised by a member of public and discussed by members. It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** not to pursue this initiative.

161/20 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE UPTON TOGETHER PROJECT:

**Cllr S McKell
Chat Buddy**

Jo, one of our volunteers asked if she could expand our phone buddy network by becoming not only a buddy but to take it forwards and monitor and collate all the buddies. A flier which will be circulated.

Upton Together Storytime Project

This will be run by a young lady called Chloe. She has set up a website where clients can log a zoom slot and choose the book which they would like Chloe to read to them. This is going well with the local school sending out the link.

Masks

We received a letter from the Head of Lytchett Manor, Andrew Mead, thanking Zoe Pipe and Upton Together for the 1500 masks that we funded.

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161/20 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE UPTON TOGETHER PROJECT:(Cont)

Poem

Lynn Wright, one of our volunteers has written a poem as a form of feedback. This I am glad to report will be featured in the next copy of the Upton Link.

Covid 19 and Flu Jabs

We have done almost 200 hours helping at the docks for which we have received much praise. On the 7th we were called upon to assist with the traffic management of a flu jab session at the port. 2 volunteers were selected and agree to take on this duty.

Banner

As some of you may have seen we are now advertising on the hoarding at the new Aldi site. The first banner we put in place was not large enough to get the message over so we had a much larger banner made. This was funded by our good friends at the Dorset Volunteer Centre who also featured on the banner. The cost was £120.

As you can see from the Upton Together Projects we are trying to cater for the wellbeing of all our Lytchett Minster and Upton residents, whether young or old we are here to help.

Volunteers

After an appeal for more volunteers a number have come forward and have been added to the volunteer list and most have already been tasked with various jobs. The total now stands at 41 with more in the vetting process.

Food Bank

Food is still being donated by members of the public calling in and us collecting it. The boxes at the Spar and Co-op are still ticking over. Locally 4 boxes have been delivered along with 4 for the Dorset Volunteers to take to Swanage (2), Wareham (1) and Sandford (1). We have received good feedback from our colleagues at Dorset Volunteers.

162/20 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CHAIRS OF AMENITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING:

Amenities – Cllr Mrs Pryor

The Clerk reported that testing for legionnaires disease was undertaken by Dorset Council some time ago and there are some areas of concern in the changing rooms at the Pavilion. It has been impossible to get anyone to undertake the work during the pandemic and currently the Council are not in a position to offer safe changing room facilities if outside sports are given the go ahead to resume.

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162/20 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CHAIRS OF AMENITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING:(Cont)

Environment – Cllr M Chase

A meeting to discuss proposals for a cycleway took place between representatives of the Town Council and Lytchett Matravers Parish Council and the minutes have been circulated to members. A follow on meeting will be arranged.

BCP and Dorset Council are undertaking a Strategic Green Belt Assessment and members should be aware.

Members should read the Dorset Local Plan Consultation and comment.

The Purbeck Local Plan has been adopted by Dorset Council and does not include anything that will have much effect on Upton.

It was felt the Town Council should be consulted on the proposed Poole – Wareham cycleway.

Planning – Cllr Burns

The Purbeck Local Plan has been adopted by Dorset Council and it appears Upton has been separated from Lytchett Minster, which is now attached to Lytchett Matravers. The vision for Upton target is 2038, with no major development in Lytchett Minster. However, Lytchett Minster should consider doing a Neighbourhood Plan. Upton is classed as a suburb of Poole and the proposals for a Town Square is still included. There are no plans for this to happen and they will be requested to remove it from the draft.

163/20 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS/DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:

Report by Cllr A Brenton & Cllr A J Starr– Dorset Council

The Covid vaccination programme is going well in Dorset. The Poole port and Wareham Hospital hubs are now booking over 65s and some 60+ people with health problems.

The Consultation on the Dorset Local Plan is up and running until March however there is criticism of the assumption that everyone has unlimited internet access and ability to cope with large files. It would be unmanageable on a smart phone. There are only 3 hard copies in each library and they have to be booked and collected and then isolated for 72 hours before they can be borrowed again. So highly unlikely to be used by many. There are questions tonight and generally asking that the Consultation is extended into the early summer to allow more public responses.

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163/20 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS/DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:(Cont)

The Consultation is an unwieldy document with many supporting files and maps and it is unclear in places whether the housing numbers include or add on to numbers first published in the Purbeck Plan which is still not finalised as it is still in the office of the Examiner. The Green Belt Strategic Review is useful background reading, analysing the Green Belt of South East Dorset against the NPPF definitions, it does seem as though Lytchett Minster and Upton Green Belt area fills most of the criteria. There is a problem ongoing in Dorset that in order to reduce commuting miles with all that traffic and air pollution houses may need to be built on land which is at present designated as Green Belt.

The Plans for Town development are in many places out - dated, Covid and other events have made them irrelevant. Will we need so many High Street shopping outlets in future, should we concentrate on encouraging windfall and redevelopment of empty shops into housing or public open space?. It also does not mesh well with the Climate Emergency Consultation and demands for a more green future, public space perhaps should be made more biodiverse leaving behind the formal tidiness of town planting and encouraging a more relaxed wildlife friendly style of planting suitable for hedgehogs and toads. Any road junction where traffic has to wait is prone to air pollution and dense shrub planting or hedges can trap NOx particles, so should be considered.

Please comment as individuals as well as a Town Council. None of the Planning applications heard recently at the East Planning Committee directly affect Upton and Lytchett Minster.

There was an interesting meeting of the **20 is plenty** campaign, and there may be more push by many communities to make Dorset think more favourably about changing speed limits in built up areas.

The Stour Valley and Poole Partnership was attended by Cllr Starr and Brenton but nothing relevant to Upton was discussed this time.

The Green Agenda was discussed in detail at the County Farms meeting with special interest in reducing Nitrogen run off to Poole Harbour. It is hoped that the enlarged sewage treatment plant in Sandford will also reduce Nitrogen entering Poole Harbour.

There is more publicity coming about encouraging the re-use of empty properties bringing them back into use. Many are owned by people in residential care homes and the properties are falling in to disrepair when they could be used by people needing homes.

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163/20 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS/DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:(Cont)

Dorset has also purchased a residential girls school, St Marys Shaftesbury, it is a large site and possible uses include a centre or school for SEN Special needs children or/or a Childrens Home, and Sports Centre/Academy. The public has been asked for suggestions in a Consultation , This was a bit of a gamble but as the Council would like to bring back many fostered and 'children in care' back into the County it was too good a chance to miss.

Generally Dorset is concentrating on Adult and Social care and supporting Childrens Services during a time when there is little money for new initiatives. If by keeping our cared for children closer we can save social worker costs and provide better care it may be good value.

Councillor J R Burns – Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council

The Recreation Ground lease with the Turbary Trust is almost completed, subject to the removal of one clause.

164/20 TO RECEIVE THE SUMMARY OF ACOUNTS TO 31 JANUARY 2021:

This was reviewed by the committee and it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that the financial summary of accounts up to the 31 January 2021 be approved.

165/20 TO RECEIVE LIST OF COUNCIL PAYMENTS UP TO THE DATE OF THE MEETING:

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that the list of payments up to the date of the meeting be agreed.

166/20 ITEMS OF REPORT (INCLUDING PUBLICITY OPPORTUNITIES) AND MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

- a) Wednesday 17 February is the last working day for Jordan Down, the Assistant Groundsman. The Council offered up their good wishes for his future success.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.13 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....

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