

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE14th January 2020

PRESENT Councillors: M. Parker (Chairman)
A. Biggs
Mrs. L. Clark
Mrs. T. Coombs
Mrs. L. Dedden
Ms. J. Russell
P. Smith
M. Thorpe

Apologies were given by Cllrs: S. Flower, Mrs. S. Grove, P J Mann & Mrs. P. Morrow

Also in attendance Cllr: Miss B. Salmon.

Also in attendance: Mrs. V. J. Bright, Town Clerk & Mrs. J. Sebire, Assistant Town Clerk.

Public: 0

233/19 Declaration of Interests and Requests for Dispensations.

None.

234/19 Clerk's Report.

a) **Dorset Council** sent an email regarding B.T's removal of public call boxes. There are two in the Civil Parish, one in Verwood outside the Verwood Memorial Hall and one on Verwood Road opposite Furzelands Road, Three Legged Cross. A response was required by 21st January 2020. Discussion took place regarding both boxes and concerns were raised regarding those residents who do not have mobile phones, the unreliable signal at Three Legged Cross and concern regarding emergency calls. The Clerk was asked to write that the Town Council do not support the removal of either public call box.

b) **Dorset Council** sent information, after a meeting with Councillor Mrs Coombs, regarding the Town Council's request for a crossing near The Chase and disability access from Verwood Town Centre to Morrisons. The email was sent to all members. Discussion took place regarding providing a crossing on Ringwood Road as exiting the footpath from the Chase onto Ringwood Road, there is no pavement on that side. The Town Council were asked to support the investigation of putting in a Zebra Crossing. Further discussion took place regarding the need for a crossing on Horton Road at Three Legged Cross near the Nursing Home. Members agreed that the Clerk write to Dorset Council to support the investigations of providing Zebra Crossings on Ringwood Road, Verwood and Horton Road, Three Legged Cross.

Concern had been raised regarding the footpath down to Morrisons from Manor Road to Cartref Close. The footpath has a slope and is difficult for mobility scooters to use and the pathway is uneven. Discussion took place regarding a possible crossing on Manor Road and members agreed that the Clerk write to Dorset Council to ask if they would investigate improving the footpath from Manor Road to Cartref Close and the provision of a crossing on Manor Road.

c) **Trinity CE VA First School** sent an email that they have been advised by the Dorset Council to contact the Town Council as they have a concern for the safety of their children. They have asked if the Dorset Council are able to install the children's

figures, Billy & Belinda (Bollards) to deter motorists from speeding or driving irresponsibly around the school. The Town Council were asked for their support. After discussion members of the committee did not support the bollards as they felt there was no clear evidence of need, concern that pedestrians may end up on the road to go around them and aesthetically, they were not appropriate.

d) **The Clerk** reported that Verwood Concert Brass will now be taking part in a contest on the weekend of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in May so will not be holding any events.

e) **Local Action Group.** Notes from the last meeting on 2nd December were copied to all members.

235/19 Monthly Budgets.

The monthly budget reports for December 2019 would be circulated at the Full Town Council.

236/19 To appoint two members to review the effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit.

Following discussion it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that Councillors M.Parker and M.Thorpe be appointed to review the effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit.

237/19 Rural Network.

Minute 212/19(b) refers. Information had been sought regarding the subscription to the Rural Network which would be £150. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Town Council subscribe for one year at a cost of £150 and review it annually. Members also recommended that a representative be appointed on Other Bodies in May.

238/19 Town Council Offices Carbon Footprint.

A report regarding a carbon offsetting plan for the Town Council Offices was copied to all Members. Discussion took place that the Town Council cannot reduce their carbon output due to the gas central heating and that, based on an annual emission of 36 tonnes of CO₂, there are carbon offsetting plans that the council could invest in, costing upwards of £216 (£6 per tonne). It was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the Town Council offset their carbon footprint by investing £216 in projects which include carbon avoidance and clean and renewable energy generation and that the Press and PR Councillor send out a press release.

239/19 Min. 212/19(d) refers Proposed main modifications to the New Forest District (Outside the National Park) Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1 Planning Strategy. The

consultation documents and response forms are available at

<http://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/18663/Local-Plan-Examination>.

After discussion the Clerk was asked to write that the Town Council have no comments.

240/19 Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils.

Information regarding the subscription charges were sent to all members. The Electorate for Verwood and Three Legged Cross is 12,095. After discussion it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that the subscription is renewed.

241/19 Estimates for Expenditure for 2020/2021.

A schedule for the ensuing year, which had been copied to all members, had been submitted, the schedule was duly approved and it was proposed, seconded and RECOMMENDED that a precept of £341,512 be levied in accordance with the requirements of the schedule, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

242/19 Reports on Health & Safety aspects from the Amenities Committee members.

The inspection of the Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces and the Cemetery had taken place and no issues had been raised. Information was given that the Three Legged Cross Recreation Ground and the Doorstep Green area were closed due to the installation of a new Teen Area. This was due to the weather and the state of the grounds.

243/19 Other reports and items for future agendas.

- a) The Clerk had met with a representative from CCLA regarding investments and this will be a future agenda item.
- b) Bugdens copse walkway is in a bad state at the moment due to the weather. The Clerk would report it to the Countryside Agency.
- c) OMNIsector Ltd sent information on community engagement regarding effective community solutions optimised for results. This will be investigated and be a future agenda item.
- d) Information was given on CCTV provision at Potterne Park.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35p.m.

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Chairman