



## SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Full Council held on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013** at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber.

### **Present:**

Cllr Pritchard (Chairman)

Cllr Harvey (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Clinch

Cllr Cook

Cllr Dibben

Cllr Hicks

Cllr Lewer

Cllr Pestell

Cllr Tippins

### **In attendance:**

Ms Nicola Duke (Town Clerk)

Mrs Claire Commons (Acting Committee Services Officer)

DCllr Beer, Mr Alabaster (councillor elect), Mr Madgwick (councillor elect),

12 members of the public

Mssrs Alabaster and Madgwick were invited to join the table and debate but clarified that they would not be entitled to vote. Mr Madgwick joined the table.

## MINUTES

### **PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

#### **2013/67 Apologies for Absence**

- a) Apologies were received from Cllr Proctor due to being on vacation.
- b) Apologies from Cllr Proctor were duly accepted.

#### **2013/68 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations to participate**

- a) Members were provided with the opportunity under the Localism Act 2011 to declare any pecuniary interests or dispensations to participate in the meeting. Cllr Cook declared that should any discussion take place regarding the Children's Centre, that his wife was a member of its bank staff.
- b) The Town Clerk had not received any dispensation requests not previously considered.

#### **2013/69 Chairman's Announcements**

The Mayor reported that the Lions Club had presented him with their chartered flag to display in the Town Hall.

The Deputy Mayor reported that the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning with Brionne had been marked with a presentation of a vase from Brionne. Cllr Pestell provided a translation of the accompanying note which sent best wishes from Brionne.

**2013/70 Open Forum**

- a) DClIr Beer – spoke on behalf of the Carnival hoping that all had enjoyed the festivities. He then spoke regarding the football club and although expressing understanding and support for the long-term vision for the sport and leisure provision, he urged that the council pressed forward with enabling the existing football club reopen the social side of the clubhouse. It was clarified that a new body of people had expressed an interest in the clubhouse and they have a business plan in progress which could be provided within 3 – 4 days.

Mrs Tucker – spoke regarding the football club asking for an update on the tender process. Cllr Pestell responded that the situation had changed because the council had been looking into the clubhouse being run independently to the football club and now that interest had been received to work with the football club this was being investigated.

A member of the public – also asked for additional information regarding the tenders and Cllr Pestell responded that he had replied to all people who had expressed an interest. He added that sufficient time would be allowed for a business plan to be put together from the Football Club and this would then be taken to the General Management Committee.

Mrs Caldwell – spoke regarding Coppice Street asking if it was still the intention that the old toilet block was removed. She expressed concern on behalf of the Royal British Legion that if the area was to become parking, the Royal British Legion hall would feel ‘hemmed in’.

Mr Billington – spoke regarding the sound system in the Guildhall reporting that there had been feedback on the system and it would benefit from an upgrade. He also made reference to powerpoint presentations asking that attention was given to their design so that they were black text on white background to ensure absolute clarity. The Mayor confirmed that the office would look into the sound system and projector to ensure communication was improved.

**ACTION: OFFICE**

Mr Cook – apologised to the minute clerk for not providing a transcript of his comments from the previous meeting, he accepted the record which had been made and asked it to be noted that he had not been allowed to finish speaking. He also added that in the minutes of the 27th August he had asked that ‘people’ stuck to the agenda, not ‘members’. This was duly noted. Mr Cook asked how members would manage the new councillors elect as one had publically declared his wish to abolish the council and the other who had expressed views on councillors who were elected unopposed not being ‘proper’ councillors. He also reported that as he had advised he would, he had reported Cllr Dibben to the Standards Committee. The Mayor responded that the council was not able to ‘do’ anything regarding the views expressed by the individuals who stood for election, that the democratic process was set but that the individuals would be answerable to their electorate at the elections in 2015.

Cllr Dibben – spoke regarding gullies expressing concern that rainfall was washing the fallen leaves into the gullies and blocking them. He asked that the office followed this up with Dorset Waste Partnership to ensure that leaves were swept to eliminate this problem escalating.

**ACTION: OFFICE**

Cllr Dibben then spoke regarding the Children’s Centre and the news that it would be closing. He expressed concern that with the increased number of children moving into the Development East of Shaftesbury there would not be sufficient childcare provision. The Mayor responded that there would be a meeting at the Children’s Centre on Wednesday evening to clarify to parents what the situation was and that he would be in attendance.

- b) DClIr Jeffery – sent his apologies due to a conflicting engagement.

