

SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL held at The Manor House, Sherborne, on Monday 22 JANUARY 2018 at 6.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr J Hogben (Town Mayor)
Cllrs D Birley, J Carey, D Elliott, S Greene,
A Hall, M Hall, R Legg, J Pentolfe and K Pike

In attendance: Mr T Savage (Town Clerk)
Mrs S Woodford (Civic Administrator)
Mrs Y Hale (Responsible Finance Officer)

Youth Advisors: *Natasha Linhart of Sherborne Girls School*
Hannah Shirley of Sherborne Girls School
Joseph McCloskey of The Gryphon School

119. PUBLIC SESSION

119.1 Police Report – Apologies were received from Sgt Want who was unable to attend the meeting.

119.2 Mr Mike Keating spoke about the loss of the 57 Bus Service in Sherborne, which is being axed by the operators from early February 2018 as it is not economically sustainable as most passengers only pay concessionary fares. Other operators have been approached and the option to establish a Community Transport Association is being considered. The administration of such a scheme may be complex, but if modest charges were introduced (£1.00) and subsidies not offered it could be a viable option to replace the 57 service. Only subscribed members would be able to use the service, otherwise it would become a ‘bus service’ and then be obliged to be part of the concessionary fare scheme. Sherborne Transport Action Group (STAG) has written to Oliver Letwin MP regarding the failings of the Concessionary Fare Scheme which he has endorsed and forwarded to the Secretary of State.

Mr Roy Pike asked if the Community service would extend to Yeovil, Mr Keating was not sure at this point.

Anna Finch supported the proposals and spoke of the loss of the 57 service and the hardship it would bring the regular users, for many it is a social outing and a life line to their friends.

Cllr Peter Shorland invited Mr Keating to address a meeting of the members of the West End Community Association in February (date to be agreed) and he encouraged anyone interest in this subject to attend.

Cllr Greene spoke of the alternative to re-route the X10 and X12 so that they deviate through to the West End. She referred to the size of the buses and disruption to tight schedules may be an issue.

119.3 Cllr M Hall raised two issues regarding the formation of a unitary authority, although the Secretary of State is due to give his decision by early February. He confirmed that the new authority would be called ‘The Dorset Council’. The new authority could be either a District with County powers or a County with District powers and Cllr Hall confirmed it had been agreed that the ‘Dorset Council’ should be the latter and the election cycle should be in line with the national county council framework with elections in May 2019 and 2024 for 5 year periods as 5 year terms were preferable as it would enable the members to accommodate the learning curve which will be created by the new council. Cllr Hall confirmed that there was a preference to adjust the length of office to 5 years for the Parish and Town sector to mirror the Dorset Council.

120. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Apologies had been received from County Cllr Andrews due on leave.

121. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Andrews and Cllr A Cook

122. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

Councillors were reminded of their obligations to declare their interests in the following items and to indicate the action they will be taking when the item is considered in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Model Code of Conduct prepared to comply with the requirements of Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011.

122.1 Cllrs Elliott, M Hall and Legg declared an interest in Agenda Item No 7 as members of the District Council and would not vote.

122.2 Cllrs Elliott, M Hall and Legg declared an interest in Agenda Item No 11 as members of the District Council and would not vote.

122.3 Cllrs Elliott and Legg declared an interest in Agenda Item No 12 as members of the District Council Plans Committee and would not vote.

123. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 December 2017

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Birley and SECONDED by Cllr M Hall and AGREED unanimously that:

The Minutes (Appendix A), having been circulated to Members prior to the meeting were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

124. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

124.1 Cllr Hogben reported on the work of the Sherborne Food Bank and its efforts to assist during school holidays as that is when some parents find it hardest to provide for their children.

124.2 The Sherborne District Dementia Action Alliance is organising an open meeting to be held on Tuesday 20 February from 12 noon to 2.00 pm at the Oxley Sports Centre to promote the idea of local fundraising for an Admiral Nurse. An Admiral Nurse is a specialist dementia nurse who would work alongside people living with this challenging health condition and their families to provide expert support, guidance and practical solutions that enable them to live well with dementia.

124.3 Filming for the feature film 'Mari' should commence on 4 February and run for approximately two weeks.

125. PLANS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Cllr Pike briefed members on the committee meeting of 8 January 2018.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Pike and SECONDED by Cllr A Hall and AGREED (7 in favour and 3 non votes) that:

The Minutes of the Plans Committee (Appendix B) held on 8 January were received and adopted

Cllr M Hall confirmed that Magna Housing will resubmit their applications for Littlefield and McCreery Road, proposing housing of a modular design, and that the Local Plan Review had been delayed.

126. FINANCE AND RESOURCES

126.1 Payment Schedule

Cllr Pentolfe introduced the items relating to finance commencing with the Payment Schedule, the paper was noted (see Appendix C) and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Pentolfe and SECONDED by Cllr Carey and AGREED unanimously:

That for the period 12/12/17 to 22/1/18 payment of Cheque (108281 to 108283) of £2,273.75, Credit Card Payments of £376.45, BACS Payments of £56,077.75 and Direct Debits amounting to £5,441.52 be approved from the Town Council Current Account and that for the period 12/12/17 to 22/1/18 BACS Payments of £7,223.52 and Direct Debits of £1,244.01 be approved from the Digby Hall and Library Account.

126.2 Bank Balances

The paper was noted (Appendix D) and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Elliott and SECONDED by Cllr Pentolfe and AGREED unanimously that:

The Bank Balances/Reconciliations for Sherborne Town Council and the Digby Hall and Library as of the 31 December 2017 are approved.

