

At the **MEETING** of the **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Dorchester on Tuesday, 29th November, 2011:

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

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

In attendance:

Inspector L. Fry, Dorset Police

Dr. M. Barker, Dorchester Quaker Meeting

APOLOGIES for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor T. James) and Councillor D. Taylor.

41. **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

The Deputy Mayor introduced Dr. Margaret Barker of the Dorchester Quaker Meeting who briefly addressed the Council by way of introduction to a short contemplative silence.

42. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27th September, 2011 and of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 18th October, 2011, copies of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

43. **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Council was reminded that the Christmas Cracker night was to be held in the evening of Thursday, 1st December, 2011 with Carols in the Borough Gardens and Lantern Parade on Thursday, 15th December, 2011.

In respect of the Carols in the Borough Gardens it was noted that the Poundbury Residents Association had also arranged a carol singing event on the same evening which meant that residents had to choose between the two events rather than being able to attend both. It was agreed that the Poundbury Residents Association be contacted and asked to liaise with the Council in future years to try to ensure that the two events are held on separate evenings.

44. **QUESTIONS**

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

45. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 3rd OCTOBER, 2011**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3rd October, 2011 be adopted.

46. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 7th NOVEMBER, 2011**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7th November, 2011 be adopted.

Minute 35 – Traffic Panel Members of the Council thanked the Traffic Panel for its vigilance in respect of its consideration of the Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan.

Minute 36(b) – Extension to the Victoria Park Residents Parking Scheme In response to a question it was noted that the County Council had advised that it would be unlawful to include properties in Clarence Road in the Victoria Park Residents Parking Scheme as the road had not been included within the Traffic Regulation Order for that Scheme.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7th November, 2011 be adopted.

47. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 15th NOVEMBER, 2011**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 15th November, 2011 be adopted.

Minute 34(d) – Churchyard Wall – St. George’s Church A Member queried whether the proposed post and rail style fence along the boundary wall in place of the broken dry stone wall might look out of place. It was noted that any repair would require the consent of the Chancellor of the Salisbury Diocese and that the matter might need to be revisited if the necessary faculty was not forthcoming.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 15th November, 2011 be adopted.

48. **POLICY COMMITTEE – 22nd NOVEMBER, 2011**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 22nd November, 2011 be adopted.

Minute 35 – Application for Loan Sanction The Chairman of the Policy Committee informed Members of the importance of applying for loan sanction so as to enable the Council to borrow up to £500,000 over a 25 year period and it was

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUSLY)

- (1) That the Town Clerk be authorised to submit an application to the Department for Communities and Local Government for the necessary sanction to take a loan of up to £500,000 over a 25 year period on an annuity basis.

It was also

RESOLVED

- (2) That the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 22nd November, 2011 be adopted.

49. **FINAL ACCOUNTS 2010-11**

Members had before them an unqualified Annual Return for the Council which had already been published in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and it was

RESOLVED

That the audited unqualified Annual Return for the Council for 2010-11 be noted.

50. **POLICE MATTERS**

Inspector Fry addressed the Council and answered Members' questions about various Police initiatives and recent developments in the Town.

In respect of Planning and Environment Committee Minute 36(2) Inspector Fry informed Members that Dorset Police would issue parking tickets for parking on junctions in appropriate cases and Members were requested to inform him of any particular problems that they might notice.

In respect of Planning and Environment Committee Minute 37(2) Inspector Fry informed Members that night-time crime figures for the period June to October 2011 were lower than for the same period in 2010 when the street lights had been on all night. For this reason he felt unable to support a request to Dorset County Council for the street lights in Cambridge Road to revert to all-night burning. A Member of the County Council informed Members that he had written to the Head of Street Lighting at Dorset County Council requesting that a protocol be established for when street lights could be switched back on at night.

Preliminary observations had not revealed any abuse by drivers of heavy goods vehicles of the weight restriction in the town centre but the situation would continue to be monitored when possible. Inspector Fry also agreed to consider what action might be taken to address the perceived problem of drivers travelling along London Road at excessive speed in cars with modified exhaust systems, causing noise nuisance to local residents and to take note of the number of vehicles parking without lights in all parts of

the town in contravention of the law which only permitted vehicles to show no parking lights when parked in the direction of the traffic in the length of road concerned.

Some Members expressed concern regarding litter around the town but it was felt that the town was generally litter free. However, Inspector Fry did agree to speak to his officers with a view to them reminding the public, as and when necessary, about the anti social nature of littering. Concern was also expressed about the level of litter on the railway embankment to the east of the town, and the Town Clerk was asked to write to Network Rail requesting them to clear it. It was noted that birds were responsible for creating a large amount of mess by pulling rubbish from litter bins. Birds were also being encouraged by people putting food out for them. The Town Clerk reported that the Council did not have the legal power to make a byelaw to prevent the feeding of birds.

The Council rose at 7.43pm.

Mayor