

## **SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of the SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL held at The Manor House, Sherborne, on Monday 21 January 2019 at 6.45 p.m.

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

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

*Youth Advisors:* Ellie Cruz (Sherborne Girls)  
Charlotte Bailey (Sherborne Girls)  
Katie Witcher (The Gyphon)

### **100. PUBLIC SESSION**

100.1 Police Report – Sgt Want was not able to attend due to operational need but had provided the Town Clerk with the figures for December which totalled 27 crimes which is a low figure for the time of year. 5 of these crimes took place within one household.

### **101. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- Cllr Andrews reported that a number of abandoned vehicles, reported previously at the December Town Council meeting, had been removed thanks to the combined efforts of the Dorset Waste Partnership and DCC.
- Road Traffic Orders relating to parking restrictions will hopefully be issued next week, there has been a delay due to staff absence and hand-over to new staff within DCC.
- RTOs are to be introduced on Station Road from 4 to 29 March to enable works by Southern Gas. Cllr Pike expressed concern about this in relation to the recent works on station bridge, but it was thought that the services are carried over the river in separate pipe.
- Cllr Andrews has been in contact with Martin Underhill, the Police and Crime Commissioner, to discuss the shortage of police in the Sherborne area, another burglary has taken place in Cheap Street and the town is vulnerable due to lack of a police presence.
- Cllr Pike asked Cllr Andrews about the state of the steps in the Secret Garden. Cllr Andrews considered these steps to be the responsibility of Persimmon Homes rather than the County Council. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would contact Persimmon, and copy the correspondence to DCC, highlighting the issues with access to the Secret Garden.
- Cllr M Hall was concerned about the lack of a Give Way sign at the end of Newland, although there is a sign in Cheap Street. A lot of traffic is failing to give way to oncoming traffic and causing problems at the Newland/Cheap Street junction.
- Cllr Greene was concerned about certain drivers habitually turning left out of Newland and going into the top of Cheap Street, despite the signage indicating that this is not permitted.
- Cllr Andrews pointed out that these problems can only be addressed by the police.

### **102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cook.

### **103. 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.

103.1 Cllr Elliott, Cllr M Hall and Cllr Legg declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 7 as District Councillors.

103.2 Cllr Hall declared an interested in Item 10 as a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

### **104. MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 December 2018**

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Pentolfe and SECONDED by Cllr A Hall and AGREED (10 in favour and 1 non-vote) that:

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

### **105. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

### **106. PLANS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Cllr Greene briefed members on the committee meeting of 7 January 2019. Cllr Pike, who was unable to attend the meeting, queried the state of the sewage system covering the Barton Farm development, as it has been reported locally that there was a recent sewage overspill. Cllr M Hall gave assurance that DCC and WDDC are aware of the problem.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Greene and SECONDED by Cllr A Hall and AGREED (5 in favour and 6 non-votes) that:

**The Minutes of the Plans Committee (Appendix B) held on 7 January were received and adopted.**

### **107. FINANCE AND RESOURCES**

#### 107.1 Payment Schedule

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

**That for the period 10/12/18 to 21/1/19 payment of Cheque (108403) of £1,000, Credit Card Payments of £422.54, BACS Payments of £49,993.41 and Direct Debits of £7,139.35 be approved from the Town Council Current Account and that for the 10/12/18 to 21/1/19, BACS Payment of £6,112.47 and Direct Debits of £1,355.38 be approved from the Digby Hall and Library Account.**

#### 107.2 Bank Balances

The paper for December 2018 was noted (Appendix D) and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Andrews and SECONDED by Cllr Birley and AGREED unanimously that:

**The Bank Balances/Reconciliations for Sherborne Town Council and the Digby Hall and Library as of the 31 December 2018 are approved.**

107.3 Budget Review - Quarter to December 2018

The paper was noted (Appendix E) and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Carey and SECONDED by Cllr Warburton and AGREED (10 in favour and 1 abstention) that:

**The Town Council receives and notes the Budget / Actual Comparisons report for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 December 2018.**

107.4 Fees and Charges Review

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix F) providing them with details of the proposed charges for 2019/2020, which predominantly remain unchanged for the coming year. As part of the refurbishment of the Digby Hall it is proposed to introduce a revised charging system from September 2019.

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

**Sherborne Town Council agrees that the charges for 2019/2020, as contained in Appendix F, are approved and implemented from 1 April 2019.**

107.5 Budget and Precept 2019/2020

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix G) detailing the draft budget proposals as discussed at the Budget Seminars for Councillors held on 18 December 2018. Members gave consideration to the loss of the WDDC grant, the increase in the Council Tax Base, the Government's decision not to cap Parish and Town Councils for the three-year period to 2021, the importance of maintaining a service to the residents of Sherborne and their desire to prepare financially for the devolution of services from WDDC and DCC. Cllr Pentolfe thanked Yvonne Hale (RFO), for her diligent work in preparing the budget papers.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Warburton and SECONDED by Cllr Pentolfe and AGREED (10 in favour and 1 abstention) that Sherborne Town Council:

**Approves the budget figure of £759,085 for the 2019/2020 financial year less the Local Tax Support Grant of £0.00 from WDDC, resulting in a Precept for 2019/20 of £759,085 which equates to a Precept figure for a Band D property in 2019/20 of £209.01.**

**108. SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN**

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix H) updating them on the status of the 2015-2019 Forward Plan. It was noted that there are eight topics within the Forward Plan that rely on other parties contributing to the process, so some of these topics have not progressed. Members were required to consider whether these topics should be put on hold (frozen) for the remainder of the councils 4 year period of administration finishing in May 2019. Members sought confirmation that these topics could be 'unfrozen' by the new council in May 2019, if that council wished to include them. Members noted that the next Forward Plan would cover 5 years.

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

**Sherborne Town Council:**

- i) Puts on hold (freezes) any projects that involve the District or the County Council until after the new Unitary Council is in place.**
- ii) Notes the progress being made in delivering the Sherborne Town Council Forward Plan 2015-2019.**

**109. DORSET COUNTY PENSION SCHEME**

Members were in receipt of a report (Appendix I) seeking Members approval of the Statement of Policy on the Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 Discretions.

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

**Sherborne Town Council adopts the Statement of Policy on the Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 Discretions, as contained in Appendix B of the report at Appendix I) and a copy sent to Dorset County Pensions Fund.**

**110. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ORGANISATIONS**

There were no reports.

**111. EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There was no exempt business.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

..... Town Mayor