

At the **MEETING** of the **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Dorchester on Tuesday, 29th January, 2013:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor A.J. Canning) in the Chair.

Councillors V.J. Allan, K.E. Armitage, D.J. Barrett, C.S. Biggs, R.M. Biggs, T.C.N. Harries, S.C. Hosford, T. James, E.S. Jones, Trevor Jones, F.E. Kent-Ledger, A.J. Lyall, P.G. Mann, R.B. Potter, M.E. Rennie, D.S. Roberts and D. Taylor.

In attendance:
Inspector S. Marsh, Dorset Police.

APOLOGY for absence was received from Councillor G.M. Jones.

46. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27th November, 2012, 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.

47. **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor expressed his gratitude to the Council's Outdoor Services staff who had worked exceedingly hard and had done a good job in clearing snow from The Walks and the footpaths in the town centre during the recent spell of bad weather.

Following a request from a Member the Mayor agreed to write to Dr. Margaret Barker congratulating her on receiving an MBE in the New Years Honours in recognition of all her work for the poor and homeless in Dorchester.

48. **QUESTIONS**

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

49. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 3rd DECEMBER, 2012**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3rd December, 2012 be adopted.

Minute 47 – New Local Plan for West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland – Alternative Sites Consultation – Members reiterated their opinion that there should not be any housing development on land at Cokers Frome.

Minute 50 – Extended Permitted Development Rights for Homeowners and Businesses – In response to a question the Town Clerk confirmed that a corporate response to this consultation had been submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government within the timescale prescribed and that a copy of the response had been emailed to Members.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3rd December, 2012 be adopted.

50. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 7th JANUARY, 2013**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7th January, 2013, be adopted.

Minute 52 – New Local Plan for West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland – Alternative Sites Consultation – It was reported that a local resident and not a potential developer had undertaken the leaflet drop in respect of the land north of the A35 bypass adjacent to Castle Park.

Minute 54(a)(2) – Dorset County Council – Temporary Road Closures – In response to a question the Town Clerk confirmed that a response had not yet been received from Dorset County Council regarding its proposals for repairing potholes following the recent severe weather.

Minute 55 – Monmouth Road – Following a request from a Member the Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee agreed that the Committee, at a future meeting, would consider the issue of extending 20mph speed limits to other areas of Dorchester, particularly in respect of roads near schools and in conjunction with the safer routes to schools initiative.

Minute 56 – Dog Fouling – Members reiterated their request that the restrictions be rigorously enforced by the West Dorset District Council dog warden. It was noted that West Dorset District Council's Efficiency and Scrutiny Committee was also considering this issue.

It was

RESOLVED

That, subject to the amendment to Minute 52 as detailed above, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7th January, 2013 be adopted.

51. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 15th JANUARY, 2013**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee held on 15th January, 2013, be adopted.

Minute 55 - Boundary Wall Between South Walks and the New District Council Offices – Members requested that on completion of the work to remove the boundary wall the grass verge adjacent to South Walks be re-seeded where necessary and that West Dorset

District Council be requested to provide some public benches in this area; it was noted that the District Council had already provided some new benches at Charles Street.

Minute 56 – Borough Gardens Table Tennis – In response to a question it was confirmed that quotations would be sought for the purchase of the table tennis table.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee held on 15th January, 2013 be adopted.

52. **MAYORAL SELECTION COMMITTEE – 22nd JANUARY, 2013**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 22nd January, 2013 be adopted.

53. **POLICY COMMITTEE – 22nd JANUARY, 2013**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 22nd January, 2013 be adopted.

In proposing the adoption of the Minutes the Chairman reported that the Audit Commission had declined to attend a meeting to explain how the situation regarding the misunderstanding of the value of the Council's reserves and balances had occurred and had not been identified by successive auditors appointed by the Audit Commission. Members felt that this was deeply unsatisfactory but accepted that there was nothing further that could be done.

Minute 37 – Closed Circuit Television Surveillance – One Member expressed his continuing concern that there was no evidence at all regarding the effectiveness of CCTV or its outcomes.

Minute 41(d) – Draft Budget and Estimates 2013-14 – Budget for 2013-14 – As an amendment it was proposed and seconded that the amount of the Council's precept in 2013-14 should be increased from the sum of £1,094,352 referred to in this Minute to £1,110,439.

On being put to the vote the amendment was **WON** and following consideration of the substantive motion resulting it was

RESOLVED

(1) That the Revised Estimates for 2012-13 and the Estimates for 2013-14 be approved.

- (2) That a precept in the sum of £1,110,439 be levied on the West Dorset District Council in respect of the financial year 2013-14 requesting that payment be made in two equal instalments on 1st April and 1st October, 2013.

It was also

RESOLVED

- (3) That the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 22nd January, 2013 incorporating this amendment be adopted.

(Councillor F.E. Kent-Ledger did not vote in respect of any of these matters since she had not applied for or been granted the necessary dispensation under the Localism Act 2011.)

54. **POLICE MATTERS**

Inspector Marsh informed Members that he felt CCTV was an effective tool against crime if the cameras were located in the right places. He then reported on the crime statistics for Dorchester and updated Members on current police issues and initiatives.

The Council rose at 7.54pm.

Mayor