126.3 Budget Review - Quarter to December 2017

The paper was noted (Appendix E) and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Carey and SECONDED by Cllr Birley and AGREED unanimously that:

The Town Council receives and notes the Budget / Actual Comparisons report for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 December 2017.

126.4 Charges Review

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix F) providing them with details of the proposed charges for 2018/2019. The charges for the Digby Hall remain as last year, except for an increase in the fee for caretaker support. The Terrace Playing Field is subject to minimal increases and some of the Cemetery charges have been amended. Most other charges are linked to property with a recommended increase of 3.9% based on the September 2017 Retail Price Index.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Pentolfe and SECONDED by Cllr A Hall and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council agrees that the charges for 2018/2019, as contained in Appendix F, are approved and implemented from 1 April 2018.

126.5 Budget and Precept 2018/2019

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix G) detailing the draft budget proposals as discussed at the Budget Seminars for Councillors held on 15 January 2018. Members noted the withdrawal of the Council Tax Support Grant and the importance of maintaining the existing range of services to Sherborne residents and expressed their desire to prepare financially for the devolution of services from WDDC and DCC. They also noted the increase in the Council Tax Base figure and the Government decision not to cap Town and Parish Councils for the next three

years. Cllr M Hall made reference STC investigating potential income generating opportunities to help fund service delivery and ease the burden on the Precept.

Cllr Pentolfe thanked the Responsible Finance Officer, Yvonne Hale, for her diligent work in preparing the papers for the budget.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Elliott and SECONDED by Cllr Carey and agreed unanimously that Sherborne Town Council:

Approves the budget figure of £717,510 for the 2018/2019 financial year less the Local Tax Support Grant of £0.00 from WDDC, resulting in a Precept for 2018/19 of £717,510 which equates to a Precept figure for a Band D property in 2018/19 of £203.79.

127. SHERBORNE TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix H) recommending they consider a request for an interest free loan extension by Sherborne Town Football Club (STFC). STFC have worked hard to improve the Club's leased facilities at the Terrace Playing Field over a number of years and have significantly enhanced the facilities, with little investment from STC. STC has previously entered into loan agreements, from as early as 2004, with STFC and throughout that time they have met repayment responsibilities. STFC now wish to invest £5,000 in replacing the hot water system that serves the showers and hot water system at the club house and are seeking a loan from STC. It was noted that if STFC defaulted or re-located then the ground would revert to the control and management of STC.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Birley and SECONDED by Cllr Pentolfe and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council:

- i) Notes the content of the report and the efforts of STFC to improve the footballing facilities at the Terrace Playing Fields.**
- ii) Approves an interest free loan advance of £5,000 to be used for rectifying the heating and hot water system within the STFC club house.**
- iii) Agrees to add the additional £5,000 interest free loan to the existing loan agreement dated 1 April 2013 and to retain the present terms of repayment until full settlement has been achieved by STFC.**

128. DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL CYCLE PARKING CONSULTATION

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix I) suggesting that they complete a brief consultation on cycle parking within Sherborne. Members were of the view that there is presently too little provision for cycle parking but were unable to agree on where best to site the parks. Reference was made to using existing car parks to site more cycle racks, and to avoid areas close to the Conduit, Abbey and Church Path. It was suggested that DCC are invited to visit Sherborne and assess the various suggested sites.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Elliott and SECONDED by Cllr A Hall and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council asks the Clerk to invite DCC to a site meeting in Sherborne to agree additional locations.

129. WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix J) intended to update them on the recent introduction of the District Council's use of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the benefits that Sherborne will derive from the scheme. WDDC has recently initiated the first transfer of the neighbourhood proportion of the CIL they have collected in the Parish of Sherborne. It was noted that should Sherborne complete a Neighbourhood Plan (NP), then the proportion of CIL would rise from 15% to 25%. Cllr Legg suggested that the cost of producing a NP should be calculated in comparison to the increase in CIL likely to be received from the many new developments proposed over the coming years. Cllr Pike remained sceptical about the benefits of a NP fearing that it will be disregarded and be of little benefit.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Carey and SECONDED by Cllr Birley and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council notes the contents of the report on CIL.

130. SHERBORNE WEST END COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix K) asking them to consider the submission of an additional planning application for works to the West End Community Centre on behalf of West End Community Association. The Council first considered this matter in February 2014 when they agreed to act as applicant for the re-submission of the application to extend the West End Hall. The current application is a relatively minor amendment.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr M Hall and SECONDED by Cllr Greene and AGREED (7 in favour, 1 abstention and 2 non-votes) that:

Sherborne Town Council supports the request from the Sherborne West End Community Association for Sherborne Town Council to act as applicant for the submission of the planning application to replace the flat roof area over the bar and cellar at the West End Community Hall.

131. SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL – FORWARD PLAN 2015-2019

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix L) asking them to note the progress to date in delivering the Forward Plan and to consider whether to freeze a number of topics and amend the grid system used to demonstrate progress. Members noted that there was some overlap with the potential for provision of services for WDDC and DCC which may impact on these topics in the future.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr M Hall and SECONDED by Cllr Legg and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council:

- i) Notes the progress being made in delivering the Sherborne Town Council forward Plan 2015-2019.**
- ii) Agrees to freeze 8 of the Topics referred to in Section 4 of the Report at Appendix L.**

132. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

There were no reports.

133. EXEMPT BUSINESS

There was no exempt business.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

..... Town Mayor