DCllr Beer – reported that he had been on a training course relating to licensing as various elements were changing. He spoke regarding public transport expressing concern that DCC had repeatedly deferred its decision on the bus network. He had expressed concern that part of the plan was that there would be no bus provision for the major towns in North Dorset on Saturdays and that businesses expected bus provision. He added that the new services should be better except for that issue and would be happier once buses were able to go round the development East of Shaftesbury. Cllr Clinch made reference to the 83 from Blandford to Wimborne and DCllr Beer responded that it was a shame that it may be lost but the net effect would be a better service in North Dorset. Cllr Dibben advised that Somerset and Wiltshire had indicated that they would like to communicate more with North Dorset and a meeting was being arranged. DCllr Beer responded that the Shaftesbury and Gillingham Transport Forum had excellent attendance and good relationships with Wiltshire and Somerset.

DCllr Pritchard – reported that he had been disappointed in DCllr Croney’s decision for a play area in Meles Mead not only that it had not been discussed with Shaftesbury Town Council but also that the council had not received official notification from NDDC but had learned of the decision through an article on the Blackmore Vale website. He also believed that NDDC should just be publishing statutory notices and not pay for additional stories. DCllr Pritchard also noted that Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013 was scheduled for a Full Council meeting but this had been cancelled by a small group of people. He felt that the ability to hold the council to account had been greatly reduced by the lack of meetings. DCllr Beer expressed disappointment regarding the agreement for the play area and agreed that the matter should have been a matter for cabinet.

## 2013/71 Minutes

- A. The minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.
- B. The minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.
- C. The minutes of the General Management Committee meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.
- D. The minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**. Cllr Dibben asked how matters were progressing with the requested works for Longcross, it was confirmed that DCC were unable to progress any requests during the current year but that the matter would be raised at the next General Management Committee meeting to ascertain whether there was anything further which the council could do to progress it.

ACTION: CLERK

- E. The minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**. The Comment from Mr Cook was noted.
- F. The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.
- G. The minutes of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy with one amendment and **ADOPTED** with two recommendations. Cllr Hicks **PROPOSED**, Cllr Cook **SECONDED** and it was:

**RESOLVED** that the affordable housing money from the Blue Cedar development be requested to be provided in support of leisure facilities within the town. (*Policy 1013/FC/Ga*) (*Public Sector Equality Duty – Due consideration of the duty was given*)

ACTION: OFFICE

Cllr Hicks **PROPOSED**, Cllr Dibben **SECONDED** and it was:

**RESOLVED** that the council request the large triangle of land, identified by being to the East of the SUDS at the southernmost point of the development area, to be transferred to Shaftesbury Town Council. (Policy 1013/FC/Gb) (Public Sector Equality Duty – Due consideration of the duty was given)

ACTION: OFFICE

- H. The minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on 17th September 2013 were **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED**.
- I. The minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on the 19th September 2013 were **APPROVED** and **ADOPTED**.
- J. The minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on the 24th September 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.
- K. The minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on the 1st October 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.
- L. The minutes of the General Management Committee meeting held on the 1st October 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.

Cllr Dibben expressed concern regarding the current situation of the Grounds Unit project, the Chairman reminded him that this was not a matter for discussion at this point.

Mr Madgwick spoke regarding a council policy relating to defamation and the Town Clerk agreed that a document would be circulated.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- M. The minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on the 8th October 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.

## 2013/72 Updates

- a) An opportunity was provided to report any significant information on matters not included on the agenda or which had been delegated to a Committee/working group, it was reminded that such information was to be received but not debated.
  - a. The Town Clerk reported that the war memorial had been cleaned and confirmed that all the necessary permissions had been granted. She also read a 'thank you' from the Civic Society.
  - b. Cllr Harvey reported that there had been a meeting regarding CCTV and a further report would be made to the General Management Committee.

ACTION: OFFICE

Cllr Lewer reported that there were further works planned for the SUDS which may affect the request for the triangle of land.

- b) It was reported that the NDDC Cabinet meeting would be held at 10:30am on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and **AGREED** that Cllrs Hicks, Pestell and Clinch would attend.

ACTION: CLLRS HICKS, PESTELL AND CLINCH

It was reported that the Development Working Party group would be meeting at 2:30pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and **AGREED** that Cllr Harvey and Lewer would attend.

