



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Full Council held on **Tuesday 3rd September 2013** at 7:00pm in the Council Chamber.

Present:

Cllr Pritchard (Chairman)	Cllr Lewer
Cllr Harvey (Vice-Chairman)	Cllr Pestell
Cllr Cook	Cllr Steve
Cllr Dibben (for part of the meeting)	Cllr Thompson
Cllr Hicks	Cllr Tippins

In attendance:

Ms Nicola Duke (Chief Executive Officer and Town Clerk)
Mrs Claire Commons (Acting Committee Services Officer)
DCllr Jefferson, DCllr Beer
52 members of the public

Public Consultation

Cllr Pritchard – reported that he had received a resignation from Mr Thompson.

DCllr Beer – spoke on behalf of Barton Hill Trust asking that just nominated councillors attend the meetings.

Mr Hashman – presented the peppercorn rent for the Donkey Field (an apple) to the Mayor. He reported that they had been coppicing and that the wet flush had been planted with hawthorns.

Mr Griffin – spoke regarding tennis, asking if the council was further forward with the preparation of a lease for the tennis club and expressing reservations of the benefits from the tennis club's perspective for funding if all sporting facilities were combined within the Barton Hill Trust. Mr Griffin was invited to a meeting to discuss in more detail and progress the lease.

Mr Jordaan – spoke regarding transparency of information at the council and made reference to the situation regarding the memorial on Park Walk. He urged the council to improve communications and made reference to local community organisations.

Mr Thomas – asked for clarification regarding the HR committee asking why two convened meetings consisted of difference membership and that 2 members were listed who had previously been removed from HR. The Mayor clarified that the council had at its disposal a standing committee and also the ability to use the chair of HR and 2 appropriate members of the council to consider matters. Cllr Cook refuted the allegation that he was removed from HR and clarified that he stepped down voluntarily, Mr Thomas stated that if he was incorrect he would retract that statement, Cllr Harvey clarified that it was indeed the case. The Mayor called for an apology from Mr Thomas which was not forthcoming. Cllr Dibben spoke regarding the same allegation against him also clarifying that he volunteered to step down.

Mr Thomas spoke regarding the memorial and asked for confirmation of the cost as he believed the published £33,000 to be incorrect. Cllr Dibben clarified that the £33,000 included costs in

kind such as labour and material donations. Cllr Pritchard responded that Mr Thomas had made a Freedom of Information request and the information would be contained. Mr Thomas asked where the money was deposited and it was confirmed that this was in the Town Council accounts. Mr Thomas made reference to minutes recording that the resolution for spend on the memorial would be subject to approval from the auditor, the CEO advised that the internal auditor had given approval and that she would check the records and respond to Mr Thomas. Mr Thomas asked whether the project was Lester Dibben's or a council project, Cllr Pritchard advised that there would be a public meeting next week where these and further questions could be put.

Mr Gridley – spoke regarding the development adjacent to Mampitts allotments asking how many times had NDDC refused permission. Cllr Lewer clarified that the town council provided its observation but that if NDDC determined contrary to that, that was its prerogative. Mr Gridley expressed the opinion that the town council was not interested in Shaftesbury, Cllr Pritchard reiterated the points that Cllr Lewer had made and that the demonstrated the town council having a huge interest in the town and repeatedly attended meetings at NDDC to put its view across.

Mrs McCormack – expressed disappointment that no Christy's ward members had been present at the recent Scrutiny Committee meeting at NDDC making comment that Cllr Tippins' attendance there was irrelevant and that Cllr Pritchard was there in capacity as a District Councillor.

7:30pm. At this point the meeting was adjourned and resumed at 7:45pm

2013/45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

2013/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS TO PARTICIPATE

Members were provided with the opportunity under the Localism Act 2011 to declare any pecuniary interests or dispensations to participate in the meeting. There were none.

2013/47 MINUTES

2013/47.A. The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 27th June 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**.

2013/47.B. The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 2nd July 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**. Cllr Proctor expressed concern that the council had changed its resolution regarding the opening of the swimming pool, council was reassured that the decision was taken correctly as the conditions applied to the original resolution had not been met.

2013/47.C. The minutes of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee meeting held on 9th July 2013 were **APPROVED** for accuracy and **ADOPTED**. Cllr Proctor enquired of the grounds unit project expressing the opinion that it could be better delivered and for less money. It was **AGREED** to

REFER the Grounds Unit project back to the ROSE committee for further exploration.

ACTION: ACTING COMMITTEE SERVICES OFFICER

2013/47.D. Items 47 D, E and F – minutes for Planning and Highways of the 16th July 2013, General Management of the 30th July 2013 and Planning and Highways of 13th

August were deferred to the next meeting of the council due to final minutes not being available at that point.

2013/48 **REPORTS**

2013/48.A. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor's report for July and August 2013 was received and noted.

2013/48.B. DCllr Jefferson had nothing to report. DCllr Beer had left to attend another meeting.

DCllr Pritchard reported from the Scrutiny meeting at NDDC reporting that the District Council was not supporting the town in taking the triangle of land it desired and felt that Shaftesbury Town Council would be better not being involved in identifying the layout of the parks. Disappointment was expressed that other members of the town council save Cllr Tippins had not been present although the chair and vice chair had given their apologies due to conflicting engagements. Cllr Tippins reported that NDDC were proud of the social housing percentage and reported that at completion of the development it was likely to be around 50%.

