



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Full Council held on **Thursday 19th September 2013** at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber.

Present: Cllr Pritchard (Chairman) Cllr Clinch
 Cllr Cook Cllr Harvey
 Cllr Hicks Cllr Lewer
 Cllr Pestell Cllr Proctor
 Cllr Tippins Cllr Dibben

In attendance: Mrs Nicola Merefield (Chief Executive Officer and Town Clerk)
 Mrs Barbara Carter (Project Officer)

Public Consultation

There were 41 members of the public present.

Mrs P Roberts stated that the offence had not been carried out by the people of Shaftesbury and that any costs should not be paid through Council Tax, and asked for a debate to be called.

Mr N Cook remarked that he was not sure if members had read the minutes of the Parish Meeting, and that the meeting may not have been lawful. Notice of an HR Meeting was posted with different members in attendance.

Cllr Pritchard replied that HR Committee had no set membership and that appropriate members were called depending on the item to be discussed.

Mr R Thomas read a statement in respect of the Eastern Development and Illegal Acts re the Park Walk monument. Discussions continued in respect of Affordable Housing and Phases 6 & 7 which had been presented to Planning & Highways Committee on Tuesday 17th September 2013.

Mr B Littlechild commented that the memorial needs to be removed before a permanent site can be identified.

2013/56 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies

2013/57 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

It was agreed that as the subject to be discussed was as yet undisclosed, members would declare interests if appropriate during the course of the meeting.

2013/58 Public Meeting (to be spoken to by the Mayor)

To consider the Council's response to the Parish meeting held on 12th September 2013. Following circulation of the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 12th September 2013 and the 7 motions taken at that meeting:

Motion 1: That the citizens of Shaftesbury require the council to instruct an external audit to address the many lapses in process and spending of public money.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Dibben and **SECONDED** by Cllr Pestell that the Council's processes and procedures be investigated by the NDDC Standards Board. Evidence to be provided and matters of concern listed. With 2 votes in favour, 6 against and 1 abstention the motion fell.

It was then **PROPOSED** by Cllr Pritchard and **SECONDED** by Cllr Proctor and **AGREED** that the Internal Auditor, when appointed, would carry out the investigation into the Council's processes and procedures with the evidence to be provided and matters of concern listed

Motion 2: That the Council takes action to ensure that the latest town council vacancies result in an open and fairly contested election.

It was noted that notices of Elections for the vacancies in Central and Christy's Wards had been issued by North Dorset District Council, who ran the legal process.

Motion 3: That the Council ensures new Councillors receive adequate induction and training on election.

New Councillors received an induction from the Town Clerk, and DAPTC courses were available. It was **AGREED** that new Councillors received adequate induction and training from the Town Clerk.

Motion 4 (a): That Cllr Dibben be asked to resign from the council and that if he refused he be barred from taking part in any of the Council's Committees

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Lewer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Proctor and **RESOLVED** that the removal of Cllr Dibben from Committees be **REFERRED** to Full Council.

Motion 4 (b): That Cllr Dibben's nominations as representative of the Council to outside organisations are forthwith cancelled.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Lewer and **SECONDED** by Cllr Proctor and **RESOLVED** that the cancellation forthwith of Cllr Dibben's representation of the council to outside organisations be **REFERRED** to Full Council.

Motion 5: That town councillors who moved an unsuccessful vote of no confidence in the mayor be required to resign.

It was stated that this cannot be made a requirement of the Constitution.

Motion 6: That the Council owns all correspondence (and email) that goes out from the town hall (all official emails should be via the council email address)

It was confirmed that this was standard practice and that emails sent from home use the STC server. Email protocol was circulated recently to all Councillors.

Motion 7: That Councillors could not charge for work done for the council

It was confirmed that this was already a legality – a councillor could not be paid for work until 12 months after they left the council. Councillors can be invited to tender for work.

2013/59 Eastern Development Committee

To consider the formation of a committee to consider all matters relating.

Draft Terms of Reference were circulated which received positive response from some councillors. After discussion it was **AGREED** that members were happy with the current arrangements.

2013/60 Correspondence

A letter from the Civic Society was read out by Cllr Proctor and is appended to these minutes in full.

2013/61 Chairman's Urgent Business

The first meeting of the group to discuss the relocation of the memorial had taken place. The public would be consulted on where the memorial should be sited and a list of feasible locations would be drawn up by the working group. English Heritage would fast track an application for removal of the memorial, which was to be submitted on 20th September 2013. It was hoped that this would be carried out before Remembrance Sunday.

The chairman sought agreement from council, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Lewer, **SECONDED** by Cllr Pestell and unanimously **RESOLVED** to proceed as directed by the working group to remove and store the monument prior to 11th November 2013. (*Policy 0913/EFC/2013/61*)

Public Consultation

Mr J Hughes had 3 proposals: 1) Cllr Dibben resign 2) Amendment to the vote of no confidence that no motions to be carried out in private, all to be made public. 3) Councillors tendering for work – prohibiting would produce no chance of feeling of ill will and safeguard public asking questions.

Mr P Jordaan stated that advice was always qualified by NDDC. Disclosure wasn't clear – why didn't STC get the right advice regarding permission for the memorial. If a Conservation Officer was told they would have been on to it.

Cllr Pritchard responded that Shaftesbury Town Council did obtain the appropriate advice regarding planning permission from the planning authority.

Mr R Thomas stated that the resolutions from the public had not been handled well and passed over or ignored. He also asked if the memorial would be removed before 11th November.

Cllr Pritchard responded that that was the intention.

Mr Thomas also raised that the work carried out by Cllr Dibben was a criminal act and that he had implicated the grounds team.

Cllr Pritchard stated that the Town Clerk would review and take to Full Council.

Mr Thomas also said that Cllr Dibben had received payments for work over the last 5 years.

Cllr Pritchard responded that this would need to be checked.

Mr J Jeffery said that 4years ago Cllr Dibben was asked if he got work through his position on the Council, and that it should be agreed that a full forensic audit be carried out.

Mr L Alabaster commented that the Royal British Legion supported the dedication of the memorial, which was not the same as supporting the memorial. Do the public want another memorial.

Mr K Mullet said that as an ex-soldier, 1 memorial was all that was wanted.

Mrs R Caldwell read out an extract from the Civic Society which stated they were behind the memorial but not on the site indicated.

Mrs P Roberts expressed her frustration with the Town Council, and reiterated that the cost of the removal and re-siting of the memorial not be paid from Council Tax.

Cllr Pritchard responded that he didn't know where the money would come from and would take advice.

Mr R Thomas stated that there had been 3 revisions to the Parish Meeting notes and Cllr Pritchard confirmed that the latest version had been emailed to councilors and was on the Councils website.

Ms B Innes stated that a piece of Gold Hill Wall fell down as she was walking past, and this was now getting urgent.

Cllr Clinch asked if anyone was free as volunteers were require for collectors at the Carnival on Saturday 28th September 2013.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Pritchard and seconded by Cllr Harvey and **RESOLVED** to pass a resolution under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press should be excluded from Item 2013/63 as it related to confidential matters as detailed in category 1 of Article 2.2.7 Access to Information Rules within the town council constitution.

2013/63 STAFFING MATTERS

Normal debate took place.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:26pm