

VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

23rd June 2020

This meeting was a video conference call.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs.P.Morrow (Mayor)
Mrs.S.Bhose
Mrs.L.Clark
Mrs.T.B.Coombs
Mrs.L.Dedden
S.Gibson
Mrs.S.Grove
M.Hudson
P.J.Mann
M.Parker
Mrs.S.Rose
Ms.J.Russell
Miss B.Salmon
Miss.K.Stephens

Apologies from Cllrs: A Biggs, S Flower & M Thorpe

In attendance:- Mrs.V.J.Bright, Town Clerk & Mrs J.Sebire, Assistant Town Clerk

Public: 1

341/19 Declaration of Interests.

None.

342/19 Minutes of the Meeting held 26th May 2020 as circulated, were confirmed and signed.

343/19 To receive the minutes of the Meetings held on 25th May, 1st June & 8th June 2020 of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee during COVID 19 as circulated, were confirmed and signed.

344/19 Policing.

A report was circulated to all members which included crime figures. Discussion took place regarding the report which showed low Anti-Social Behaviour numbers. A suggestion was made that residents are encouraged to report incidents direct to the police and this will be publicised in the next issue of the Verwood Vista as well as via the website and Facebook page.

345/19 Clerk's Report

a) **Residents' enquiries and complaints** were copied to all members and were noted.

b) **National Association of Local Councils (NALC)** sent out a consultation on a new Code of Conduct which has been copied to all members. This will be an agenda item at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting which will be held on 7th July.

- c) **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils** sent out a consultation from NALC regarding the Labour Coronavirus & the Future of Local Government commission on local government, housing & transport. A draft response was sent to all members and it was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the draft response is accepted but an addition supporting NALC's request that renewed national investment for bus services in rural areas should be made and then the response sent to NALC by the deadline of 24th June.
- d) **Grundon Estates** sent an email regarding the proposed sand extraction by Grundon Sand & Gravel on land known as Purple Haze, south of Verwood. A further online consultation would take place later. Dorset Councillor Simon Gibson advised that he circulate a report of a meeting he would be attending with the Friends of Ringwood Forest & the Purple Haze Campaign.
- e) **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils** sent out a consultation regarding the DAPTC Constitution Review. This will be discussed further at the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.
- f) **Vacancy on Stephens Castle Ward** No election was called for so the Town Council will be able to co-opt as and when members agree.

346/19 The Reports of the Plans Consultative Committee meeting held 10th June 2020 as circulated, were confirmed, adopted and signed.

347/19 Amenities Committee:

- a) Allotments. A request for a health and safety assessment prior to the construction of a pond at the allotment site has not been received and will be chased.
- b) Cemetery:-
 - i) To receive reports from the Clerk. None
 - ii) Correspondence. None
- c) Recreation Grounds & Open Spaces:-
 - i) To receive reports from the Clerk.
 - a) All play areas remain closed as per Government instruction and will only open once a directive has been received from Dorset Council which will be the 4th July.
 - ii) Correspondence. None

348/19 Finance & General Purposes Committee:

- a) Receive the monthly budget reports. These were noted and no issues raised.
- b) To receive reports on Health & Safety matters for land in the Civil Parish. The Clerk would deal with any issues raised.

349/19 Land at the Scout/Guide Hut, Manor Road, Verwood.

A report was circulated to all Members regarding a meeting the Town Clerk had held with the Scouts and Guides regarding the security of the land due to travellers being on the land. Discussion took place regarding earth mounds to prevent vehicles gaining access over the grass and this will be investigated. The Town Clerk advised the cost of installing a gate, fence and 2 retractable bollards would be around £2,300 It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the purchase and installation should be made as soon as was possible.

350/19 Report from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

No Report

351/19 Report of Representatives on Other Bodies.

- a) **DAPTC Eastern Area.** A report had been circulated to Members.
- b) **Verwood Community Support Group.** Requests for assistance have reduced but the group will maintain a presence in Verwood to run independently from the Trussell Trust. The group have a permanent storage area within the Youth Centre. It was acknowledged that the group have provided excellent resident support during this crisis.

352/19 Internet Councillor

Information is being updated regularly. A website provider has been found and talks are ongoing for updates to ensure the website is fully accessible.

353/19 Press & P R Councillor

None.

354/19 Reports of the Dorset Council Councillors.

No formal report as there have been regular updates from Dorset Council. It was commented on by Councillors that the information, frequency and content had been good.

355/19 Accounts.

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED that the accounts £62,696.76 for June 2020 were approved for payment.

356/19 Items of report and matters for future agendas.

- a) Information was given that the Verwood Youth Club Working Party have now gained access to the Youth Centre on 17th June under a Temporary Hire Agreement until a lease is completed. A meeting of the Youth Working Party is being arranged.
- b) It was reported that there has been some Anti Social Behaviour at Stephen's Castle which was not reflected in the Police report and that a fire engine recently had to attend following a BBQ.
- c) Youth Club. An update was given on the proposed Youth Club to be held in Potterne Park Pavilion.
- d) A request was made for a future agenda item to discuss the Mayor's Christmas Reception.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

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Mayor