

## WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**AT THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE LAVERTON, BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY ON MONDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011 AT 7.00 PM.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Windess (Chairman)

Cllrs S Andrews, W Braid, Mrs S Ezra, R Hawker, M Hawkins, D Jenkins, D Jones, Mrs C Mitchell, F Morland, C Pope, Mrs M Pope and W D Tout.

**T.2485 PUBLIC FORUM.** Nil.

**T.2486 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:**

Cllr M Cuthbert-Murray - personal.

Cllr S Miles – personal

Cllr Mrs D O’Hara - personal

**T.2487 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Nil.

**T.2488 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2010-2011.**

Cllr Mrs Ezra queried why, under Community Assets, the amount shown for the Town Crier’s uniform was almost double to that of the previous year. The Clerk reported that the old uniform had still not been disposed of, and that the value of the old uniform still had to be shown in the accounts.

Cllr Morland expressed his deep concern over the accuracy of the accounts, and did not consider they represented a true picture of the Town Council’s financial position. He was particularly critical of the Income and Expenditure Account and the Balance Sheet. He also pointed out an inaccuracy in the Statement of Accounting Policies. The Clerk reported that the accounts had been prepared by DCK Beavers Ltd, the Council’s accountants, who are very experienced in local government accounting practices and fully conversant with local government financial regulations. The accounts had also been audited by the Council’s internal auditors, Auditing Solutions Ltd, who had expressed their satisfaction with them - their report is still awaited. In the meantime, the Clerk will delete the error in the Statement of Accounting Policies under External Loan Repayments.

Cllr Tout, although accepting the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 to approve the Town Council’s accounts, was unhappy that an additional Town Council meeting had yet again been arranged, and considered this meeting should have been included in the schedule of meetings agreed at the Annual Town Council meeting in May, or perhaps switched with the General Purposes Committee at the beginning of June.

Cllr Tout raised the additional following questions:

- How set is the deadline of the 30<sup>th</sup> June?

- Is it necessary for the Town Council to approve the accounts, or can this be delegated to a committee?

The Clerk reported that the accounts would not have been audited in time for the General Purposes Committee at the beginning of June, and that it is a legal requirement for full Town Council to approve the accounts. In fact, the Audit Commission had raised concerns that in recent years some councils had been delegating this task to a committee, and in order to highlight this matter Mazars, the external auditors, had stated quite clearly in their letter this year that the accounts must be approved by full town council.

It was agreed that the Town Council approves the Statement of Accounts and Annual Return 2010-2011, as submitted. Cllr Morland requested that his vote against the motion be noted.

**Signed on behalf of the Meeting  
this fourth day of July 2011**

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**Chairman**