

LYTCHETT MINSTER & UPTON TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** was held on **TUESDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2022** in the Council Chamber, 1 Moorland Parade, Moorland Way at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

- Councillor Mrs M Pryor in the Chair
- Councillor R Burns
- Councillor S McKell
- Councillor D Wilson
- Councillor J Sheldon
- Councillor R Griffin
- Councillor P Thompson
- Councillor D White
- Councillor K Austin
- Councillor F H Drane
- Councillor W T Pipe

Also in attendance:

- Mrs K Cane, Town Clerk
- Mrs K Osborne, Deputy Clerk
- Mr Paul Merifield, Outside Operations Manager
- Dorset Councillor Mrs A Brenton
- Dorset Councillor A Starr

Cllr Mrs M Pryor warmly welcomed Paul Merifield to the Town Council in his capacity as newly appointed Outside Operations Manager prior to the commencement of business.

223/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor M Chase (unwell)
- Councillor C Squires (study)

224/22 MINUTES: of the Town Council meeting held on the 18 October 2022 as circulated were confirmed and signed. Cllr Griffin asked if there was any update on Minute 197/22 but was advised that information gathering was still taking place, with input from other Towns in Dorset planned. The Clerk advised this matter will be delayed to a later meeting due to the content of this meeting and incomplete information on the issue of recording/live streaming council meetings.

225/22 CLERKS REPORT:

- a. **Minute 123/18 & 150/22 To discuss the renewal of the lease of the Recreation Ground.** The lease is in the process of being drawn up by the Turbary Trust to the CIO. The CIO members, officers and Cllr Burns met this evening to discuss the Service Level Agreement (SLA) which needs to be in place between the CIO and the Town Council. The Council has produced two documents, which lay out the tasks undertaken. The CIO has been tasked to review these documents and amend as necessary. The

CIO have also been encouraged to undertake a site visit of The Grove. There will be a meeting in two weeks to progress the SLA.

- b. **Lytchett Minster and associated access roads to Lytchett Minster School.** Dorset Council has introduced a new 20 mph policy, and a request has been received for Lytchett Minster. This request will be taken to the Environment Meeting on 22 November 2022.
- c. **Minute 61/20 Footpath Junction of Dorchester Road and Huntick Road to Courtyard Centre.** No further information.
- d. **Minute 34/21 Street Light Upgrades** This work has been completed and all Town Council owned streetlights have now been upgraded, meaning they are more energy and cost efficient and climate friendly. This item will be removed from the Clerks Report.
- e. **Minute 48/21 Flooding in Lytchett Minster and Upton.**
There have been no issues to date in Lytchett Minster; however, it is predicted that the winter will see further flooding events. The Clerk to chase Dorset Council with regard to the works identified at Post Green Road. It was also reported that Poole Road near Upton Country Park has once again flooded, and this will to be reported.
- f. **Minute 14/22 To establish a working party to undertake a review of council governance structure, committees and associated terms of reference.** This meeting is now scheduled for 24 November 2022.
- g. **Minute 116/22 Impact of Upton Country Park on Upton:** Cllr Pipe has requested a reinstated bus service to this location, which should reduce traffic movements.
- h. **149/22 To review land holding at 21, 23, 31 and 33 Poole road.** Please see Minute No 229/22.
- i. **Warm Hub** There were no entries for the Town in the recently circulated directory of Dorset based warm hubs; however, Cllr Pipe updated on the Wednesday afternoon offering from the Royal British Legion, which is soon to be publicised. It also appears that there may be some offering from Upton Library, but this needs to be clarified. It is important that any Warm Hub offering is promoted and publicised. Cllr Sheldon reported

that there is national funding for Warm Hubs – the Dorset Councillors committed to investigate.

226/22 CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence relating to East Dorset and Purbeck Citizens Advice Bureau and the notification of the CIL Payment (Aldi) from Dorset Council were received and noted by members.

227/22 TO CONFIRM THAT CLLR MRS MIKKA PRYOR CONTINUES TO SERVE AS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE TURBARY ALLOTMENT TRUST FOR A PERIOD 2022-2023.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mrs Pryor should continue to serve as a Turbary Trustee.

228/22 TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RESOLVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a) The report of the Environment Committee held on 25 October 2022 as circulated was confirmed, adopted and signed.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve 208/22 Approval of draft budgets.
- b) The report of the Environment Committee held on 1 November 2022 as circulated was confirmed, adopted and signed.

229/22 TO CONSIDER BACKGROUND REPORT AND VALUATION REPORT REGARDING LAND PLOTS AT 21, 23, 31 AND 33 POOLE ROAD AND TO DISCUSS FUTURE PLANS WITH REGARD TO THESE LAND HOLDINGS.

Members commented on the quality of the background report and the professional valuation provided. Cllr Wilson had also provided a summary document of options.

