

At the **MEETING** of the **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Dorchester on Tuesday, 25th January, 2011:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor L.M. Phillips) in the Chair.

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

In attendance:

Reverend V. Thurtell, Mayor's Chaplain

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors A.J. Canning, A. Harries and S.C. Hosford.

49. **PRAYERS**

The Mayor's Chaplain opened the Meeting with a short prayer.

50. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23rd November, 2010, 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.

51. **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor informed Members that the Band of the Light Cavalry would be performing at the Corn Exchange on 11th March, 2011. Proceeds from the concert would go to the Mayor's Appeal and The Keep Military Museum.

The Mayor also reported that the Durnovaria Silver Band would be performing a 75th anniversary concert in the Corn Exchange on 2nd April, 2011.

52. **QUESTIONS**

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

53. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 6th DECEMBER, 2010**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 6th December, 2011 be adopted.

Minute 42 (a) – Local Air Quality Management – Air Quality Action Plan - Dorchester – In response to a question the Town Clerk informed Members that an officer from West Dorset District Council would be attending the next meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee to discuss the Committee's concerns on this matter.

Minute 44 – Planning Applications Arising on this Minute a Member expressed his concern regarding the possible implications of the neighbourhood planning system proposed in the Localism Bill for towns with a large amount of listed buildings and

designated conservation areas. He also wished to know whether Members who sat on the Council's Planning and Environment Committee had been trained in the new system. The Town Clerk reported that the Bill was undergoing its Committee Stage at present and that it was not possible to anticipate or deal with any effects until the legislation had been enacted. Appropriate training would be sought once the precise nature of the new provisions was known.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 6th December, 2010 be adopted.

54. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 4th JANUARY, 2011**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 4th January, 2011 be adopted.

Minute 46 – Street Lighting Replacement Works – Members were informed that Dorset County Council would not be taking up the offer of a donated lighting column for the footpath between St. Helens Road and Cornwall Road due to lack of funding.

Minute 47 – Grit Bins – In response to a question the Town Clerk informed Members that a date for the proposed meeting had not yet been finalised but that he was hoping it would be held shortly.

Minute 49(b) – Part Night Street Lighting – The Town Clerk confirmed that Dorset County Council had yet to indicate which roads the County Council considered were designated traffic routes and which roads in its opinion had a high crime level and would therefore be exempted from the proposal. A Member expressed his concern about the safety of persons using pedestrian crossings in areas without street lighting and another Member expressed concern regarding the implications of identifying some parts of the town as high crime areas.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 4th January, 2011 be adopted.

55. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 11th JANUARY, 2011**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 11th January, 2011 be adopted.

Minute 46(b) – Trees in South Walks and Salisbury Walk – Members requested that any potential effects on new or existing trees from the proposed new Charles Street development be included within the plan being prepared for replacing trees and associated works in South Walks.

Minute 49 – Weymouth Avenue Recreation Ground – Ball Catch Net – In response to a question the Town Clerk confirmed that it was not possible to reconfigure the football pitch layout so as to relocate the adult pitch away from the roadside fence due to the size and location of the cricket square.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 11th January, 2011 be adopted.

56. **MAYORAL SELECTION COMMITTEE – 18th JANUARY, 2011**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 18th January, 2011 be adopted.

Members requested that an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee to review the practice of having prayers before Council meetings.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Minutes of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 18th January, 2011 be adopted.
- (2) That an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Mayoral Selection Committee to review the practice of having prayers before Council meetings.

57. **POLICY COMMITTEE – 18th JANUARY, 2011**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 18th January, 2011 be adopted.

Minute 35(d) – Draft Budget and Estimates 2011-12 – Budget for 2011-12 – The Chairman of the Policy Committee addressed the Council in support of the Budget for 2011-12 which would enable the Council to do all it had said it wanted to do over the next twelve months by way of maintaining and enhancing public facilities in the Town whilst at the same time delivering a standstill Band D Council Tax. Work would also continue to deliver the Council's aim of another nil Band D increase in the Council Tax for 2012-13.

It was noted that 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.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Revised Estimates for 2010-11 and the Estimates for 2011-12 be approved.
- (2) That a precept in the sum of £1,130,081 be levied on the West Dorset District Council in respect of the financial year 2011-12 requesting that payment be made in two equal instalments on 1st April and 1st October, 2011.

Minute 38 – City Status Competition – In response to a question the Chairman of the Policy Committee confirmed that there were no cost implications to entering the competition and that there would not be a public consultation on the issue at this early stage. It might be possible, though, for Members to have sight of the Council's entry prior to it being submitted.

It was also

RESOLVED

- (3) That the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 18th January, 2011 be adopted.

58. **POLICE MATTERS**

The Council had before it crime statistics for Dorchester for the period 16th November to 18th January, 2011. Members noted that it appeared that there had been a reduction in the detection rate and requested that Inspector Fry be asked whether he could provide year to date figures which would present more information on overall trends.

The Council rose at 7.28pm.

Mayor