ACTION: CLLRS HARVEY AND LEWER

**2013/73 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to be received.

**BUSINESS ITEMS****2013/74 The Rifles Monument** *(currently sited next to the Town War Memorial)*

*Minute 2013/49 (Full Council meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013) refers.*

The Rifles Monument Working Group had previously circulated an update on the progress made in relation to the removal of the monument from its current location and progress made in relation to identifying potential new locations for inclusion in a consultation process. Members noted the report for information and considered how to meet the costs involved in the works. Cllr Pritchard **PROPOSED**, Cllr Harvey **SECONDED** and it was:

**RESOLVED** that the balance of the project funds (minus private donations of £375) of £1,264 together with a contribution from the Contingency Fund of £1,096 be used to meet costs involved in identified works for removal of the Rifles Monument. *(Policy 1013/FC/74a) (Statutory Authority – War Memorials Act 1923) (Budgetary Provision – Project funds (minus private donations) of £1,264 and Contingency Fund of £1,096) (Public Sector Equality Duty – Due consideration of the duty was given).*

ACTION: OFFICE

Cllr Dibben asked if members were aware of the role of English Heritage in these matters, it was asked that if he had guidance relating to this matter, he provided this to the office to be circulated to all members.

ACTION: CLLR DIBBEN

Members were asked to consider alternative locations for the memorial and provide suggestions to the office by the end of the week.

ACTION: ALL MEMBERS

**2013/75 Shaftesbury Leisure Facilities**

a) A request had been received from NDDC that Shaftesbury Town Council fund half the maintenance costs for the swimming pool. Cllr Tippins **PROPOSED**, Cllr Pestell **SECONDED** and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED** that Shaftesbury Town Council contribute half the maintenance costs to the swimming pool at an estimated cost of £40 per week. *(Policy 1013/FC/75) (Statutory Authority – OSA 1906 s45) (Budgetary Provision – Capital Expenditure earmarked for the swimming pool) (Public Sector Equality Duty – Due consideration of the duty was given)*

ACTION: OFFICE

b) A report had previously been circulated regarding provision of leisure facilities in Shaftesbury. Cllr Tippins presented to members options which could be considered regarding the swimming pool and leisure provision, it was noted that at this stage it was an opportunity to look at options and invite people's ideas.

**2013/76 Town Council appointments**

A report had previously been circulated to identify a process by which the Town Council could fill the current vacancies relating to Committees and representatives to local organisations. Cllr Pritchard **PROPOSED**, Cllr Harvey **SECONDED** and it was:

**RESOLVED** to disband the Community Services Committee and adopt the circulated amended meeting calendar. (Policy 1013/FC/76a)

It was **AGREED** that new members of the council would complete a skills audit and recommendations for membership to committees and representation to local organisations would be taken at the next Full Council meeting.

ACTION: OFFICE

Cllr Hicks **PROPOSED**, Cllr Pritchard **SECONDED** and it was:

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Richard Tippins joins the Recreation Open Spaces and Environment Committee. (Policy 1013/FC/76b)

ACTION: OFFICE

Members considered representation to the Football Club, Shaftesbury Community Association (Lindlar Hall) and Shaftesbury Almshouse. It was **AGREED** that Cllr Harvey would be temporary representative to the Football Club in her capacity as Chair of the General Management Committee. Cllr Cook **PROPOSED**, Cllr Pritchard **SECONDED** and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Cook be representative to the Shaftesbury Community Association (Lindlar Hall) and Shaftesbury Almshouse. (Policy 1013/FC/76c)

ACTION: CLLR COOK

Cllr Pritchard **PROPOSED**, Cllr Cook **SECONDED** and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Tippins be representative to the Neighbourhood Planning Group. (Policy 1013/FC/76d)

ACTION: CLLR TIPPINS

### **2013/77 Confidential Information**

Cllr Pritchard **PROPOSED**, Cllr Lewer **SECONDED** and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to pass a resolution under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded from Item 2013/78 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. Cllr Pritchard **PROPOSED**, Cllr Lewer **SECONDED** and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to allow members of the public to speak.

Mr Madgwick spoke to outline his reasons for standing as a councillor as he felt that there had been speculation on this matter and he wanted an opportunity for himself and Mr Alabaster to relay their reasons. He outlined areas which he wished to review as being Governance, Budget reporting, Service reporting, Project review, Neighbourhood Plan, Strategic Review and appointment of a new internal auditor.

Mr Alabaster did not wish to speak.

All members of the public and councillors elect left the room.

### **2013/78 Staffing matters**

The Town Clerk provided members with an update in respect of staffing matters. Normal debate took place.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9:50pm