

At the **ADJOURNED ANNUAL MEETING** of the **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Dorchester on Tuesday, 24th May, 2011:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor T. James) in the Chair.

Councillors K.E. Armitage, D.J. Barrett, C.S. Biggs, R.M. Biggs, A.J. Canning, T.C.N. Harries, S.C. Hosford, 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, D.S. Roberts and D. Taylor.

In attendance:

Dr. M. Barker, Dorchester Quaker Meeting

Sergeant S. Yeomans, Dorset Police

APOLOGY for absence was received from Councillor V.J. Allan.

6. **WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLORS**

The Mayor welcomed Councillors K.E. Armitage, G.M. Jones, T.F. Loakes, D.S. Roberts and D. Taylor who were attending their first Ordinary Meeting of the Council since their election on 5th May, 2011.

7. **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

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

8. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 29th March, 2011, and of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 10th May, 2011, 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.

9. **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor thanked Members for their support at the Mayor Making Ceremony held yesterday and reminded the Council of the following forthcoming events:

- Thomas Hardy Wreath Laying on 4th June, 2011;
- Dorchester Carnival on 18th June, 2011;
- Teddy Bears Picnic on 26th June, 2011; and
- Armed Forces Day on 2nd July, 2011.

She reported that neither she nor the Deputy Mayor were available to represent the Council at the commemoration of Armed Forces Day and the Council would be represented by Councillor Trevor Jones as Senior Councillor.

10. **QUESTIONS**

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

11. **SELECTION COMMITTEE – 10th MAY, 2011**

The Council received and noted a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Selection Committee held on 10th May, 2011, a report on which had been approved at the Special Meeting of the Council held that evening.

12. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 4th APRIL, 2011**

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

Minute 65(a) – Dorset County Council – Part Night Street Lighting – In response to a question from a Member the Town Clerk confirmed that a copy of the map referred to at this Minute would be circulated to all new Members of Council tomorrow.

Minute 65(b) – Dorset County Council – Household Recycling Centre, St. George’s Road – A Member expressed concerns about potential dangers for users arising from the continued operation of the Household Recycling Centre at St. George’s Road and the Chairman of the Committee agreed that an appropriate item should be placed on the agenda for the next Meeting of the Committee.

Minute 66(a) – West Dorset District Council – Dorchester Air Quality Management Plan – In response to a question from a Member the Town Clerk reminded the Council that the West Dorset District Council had agreed in principle to provide funds to enable the Dorchester Traffic and Environment Plan to be implemented at the earliest possible date and it was agreed that the matter should be further considered by the Planning and Environment Committee when the outcome of the discussions on the matter between West Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council is known.

Minute 67 – Parking – Herringston Road – In response to a question from a Member the Chairman reported that no reply had yet been received from the Dorset County Council in respect of this matter but drew the Council’s attention to Minute 71 of the Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3rd May, 2011 which noted that the Police had agreed to monitor the situation and would report back in due course.

It was

RESOLVED

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

13. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 3rd MAY, 2011**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3rd May, 2011 be adopted.

Minute 72 – Street Lighting – Footpath Between St. Helen’s Road and Cornwall Road – The Chairman reported that efforts to arrange the meeting referred to at this Minute were ongoing and confirmed that it would be possible to raise other issues relating to street lighting at it.

It was

RESOLVED

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

14. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 16th MAY, 2011**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 16th May, 2011 be adopted.

Minute 70(b) – Recreational Activities Panel – 12th April, 2011 – A Member expressed concern about the potential loss of grant income referred to at Panel Minute 8 and the Chairman of the Management Committee assured the Council that everything possible was being done to ensure that this loss did not arise.

Minute 73 – Dorchester Bowls Club – Councillor Trevor Jones declared an interest in this Minute as a member of the Club and took no part in the discussion of or voting on it.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee held on 16th May, 2011 be adopted.

15. **POLICY COMMITTEE – 17th MAY, 2011**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 17th May, 2011 be adopted.

Minute 64 – Dorset County Library Service – The Chairman reported that new information about suggested alternative methods of achieving the savings sought in the Dorset County Council’s Libraries budget had been received since the Meeting of the Policy Committee which, if implemented, would result in a reduction in the opening hours of Dorchester Library, a circumstance which did not prevail when the Committee had decided to send no representative to the consultation meeting held today. It had not been possible to arrange at short notice for the Council to be represented but further opportunities to comment would arise when the outcome of the County Council’s consideration was known.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 17th May, 2011 be adopted.

16. **POLICE MATTERS**

Sergeant Yeomans presented updated crime statistics for the period 1st April to 23rd May, 2011 which showed an overall slight decrease on the same period in 2010.

He also reported on action being taken to address the three top priorities identified by the PACT (Police and Communities Together) which were:

- to reduce road casualties;
- to reduce thefts from shops; and
- to reduce incidents of alcohol-related anti-social behaviour.

In the light of recent press reports about an incident in the Borough Gardens he reported that the Police had seized two dogs and that a prosecution under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 was pending.

A Member reported on complaints which he had received from a resident in London Road concerning large numbers of heavy goods vehicles passing through the town in the early hours of the morning. Sergeant Yeomans agreed to explore what action the Police might take and asked to be notified of the days of the week on which the problem was particularly noticeable.

He also agreed to discuss with the Section Inspector for Dorchester the suggestion of another Member that West Dorset District Council should be encouraged to require all hackney carriage and private hire vehicle drivers to use Bluetooth headsets whilst at work.

The Council rose at 7.41pm.

Mayor