Cllr Sheldon made a proposal to 'Retain land as a Town Council Asset'. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Pipe.

Discussion ensued, with Cllr McKell querying how much it would cost for the Town Council to retain the land.

Cllr Wilson made an amendment to the earlier proposal 'To retain the ownership of the land'. This proposal was not accepted.

Another option mooted was to develop or sell the land for affordable housing.

Cllr Mrs Austin queried whether if the land was retained, it could be used to encourage biodiversity or a wildlife corridor. Bee hives/orchards was also suggested.

Another member suggested planting the land to mitigate air pollution on the busy Poole Road, and to retain it as a green lung.

It was then suggested that this land could be used to foster positive relationships with community groups/networking, and it would be important to get local input.

Concern was also raised regarding the current condition of the plots retained by the Town Council as despite litter picking and minimal maintenance, the plots do look untidy. Should the Council decide to retain them, then they should be tidied up.

It was proposed, seconded and
RESOLVED that the land be retained as a Council asset.

The Outside Operations Manager will complete a review of the land holdings and put forward suggestions as to planting schemes conducive to pollution mitigation and biodiversity. This report will be costed and considered in early 2023.

230/22 TO CONSIDER BUDGETS FOR 2023/24:

The first draft of the full budget for 2023/24, which had previously gone through all committees was presented to members. This represented an increase of 13.8% from 2022/2023, with no Band D figure available as Dorset Council do not release the tax band until December 2022. The Clerk said that should the budget be reduced by £10K, the precept increase would amount to 10.73%. A £20K reduction in the budget would see 7.66% increase and a £30K reduction would be a 4.59% increase.

Members felt that it would be prudent to defer any decisions until after the Government's mini budget at the end of the week, and acknowledged the impact any increase would have on many households who are already struggling.

It was agreed that a review of this should be undertaken at the Town Council meeting in January where a number of options will be presented to the members.

231/22 TO CONSIDER CANCELLING/RESCHEDULING THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON 20 DECEMBER 2022

Cllr Sheldon made a proposal to cancel the Town Council on 20 December 2022, this was seconded by Cllr Pipe. Following a vote it was **RESOLVED** to cancel the Town Council meeting on 20 December 2022.

232/22 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS (INCLUDING DORSET COUNCIL MEMBERS / LUBCA / UPTON TOGETHER/ UPTON IN BLOOM):

Dorset Councillor Brenton: see report attached

Dorset Councillor Pipe: see report attached.

Items in the above reports raised queries regarding an increase in fly-tipping, and associated costs for disposing of certain materials at the Household Recycling Centres. It was agreed to invite a representative from Dorset Council Waste Services to a future Environment Committee Meeting to discuss this.

The various outstanding issues with Aldi were raised, but members were advised these were in hand.

Upton In Bloom: Cllr Griffin reported on a successful couple of weekends of daffodil bulb planting in the Town, which were supplied by Upton Together. The tree planting sponsorship programme is due to recommence shortly, having recently undertaken site visits. This tranche will include the 'Tree of Trees' which is a hazel tree gifted to the Town from outside Buckingham Place, which featured heavily in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. This special tree will be planted in Jubilee Gardens. The bespoke planter will be located in the Town Council offices where it will house a large plant.

The UiB Poetry competition will be held on 7 December 2022 at The Yarrell's – all invited.

Upton Together: Cllr McKell reported Upton Together have recently received a request for help from Boscombe Social Services and were able to assist with a food parcel for a sensitive emergency situation.

Upton Together volunteers also supported the Remembrance Commemorations, undertaking marshalling roles. It was reported that the parade went very well and had a good turnout. The event will be reviewed at the Amenities Committee meeting in December 2022.

Upton Together have been recognised and have been nominated for an award at the Dorset Volunteers Award Ceremony this Friday, in addition the Town Council and Upton in Bloom have also been nominated. Cllrs Griffin, McKell and Pipe will be attending the event.

233/22 TO RECEIVE THE LATEST FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS:

This was reviewed by the Council and it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the financial summary of accounts be approved.

234/22 TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT FOR NOVEMBER 2022 UP TO DAY OF MEETING AND A FULL OCTOBER 2022 PAYMENT LIST:

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the accounts for payment as presented be approved.

235/22 ITEMS OF REPORT (INCLUDING PUBLICITY OPPORTUNITIES) AND MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS.

1. The Town Mayor will be absent from Council for personal reasons from 24 November 2022 and hopes to return in January 2023. In the interim, she has asked Cllr Burns to deputise for her in Cllr Chase's absence.
2. Cllr Pipe reported that he will be unavailable from 5-21 December 2022.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm

DEMOCRATIC SESSION:

A member of the public attended to observe the meeting as he is interested in becoming a Councillor.

Chair.....

Date.....

DRAFT