



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Full Council held on **Tuesday 18th March 2014** at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber.

Present:

Cllr Pritchard (Chairman)	Cllr K Tippins
Cllr Harvey (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Lewer
Cllr Clinch	Cllr Madgwick
Cllr Cook	Cllr Pestell
Cllr Dibben	Cllr Proctor
Cllr Hicks	Cllr R Tippins

In attendance:

Mrs Barbara Carter (Acting Deputy Town Clerk)
Mrs Claire Commons (Acting Committee Services Officer)
10 members of the public

MINUTES

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

2014/30 Apologies for Absence

- a) There were no apologies required from members
Apologies were received from C&DCllr Jeffery due to ill health and DCllr Jefferson due to a conflicting engagement

2014/31 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 a non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Shaftesbury Snowdrops as a member of the group. Cllr Hicks declared an interest as a temporary director of the Community Land Trust
- b) The Clerk had not received any dispensation requests not previously considered.

2014/32 Chairman's Announcements

The list of mayor's engagements had been circulated. It was reported that the Auditor's report part 2 had been received and would be provided to members that week. It was added that the report predominantly raised matters of internal procedure and would be included on the next meetings of the HR and GEM committees. The Mayor announced that there would be an extraordinary meeting of Full Council on the 15th April 2014 in order to appoint the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elect.

2014/33 Open Forum

Members of the public were invited to address the council, time was to be limited to three minutes per person and was to relate only to matters on the agenda.

- a) Mr Austin – did not refer to an item on the agenda and spoke noting that there was not a ‘Chairman’s Urgent Business’ item on the agenda. He asked whether the council would be considering the decision made at North Dorset District Council the previous day in respect of open spaces. The Mayor confirmed it would not be discussed that evening and the item Chairman’s Urgent Business had been removed from agendas in line with best practice but that Chairman’s Announcements gave opportunity for urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the council.

Mr Thomas – did not refer to an item on the agenda and asked questions in relation to who the council’s proper officer and responsible finance officer was in the absence of the Town Clerk. He asked which standing orders the council was currently working to and suggested the amendment to the new standing orders to include ‘/she’ viz ‘he/she’. He spoke in relation to the investigation into governance and the situation relating to the interim report. He spoke in relation to the internal audit report asking whether the confidential report was now able to be made public, under what statute of law the report was being kept confidential and if the end of year audit would be available for the AGM in May. The minute clerk responded that the availability of the report would be dependent on the internal auditor and the date arranged to carry out the end of year audit.

Mr Thompson – spoke regarding agenda item 37 – Community Land Trust, making reference to Cllr Madgwick’s previous involvement in the CLT in relation to declaring interests and his involvement in another CLT. Cllr Madgwick responded and requested that it be minuted that he regarded the allegations scurrilous and unbecoming of a chartered accountant to do so. He confirmed that he had declared his interest as the other CIC had a register of interests.

Mrs Tucker – did not refer to an item on the agenda and asked what the current situation was regarding the Football Club lease. Cllr Pestell responded that there had been a meeting prior to Full Council and confirmed that the council remained fully committed but that there was concern that the club consisted of only 3 members. He urged them to encourage more members to sign up and from there to elect directors.

Mr Cook – spoke regarding multiple items on the agenda asking that the minutes of the 11th February 2014 be adjusted to say ‘*claimed it was false*’ on p2. He spoke on the subject of governance wishing the Town Clerk a speedy recovery and asking what qualifications those acting in her stead had. He asked what progress had been made with councillor training. He expressed the opinion that agenda item 37 was an example of predetermination. He spoke regarding agenda item 38 noting that there was no legal right to request the removal of a chairman and considered that should the motion fail, the proposing members be asked to resign.

