

At the **MEETING** of the **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Dorchester on Tuesday, 26th January, 2010:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor S. Hosford) in the Chair.

Councillors M.A. Allwood, D.J. Barrett, C.S. Biggs, R.M. Biggs, V. Black, A. Harries, T.C.N. Harries, C.M. Hebditch, E.S. Jones, Trevor Jones, F.E. Kent-Ledger, A.J. Lyall, P.G. Mann, L.M. Phillips, R.B. Potter and M.E. Rennie.

In attendance:

Mr. R. Budd – The Grace Secondary School Project

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors A.J. Canning, L.E. Heath and T. James.

44. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th November, 2009, copies of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

45. **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor thanked the Durnovaria Silver Band for the playing of carols and conveyed the Band's thanks to Members for their help with the associated street collection in South Street prior to Christmas which had resulted in a donation of £400 to the Mayor's Appeal for Julia's House – Dorset Children's Hospice.

Members were informed that the sustainable house being built by Mr. Andrew Goss at Herringston Road was progressing well and that Mr. Goss had invited the Council to view the property. The Mayor agreed to arrange a date for Members to visit the property in the near future.

The Mayor was pleased to inform the Council that the Siena Restaurant in High West Street had just been awarded a Michelin Star. The Mayor also welcomed the recent newspaper article reporting that Dorchester was doing well in the recession with a number of new long-term businesses opening in the Town.

The Council thanked the Rotary Clubs of Dorchester who had quickly organised an appeal in respect of the Haiti earthquake and had already raised in excess of £23,000.

Members expressed their condolences in respect of the death of Mr Sam Fowler who had organised 'Swingtime in the Gardens' for many years and had raised over £40,000 for charity at those events and others.

The Council also expressed its condolences for the ongoing casualties and deaths of Riflemen from the Rifles Regiment involved in the action in Afghanistan.

46. **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received in accordance with Standing Order 12(3).

47. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 24th NOVEMBER, 2009**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 24th November, 2009 be adopted.

48. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 7th DECEMBER, 2009**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7th December, 2009 be adopted.

Minute 55 – Dorchester West Station – In response to a request the Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee agreed that the Committee would periodically monitor the progress of those matters discussed regarding Dorchester West Station.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7th December, 2009 be adopted.

49. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 4th JANUARY, 2010**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 4th January, 2010 be adopted.

(Councillor T.C.N. Harries declared a Personal Interest in respect of Minute 65 as he was a taxi driver.)

50. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 12th JANUARY, 2010**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 12th January, 2010 be adopted.

Minute 48(2) – Community Activities Panel – The Council's representative on the Dorchester-Bayeux Society agreed to raise the Management Committee's concern regarding the Dorchester-Bayeux Society's policy of only allowing people to go on twinning visits if they had been members of the Society for more than nine months at the next meeting of the Society.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 12th January, 2010 be adopted.

51. **MAYORAL SELECTION COMMITTEE – 19th JANUARY, 2010**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 19th January, 2010 be adopted.

52. **POLICY COMMITTEE – 19th JANUARY, 2010**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 19th January, 2010 be adopted.

Minute 43(d) – Draft Budget and Estimates 2010-11 – Budget for 2010-11 – The Chairman of the Policy Committee addressed the Council in support of the Budget for 2010-11 which would enable the Council to do all it has said it wanted to do over the next twelve months by way of maintaining and enhancing public facilities in the Town; and commence rebuilding of the Council’s reserves which had been reduced by almost £200,000 over the past few years to part-fund the Council’s work on behalf of the people of Dorchester which included, most recently, the improvements to the toilets and the ongoing installation of a lift and associated repairs to the main staircase in the Municipal Buildings. The Estimates had previously been considered by all appropriate bodies and what was now proposed would enable the Council to proceed to achieve the objectives it had agreed during the course of the last financial year.

As a result of the Dorchester Joint Markets Committee, which had met after Policy Committee, reducing its anticipated income for 2010-11 the Chairman of the Policy Committee moved an amendment to change the ‘Share of the Surplus from the Wednesday Market’ figure on page 10 of the Estimates for 2010-11 from £70,214 to £66,714 which would consequently change the income figure on page 1 to £349,801 and the deficit for year figure, also on page 1, to £29,604. The recommended precept of £1,118,922 would remain unchanged. The proposed amendment was seconded and upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Revised Estimates for 2009-10 and the Estimates for 2010-11 be approved subject to the Estimates for 2010-11 being amended to reduce the ‘Share of the Surplus from the Wednesday Market’ figure on page 10 of the Estimates from £70,214 to £66,714 and the resulting consequential changes as detailed above.

- (2) That a Precept in the sum of £1,118,922 be levied on the West Dorset District Council in respect of the financial year 2010-11, requesting that payment be made in two equal instalments on 1st April and 1st October, 2010.

It was also

RESOLVED

- (3) That the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 19th January, 2010 be adopted.

53. **MOTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 9 – 10:10 INITIATIVE**

Councillor E.S. Jones, having given written notice in accordance with Standing Order 9, put the following motion:

“That the Council allies itself with the 10:10 initiative and commits itself to work to reduce its carbon emissions by 10% in 2010 and calls on all other councils and local businesses to do likewise.”

By way of background it was explained that the 10:10 Initiative was an ambitious project to unite every sector of British society behind one simple idea: that by working together the UK could achieve a 10% cut in its carbon emissions in 2010. The Climate Safety Report had identified this level of cut as necessary to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic changes to the climate being caused.

The motion was seconded by Councillor R. Biggs and it was

RESOLVED

That this Council allies itself with the 10:10 initiative and commits itself to work to reduce its carbon emissions by 10% in 2010 and calls on all other councils and local businesses to do likewise.

54. **THE GRACE SECONDARY SCHOOL PROJECT**

The Council welcomed Mr. Richard Budd who made a short presentation to Members on the progress of The Grace Secondary School project in Sudan. Over £86,000 had been raised for the project so far which was enough to cover the cost of building the school and associated medical centre. The next stage was to secure enough funding to cover the ongoing running costs of the school until it could reach self-sufficiency. Mr. Budd asked the Council to consider how it could help the project and responded to Members detailed questions about it.

Members expressed their admiration for the work undertaken by Mr Budd, thanked him for his presentation and agreed that the Community Activities Panel, should consider in more detail how the Council could support the project at its next meeting.

It was noted that it was not lawful for the Council to contribute financially to the project and that the Council's agreed policy was that it would not enter into any further twinning arrangements for the foreseeable future.

The Council rose at 7.55pm.

Mayor