SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL held at The Manor House, Sherborne, on Monday 15 February 2016 at 6.45 p.m.

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

In attendance: Mr T Savage (Town Clerk)  
Mrs S Woodford (Civic Administrator)

Youth Advisors: None present

137. PUBLIC SESSION

137.1 Police Report  Due to operational Policing needs there was no report.

138. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Cllr Gould reported on a challenging budget setting meetings at County Hall. The anticipated £7.4m short-fall has been reduced following negotiations on the methodology used to calculate the funds available from central government. Transitional measures have been introduced which will help over the next three years, this year £4.1m is available with an extra amount to take account of the rural nature of Dorset. There is a need for £13m savings in this year’s budget. The social care levy and 2% social care precept will provide £3.9m towards adult social care in Dorset.
- Further meetings are to take place regarding the Youth Centre in Tinneys Lane, attended to date by Cllr Pentolfe. The group are preparing a sustainable business plan for consideration by DCC.
- DCC, as the transport authority, is reviewing the rail franchise due for renewal. Two bidders are in place for the South West service which links most parts of the County. DCC has made a submission working with the Local Enterprise Partnership suggesting the establishment of a route from Weymouth via Yeovil, or Bournemouth to the West. Sherborne station had 212,000 users in 2013.
- Cllr Greene encouraged changes to the services from Bournemouth to the west and a better route.
- Cllr Legg queried the route being supported by DCC.
- Cllr Pike suggested that DCC may now be able to afford the bollards at the Acreman Street junction, the offer of which had been recently withdrawn.
- Cllr Greene asked what the prospects were for the future of adult social care as there have been reductions in the service. Cllr Gould emphasised the need for the NHS and Adult Social Care to work together utilising the ‘better care fund’. Cllr Greene suggested the care arrangements operated by Wiltshire County Council, Cllr Gould confirmed DCC are reviewing various types of care package.

139. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Andrews, Cook, A Hall, M Hall and all Youth Advisors.

140. 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.

140. Cllrs Elliott, Legg and M Hall declared an interest in Agenda Items No 7 all as Members of West Dorset District Council.
141. **MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2016**

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

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

142. **MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The paper was tabled and noted (Appendix A)

143. **PLANS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Cllr Pike briefed members on the committee meeting of 1 February 2016.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Pike and SECONDED by Cllr Hogben and AGREED (6 in favour and 2 non-votes) that:

The Minutes of the Plans Committee (Appendix B) held on 1 February 2016 were received and adopted.

144. **FINANCE AND RESOURCES**

144.1 **Payment Schedule**

The paper was noted (see Appendix C) and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Legg and SECONDED by Cllr Carey and AGREED unanimously that:

Payment of cheques (108230 - 108231) for the period 19/1/16 to 15/2/16 totalling £723.69, Credit Card Payments of £214.00, BACS Payments of £100,103.45 and Direct Debits amounting to £2,350.94 be approved from the Town Council Current Account and that for the period 19/1/16 to 15/2/16 BACS Payments of £4,458.00 and Direct Debits amounting to £200.12 be approved from the Digby Hall and Library Account.

144.2 **Bank Balances**

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

The Bank Balances as of the 31 January 2016 are approved.

144.3 **Budget Review – Quarter to December 2015**

The paper was noted (Appendix E).

144.4 **Grant Application – Sherborne Douzelage**

Members considered a grant application from Sherborne Douzelage (Appendix F) and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Legg and SECONDED by Cllr Greene and AGREED (7 in favour and 1 abstention) that:

Sherborne Town Council grant £266 towards Sherborne Douzelage.
DIGBY HALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix G) and a copy of the WDDC Arts Facilities in Sherborne Report considered at the Executive Committee on 9 February 2016. Discussion focused on the possible allocation of £500,000 by WDDC to STC for the Digby Hall Project, Members were cautious as there are caveats attached to the offer which will require careful consideration.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Hogben and SECONDED by Cllr Carey and AGREED unanimously that Sherborne Town Council:

- Notes the positive content of the WDDC Executive Committee Report
- Approves the establishment of a Working Group with an initial brief of considering the caveats proposed by WDDC and to report its findings and recommendations to a future Town Council meeting. The Working Group to be made up of the Mayor (Cllr Elliott) and Deputy Mayor (Cllr Birley), the Property Portfolio Holder (Cllr Pike), Cllr M Hall and Cllr Pentolfe.

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix H) detailing the history of the Adventure Playground and the outcome of a recent RoSPA inspection which identified equipment failure, some of which can be rectified whilst others have reached the end of their serviceable life. Consideration was also given to the retention of the grass mounds, as these require increased man hours for maintenance due to their shape.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Legg and SECONDED by Cllr Pentolfe and AGREED unanimously that Sherborne Town Council:

- Notes the findings of the RoSPA inspection and instructs Officers to take no action in relation to the disused cycle track.
- Instructs Officers to dismantle the Multi-Play Adventure as soon as is practically possible.
- Approves expenditure authority to de-rust and repaint the swings and either re-glue or fill the gaps in the safety surfacing as identified by RoSPA, working within approved budgets.
- To delay any decision on the removal of the grass mounds.

DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL – HIGHWAY BOLLARDS

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix I) confirming the County Council’s decision to withdraw financial support to STC for the erection and removal of the bollards in Cheap Street/Abbey Road on a Saturday. In addition the report confirmed DCC’s withdrawal of financial support for the installation of additional bollards at the Acreman Street junction.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Legg and SECONDED by Cllr Hogben and AGREED unanimously that Sherborne Town Council:

- Notes the withdrawal of DCC annual financial contribution to the installation of the Cheap Street and Abbey Road Bollards and recognises DCC’s commitment to maintain these bollards in the long term.
- Notes DCC’s position of being unable to fund the installation of the wooden and metal bollards at the Acreman Street junction as originally indicated.
- Instructs Officers to continue with the installation of the Cheap Street and Abbey Road bollards on a Saturday with those costs being incurred by Sherborne Town Council.
• Approves expenditure authority for the Saturday installation of the Cheap Street and Abbey Road bollards from the Service Devolution Budget from 1 April 2016.

• Instructs Officers to install up to sixteen wooden posts in the green area at the Acreman Street junction, working within the approved annual budgets.

148. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER – DEVELOPMENT AT BARTON FARM

Proposed amendments to Traffic Orders relating to aspects of the development of Barton Farm had been received and members views were sought:

149.1 Proposed amendment to the 40 mph speed limit on the A30.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Greene and SECONDED by Cllr Hogben and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council is in agreement with the proposal

149.2 Proposed prohibition of motor vehicles to Barton Gardens, Trent Path Lane and Sheeplands Lane.

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

STC is concerned about the closure of the Barton Gardens road junction onto Sheeplands Lane – the northern of the two areas proposed for closure. If there is concern about the use of Barton Garden as a ‘rat run’, then an engineering solution should be found that would make a left turn from Sheeplands Lane into Barton Gardens very difficult. The junction could operate as a slip road exit only for Barton Road traffic to reach the new light controlled junction. It also recommends the provision of yellow hatch lines, as in a box junction, at the eastern junction of Barton Gardens with the A30 (opposite the BP garage) to make it easier to use that junction at times of heavy traffic. Members would appreciate the opportunity to comment on any subsequent plans before approval by the Highways Authority.

149.3 Proposed one-way restriction of Sheeplands Lane

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Greene and SECONDED by Cllr Legg and AGREED (7 in favour and 1 abstention) that:

Sherborne Town Council is in agreement with the proposal.

150. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

150.1 Cllr Pike reported on a recent meeting of the CPRE and announced that the AGM will be taking place on 19 March 2016.

150.2 Cllr Pentolfe reported on the recent meetings of the Residents Working Group that are endeavouring to take responsibility for the Tinneys Lane Youth Centre as Dorset County Council will cease operating the Centre at the end of August 2016. The Town Clerk informed Members that he had received correspondence from the Residents Working Group requesting that the Town Council appoint an official representative to this group.

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

Cllr Pentolfe is appointed as Sherborne Town Council representative on the Residents Group working to save Tinneys Lane Youth Centre.
EXEMPT BUSINESS

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Elliott and SECONDED by Cllr Legg and AGREED unanimously

That in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960), the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, within the meaning of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

151.1 SHERBORNE AREA PARTNERSHIP

Members were in receipt of a confidential report containing recommendations with regard to the staffing implications resulting from the funding short fall for SAP from 31 March 2016 and the arrangements under consideration for the future of the Partnership and following discussion it was PROPOSED by Cllr Legg and SECONDED by Cllr Carey and AGREED (7 in favour and 1 abstention) that Sherborne Town Council:

- Notes the decision of WDDC to significantly reduce funding to SAP at the Executive Committee Meeting held on 12 January 2016.
- Notes the decision of STC at the Town Council meeting on 18 January 2016 to withdraw funding to SAP from 31 March 2016.
- Approves the termination of the contracts of employment of the SAP employees as the 31 March 2016.
- Instructs the Town Clerk to arrange the redundancy payments, and payments in lieu of notice, to the SAP employees as detailed within paragraph 6.0 of this report.
- Instructs the Town Clerk to issue letters confirming the termination of the contracts of employment to the SAP employees on 16 February 2016 as detailed with paragraph 6.0 of this report.
- Supports in principle the concept of the SAP Executive working with Dorset Community Action as detailed in paragraph 7.4 of the report.

151.2 STAFF MATTERS

Members received a verbal report from the Town Clerk in relation to Employee Number 53 who has returned to work having been signed as fit to carry out all aspects of his job description by his Doctor. The Town Clerk briefed members in relation to Employee Number 64 who is contracted to work 15 hours per week, but had increased his work hours during the absence of Employee No. 53 and had carried out that work to a high standard. A proposal to employ Employee Number 64 to provide a cleaning service at the Manor House working within the approved budget was presented by The Town Clerk for consideration and after discussion it was PROPOSED by Cllr Carey and SECONDED by Cllr Pike and AGREED unanimously that Sherborne Town Council:

- Notes the content of the verbal report.
- Notes the return to work of Employee Number 53.
- Approves the additional employment of Employee Number 64 to provide a specific cleaning service (as detailed in the verbal report) working within approved budgets.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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