

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 **21 JANUARY 2020** and commenced at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs M Pryor in the Chair
Councillor F Drane
Councillor J R Burns
Councillor Mrs R J Wood
Councillor M Chase
Councillor Mrs J Marston
Councillor K Brooks
Councillor S McKell
Councillor D Wilson
Councillor D Kennedy
Councillor J Sheldon

Also in attendance: Mrs K Cane, Town Clerk
Mrs B Lake, Office Manager
Dorset Councillor A Brenton
Dorset Councillor A J Starr
Elliot Bell, Youth Advisor

334/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None.

335/19 APOLOGIES: Councillor Mrs J M Richards (personal)
Dorset Councillor W T Pipe (on leave)

336/19 MINUTES: of the Town Council meeting held on 17 December 2019 as circulated were confirmed and signed.

337/19 CLERKS REPORT:

- a. **Valuation Report Regarding Land at Hibbs Close and its Potential Disposal.** Nothing further to report.
- b. **Minute 123/18 To discuss the renewal of the lease of the Recreation Ground.** Nothing further to report. A meeting of the Turbary Trust will take place on Wednesday 22 January 2020.
- c. **Minute 202/18 Lytchett Bay Nature Park Partnership.** Cllr Chase gave an update on the January meeting and the notes will be made available on the Members' area of the Town Council website. A Go Paddle litter pick will take place on Turlin Moor at 10.00 am on 2 February and all are welcome to attend.
- d. **Minute 316/18 To consider providing an information board on 'Upton in Wartime'.** Cllr Brooks gave a brief update on the progress.
- e. **Minute 515/18 To appoint a fire warden for each Town Council owned premises.** Cllr Brooks has been undertaking checks on the TOFS form (Time Out for Safety) for each location – this work is ongoing.
- f. **Minute 66/19 To set up a working party to look at 'Policeman's Lane Development Stage 3'.** No further information. Wyatts will be attending the next full Council meeting and this will be further discussed after that time.

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337/19 CLERKS REPORT:(Cont)

- g. **Minute 266/19 To consider a Review of the Town Plan.** A meeting to be arranged in the New Year to start this process. Cllr Drane will lead this with assistance from Cllr Kennedy.
- h. **Minute 267/19 Charging Position for Depositing Waste at the Local Recycling Centres.** Discussions are in hand with DWP as to arranging a meeting with their appropriate representative.
- i. **Minute 270/19 Frampton Terrace Garden Plot.** Minimal plot clearance has been undertaken and the potholes adjacent to the Town Council plots have been filled. Quotes are being obtained to repair the steps.
- j. **Minute 311/19 Strengthening Police Powers re Unauthorised Encampments.** This has been completed and sent to NALC.

338/19 CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. An email updating members on Neighbourhood policing issues was received from Inspector James Offer. A message of thanks will be sent to him.
- b. A copy of Clerks Direct magazine was received and passed to Cllr Mrs Pryor.
- c. The Clerk magazine containing an article on climate emergency was received and passed to Cllr Mrs Pryor. Dorset Cllr Starr requested a copy of the article.

339/19 TO APPROVE THE DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS:

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the calendar of meetings be approved with one amendment.

340/19 TO APPROVE BUDGETS FOR 2020/2021:

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the budgets for 2020/21 be approved.

341/19 TO SET PRECEPT OF £287,349 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/2021:

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** to set the precept of £287,349 for 2020/2021.

342/19 TO APPROVE EXPENDITURE FOR RECREATION GROUNDS MAINTENANCE FOR 20/21 AND GRASS VERGE CUTTING 20/21:

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

343/19 TO SET DATE FOR ANNUAL ASSEMBLY:

After discussion it was agreed to hold the Annual Assembly on either Wednesday 13 May or Wednesday 20 May 2020 depending on the availability of St Dunstan’s Church.

344/19 ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) The report of the Finance & Administration committee held on 7 January 2020 as circulated was confirmed, adopted and signed.
- b) The report of the Planning committee held on 14 January 2020 as circulated was confirmed, adopted and signed.

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345/19 REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS/DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS:**Report by Cllr A Brenton – Dorset Council**

The Council is at present concentrating on development a Strategic Plan, known as the 'Emerging Plan' which involves setting a vision of vibrant future for Dorset and embedding principles with which to work. This is in consultation at Parish and Town Workshops, but it is good intentions written down.

The budget for 2020=2021 has been discussed in detail. The major overspend last year and assumed this coming year is Adult Social Care and Vulnerable children (Children in Care of with Special needs) both of which have increased in number and the length of time they need care. The budget for both social care items has been increased by £11mill. Dorset will still have to find more money. There is emphasis on improving assessments and putting together more flexible care packages.

Although the Council has inherited many surplus properties and the plan is to sell about £25mill worth local towns and parishes will be consulted first. So no movement yet. Savings from the change to local government have happened in redundancies in staff.

Although the biggest need is for extra funding for Social Care the general public demands more attention to roads and highways maintenance.

It looks as if the council tax precept will be raised by 3.99% which includes a 2% increase just for Adult social care. There will be an increase in the Fire and Police Precept as well. This still has to be confirmed at the February meeting and there will be opposition from North Dorset Councillors as North Dorset had a 10% rise last year to standardize Council Tax across the county with the understanding that there would be no rise this year.

Parking fees across the County will be standardized in different area bands. Coastal, Market Towns and the Rest.

There is a scheme of grants to Volunteer groups and especially new schemes, there is an online survey to fill in. My personal opinion is that the criteria makes applying for a grant difficult for smaller groups and risks turning volunteers into poorly paid council workers. It is running until March so please have a look.

The Dorset Planning system has been under review by an LGA team to consider if the changes are being effective and how the different schemes of delegation have been brought together. Provisionally reports issues include serious problems in uniting the IT system, which has been very consumer unfriendly. Loss of older more experienced planners has reduced staff morale. The planning backlog has built to an unwieldy size slowing down all applications which leads to some rushed decisions just so as to get through according to national guidelines. Lack of training and understanding of the procedures is also a problem with the public leading to overoptimistic expectations. CIL money may not always be used in a timely manner to really help the local area but pooled away from the source.

However at a recent Planning Application the Planning Committee overruled an officers recommendations and supported a refusal on the grounds of a Neighbourhood Plan recommendation.

The extreme rainfall has caused several problems with flooding of the highways and some homes. Highways are responsible for keeping roads open, and problems should be logged for the Environment Agency and should be reported there.

I have been impressed by the efficiency of Hydrosnake and Hydrosacks at keeping small floods out of doorways, both available at local hardware stores. The problems with a broken drain on the westward side of the Upton Bypass will be attended to 20-24 January. The work may cause delays.

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346/19 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.

347/19 TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND TO INSTRUCT MEMBERS TO SIGN CHEQUES AND AUTHORISE PAYMENTS:

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the accounts for January 2020 be approved.

348/19 ITEMS OF REPORT (INCLUDING PUBLICITY OPPORTUNITIES) AND MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

- a. Cllr Mrs Pryor attended an Open Day at the Royal British Legion to receive a defibrillator that will be sited outside the Town Council Offices. Enough money was fundraised to purchase three defibrillators and the others will be sited at the British Legion and the Courtyard Centre.
- b. Cllr Wilson attended a Dorset Prepared Resilience Day regarding flooding which he found very interesting. It was felt that 3-4 persons should be nominated to form a 'flood team' and this will be included on the agenda of the Environment committee meeting in February.
- c. The funeral of ex-Councillor Mike Holmes will take place at Lytchett Minster Church at 11.00 am on Monday 27 January 2020. See Confidential Minute.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....