Dr Timberlake – spoke in relation to multiple items on the agenda in respect of the motion to consider the position of chair of ROSE being vexatious. He expressed concern at the number of confidential minutes. He responded to the allegations made by Mr Thompson regarding a councillors behaviour in relation to the Gold Hill Community Land Trust. He expressed the opinion that information had been withheld regarding the memorial. He requested that in the interests of transparency, minutes record the names of those voting for and against motions. He commented that one member of the council had not achieved any status in any standing committee where newer members had. He commented that he had a Freedom of Information request before the council to which he wished a response.

- b) Reports from County and District Councillors.

DCllr Pritchard – reported that members had received an email confirming the decision from NDDC Cabinet the previous day. He added that what was needed to convince NDDC to transfer the land was a sustained period of calm and effective governance.

c) Reports from local organisations – there were no reports from local organisations.

2014/34 Minutes

- A. The minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 4th February 2014 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**. Cllr Cook requested that it be recorded that his request for discussion on the minutes was denied.
- B. The minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on Wednesday 5th February 2014 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.
- C. The minutes of the Full Council meeting of the 11th February 2014 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.
- D. The minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th February 2014 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.
- E. The minutes of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25th February 2014 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.
- F. The minutes of the General Management Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4th March 2014 were **APPROVED** for accuracy with two recommendations and **ADOPTED**.
1. Cllr Harvey **PROPOSED**, Cllr Pestell **SECONDED** and it was unanimously: **RESOLVED** to adopt the NALC Model Standing Orders as adjusted and circulated. (*Policy 0314/FC/34F*) (*Statutory Authority – LGA 1972 schedule 12 para 42*)
 2. It was **AGREED** to take the second recommendation within the confidential session prior to agenda item 2014/42.
- G. The minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on Friday 7th March 2014 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.
- H. The minutes of the Planning and Highways Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11th March 2014 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.

2014/35 Correspondence

- a) Members considered a letter from the Tennis Club of 4th February 2014. Information was provided relating to the history of the agreements between the Tennis Club and Football Club and it was **AGREED** that Cllr Pestell would draft a response and report back to the General Management Committee.

ACTION: CLLR PESTELL

2014/36 Meeting attendance

There were no additional meetings requiring attendance.

At 8:15pm the council adjourned for a comfort break and resumed at 8:20pm.

BUSINESS ITEMS

2014/37 Community Land Trust

- a) Cllr Pestell reported on behalf of the directors of the Community Land Trust and a copy of his report was made available to members of the council and public. Its summation was;
- That the community land trust had many benefits to offer the community which local authorities were not able to offer

- That the current directors of the CLT had made it very clear that they see it as important that the CLT is seen to be independent of the Town Council and other Local Government bodies
- That members be recruited in order to elect the directors of the CLT
- That the 'asset lock' be strengthened further.

The report concluded with confirmation that the Town Council had no legal interest or ownership in the CIC and therefore was already dissociated from it.

b) Cllr Madgwick **PROPOSED**, Cllr R Tippins **SECONDED** and following debate it was:

RESOLVED That this Council dissociate itself from the company called Gold Hill and Shaftesbury Community Land Trust CIC and in doing so demands that the company cease using the Town Hall as its business address, and, the Council resolves not to pass any assets of any type to this organisation. (*Policy 0314/FC/37b*)

2014/38 Motion from Cllrs Proctor and Madgwick

Cllr Proctor put a motion "That this Council has no confidence in the Chair of ROSE". Cllr Madgwick seconded the proposal and each member was invited in turn to speak to it. The motion was put to the vote receiving 5 in favour, 6 against and 1 abstention. The motion therefore fell.

2014/39 Shaftesbury Pool

Cllr Tippins reported to members on discussions held with North Dorset District Council regarding the transfer of the pool to Shaftesbury Town Council. Cllr Tippins **PROPOSED**, Cllr Cook **SECONDED** and it was:

RESOLVED: That this council wishes to accept the freehold of the Shaftesbury Pool from North Dorset District Council together with a commuted sum of £25,000 subject to normal due diligence. (*Policy 1403/FC/39*)

Due to the duration of the meeting reaching 3 hours, the chairman adjourned the meeting at 10pm to be reconvened on Tuesday 25th March 2014.