2013/48.C. There were no reports from local organisations.

2013/49 **MEMORIALS**

The Chief Executive reported on the current status of the memorial extension confirming that the council would be investigating the situation, It was also reported that English Heritage had asked the council to take the lead and remedy the situation and if it proceeded in the manner outlined, they would not prosecute. A working group would be formed to manage the relocation of the extension to consist of the Mayor of Shaftesbury, English Heritage, the Conservation Officer at NDDC, Royal British Legion and Shaftesbury Civic Society. A temporary site would be found to move it to whilst a permanent site was identified.

Cllr Lewer spoke relating to the memorial, he **PROPOSED**, Cllr Pestell **SECONDED** and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to:

- Apply immediately to English Heritage for permission to remove the memorial extension
- Use council money to pay for the removal of the memorial extension
- Cancel the dedication service on 14th September 2013
- Form a working group in accordance to direction from English Heritage to consist of the Mayor of Shaftesbury, English Heritage, the Conservation Officer at NDDC, Royal British Legion and Shaftesbury Civic Society

(Policy 0913/DFC/49) (Statutory Authority – OSA 1906 s12) (Budgetary Provision – Contingency, amount to be advised.) (Public Sector Equality Duty – Due consideration of the duty was given)

ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2013/50 **FOOTBALL CLUB**

Cllr Dibben reported that there had been no response from the solicitors with regards to the current interest in the football clubhouse and therefore he **PROPOSED**, Cllr Cook **SECONDED** and it was:

RESOLVED that the council would commence a new tender process for the operation of the clubhouse.

(Policy 0913/FC/50) (Statutory Authority – OSA 1906 s10) (Budgetary Provision – na) (Public Sector Equality Duty – due consideration of the duty was given).

ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & GEM COMMITTEE

2013/51 PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Members noted that a public meeting had been called for Thursday 12th September 2013 to continue discussion of the matters raised during the public consultation period on 27th August 2013. It was noted that the primary concern was that of communication. Members considered the pros and cons of Social Media. The Chief Executive advised that officers were already in the process of developing a dedicated role to improve communication.

2013/52 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Members were advised that due to recent resignations, there were vacancies on the Community Services Committee. Cllr Proctor **PROPOSED** and Cllr Pestell **SECONDED** that Cllr Harvey be chair of GEM and vice chair of Community Services. Cllr Hicks **PROPOSED** Cllr Dibben as chair of GEM, there was no seconder for this proposal it was unanimously:

RESOLVED that Cllr Harvey be appointed chair of the General Management Committee and vice chair of the Community Services Committee.

(Policy 0913/FC/52a) (Statutory Authority – LGA 1972 s111) (Budgetary Provision – not applicable) (Public Sector Equality Duty – due consideration of the duty was given)

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

RESOLVED that Cllr Tippins join the Community Services Committee.

(Policy 0913/FC/52b) (Statutory Authority – LGA 1972 s111) (Budgetary Provision – not applicable) (Public Sector Equality Duty – due consideration of the duty was given)

2013/53 CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

2013/54 CHAIRMAN'S URGENT BUSINESS

There was none

Public Consultation

Mr Hughes – spoke regarding social media advising that the costs were minimal and there were means by which it could be set as reporting only to avoid malicious input. The council asked if he would be willing to help to which he agreed.

Mr Thomas – spoke advising all present of the public meeting to be held on Thursday 12th September 2013 at 7pm in the Guildhall. He sought clarification regarding mention of the auditor earlier in the meeting which was provided by the CEO.

Mr Mullett – spoke regarding the memorial being removed at the cost of the public purse. It was clarified at this point there was no choice but that the council would look into any other means to fund. He also asked about the football club lease and why it had taken seven weeks to reach this

point. The mayor responded that the council had been in recess during August which had slowed the process.

Mrs McCormack – expressed the view that no-one on the Eastern Development was consulted regarding plans for memorial stones.

Mr Madgewick – Spoke expressing concern at the behaviour between councillors and asked them to address this.

Mr Sherriff – spoke in sadness at the events surrounding the dedication of the memorial. He spoke of the good name that Shaftesbury has with the Rifles regiment.

Mr Austin – spoke echoing the sentiments of Mr Sherriff and also for Cllr Dibben who he felt had put his heart and soul into the project and hoped that the postponement of the memorial ceremony was just to put right a glitch.

Ms Kitt – spoke regarding the memorial asking if English Heritage were going to dictate where it would be re-sited. She hoped that it would be in a prominent location in recognition of the money that the public had put into it.

2013/55 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Harvey, **SECONDED** by Cllr Pritchard and unanimously **RESOLVED** to pass a resolution that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press should be excluded from Items 2013/130 and 131 as it they related to confidential matters as detailed in category 1 of Article 2.2.7 Access to Information Rules within the town council constitution.

2013/56 STAFFING MATTERS

Normal debate took place. Cllr Dibben **PROPOSED**, Cllr Cook **SECONDED** and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED that full management of the HR Process would sit with the CEO.

(Policy 0913/FC/56) (Statutory Authority – LGA 1972 s111) (Budgetary Provision – not applicable) (Public Sector Equality Duty – Due consideration of the duty was given)

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:00pm