

WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**AT THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE LAVERTON,
BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY ON MONDAY, 7th NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.00 PM.**

PRESENT: Cllr D Windess (Chairman)

**Cllrs S Andrews, W Braid, M Cuthbert-Murray (left 9.40 pm),
Mrs S Ezra, R Hawker, D Jenkins (left 9.30 pm), D Jones, G King,
Mrs C Mitchell, C Pope, Mrs M Pope and W D Tout (left 9.40 pm).
Mr K Harvey, Town Clerk, and Mrs B Mantle.**

Five members of the public

A two minutes silence was held in remembrance of all those persons, who lost their lives during the Great War, Second World War and subsequent armed conflicts.

T.2555 PUBLIC FORM:

Mr I Taylor:

Comments made by Cllr R Hawker at the Launch of the refurbished Laverton,

Dr P Biggs:

- Launch of the refurbished Laverton.
- Recently published book on Abraham Laverton by Tony Laverton - request for information on the number of copies sold.
- Traffic Orders – request for information on when the double yellow lines are to be painted.
- Request for further information on the possible closure of Westbury Swimming Pool and Leighton Sports Centre.
- New retail businesses – further request for Town Council to advise potential traders on the likely success of their proposed enterprise.

In reply, Cllr Jenkins advised a sound business plan, and to seek advice from a professional organisation whether for a new business or an established one.

Mr J Clegg:

- Mr Clegg congratulated Cllr Windess on his work for his charities.
- Statement from Westbury Town Council in the 15th September 2011 edition of the White Horse News.
- Dismissal of Cllr S Andrews as Chairman of the Laverton Institute Trust Management Committee.

In reply, Cllr Hawker stated he stood by all he had said against Mr I Taylor and Mr J Clegg.

T.2556 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Mrs D O'Hara	-	Personal
Cllr S Miles	-	Personal
Cllr F Morland	-	Clash of meetings

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T.2557 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr G King – Agenda item 11: personal & prejudicial (member of Crosspoint).

T.2558 MINUTES. The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 5th September 2011 and the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held on the 26th September 2011, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

T.2559 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES.

a. **Leisure Facilities Working Group (T.2546).** Cllr Jones reported on the inaugural meeting of the Group, when it was agreed, in the first instance, to establish the usage of facilities in the town by contacting all user groups and organisations, and then through the White Horse News appealing for readers to come forward to the Town Council with information.

b. **Members' matters arising from these Minutes:**

T.2537 War Memorial. Cllr Andrews had made enquiries and established that nothing should be placed on a war memorial apart from wreaths and poppies. He has contacted the Westbury Branch of the British Legion to inform them of this, and although the Town Council has given approval, they will not be placing their Poppy Appeal 2011 banner on the railings of the war memorial.

T.2560 POLICE REPORT. The following report was submitted and read to the meeting:

Bluez n Zuz is a monthly event organised by Westbury Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT). It takes the format of a disco for young people in the school years 7 to 11. The aim is to build relationships with a hard reach element of the community and offer an alternative activity and a distraction from anti-social behaviour and peer pressure to engage in drinking alcohol and taking drugs. It continues to be a success and has built bridges between the police and young people of Westbury. Membership has grown to over 200 young people with attendances at the monthly events regularly being in the high 80's.

Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO). A further ASBO has been applied for in respect to a young male in Westbury. An interim ASBO has been granted in the meantime and a further hearing is being held on Tuesday, 8th November at NWMC.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB). There has been an increase of ASB reported in recent weeks. Some of this ASB has also included criminal damage to property. Westbury Police have worked closely with local residents and have identified the main offenders. Further enquiries are still ongoing. One of the main offenders is currently on a two year ASBO and has been arrested for breaching this order.

Bobby Van Talk. To be held at the Scout Hut, Meadow Lane, Westbury, on 10th November. Advice will be given on improving security of domestic premises occupied by the elderly, vulnerable or disadvantaged to prevent burglary, hate crime and domestic abuse; reducing incidence of repeat burglary and re-victimisation; promoting awareness of fire safety, detection and prevention; and offering reassurance and advice on crime reduction, and sign-posting other agencies that may be of assistance to clients' particular needs.

Property Marking. There have been a number of successful property marking evenings held in the High Street. The NPT has marked property as well as given advice on ensuring that property is marked using approved methods such as DNA/Forensic marking.

Non Emergency Number. The new number is **101** and all calls cost 15p regardless of the duration of the call.

Cllr Cuthbert-Murray raised concerns regarding the efficacy of the town's CCTV cameras. Cllr Hawker agreed the resolution of the cameras was not good. He considered the current system will need to be upgraded over the coming years. Cllr Jenkins reported on the increase in shoplifting, which he will bring to the attention of the Westbury Police.

T.2561

WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.

- **Laverton Launch.** WCllr Jenkins congratulated all those involved with the refurbishment of The Laverton Hall, and the recent Launch evening. He thanked Cllr Andrews for all his hard work on the successful refurbishment of The Laverton.
- **Westbury Campus.** Cllr Jenkins stated the Council still has a great deal of work to do. A start has been made, but the Council needs to develop it further. Cllr Hawker urged the Council to press Wiltshire Council for information on when they will cease to run the swimming pool and sports centre, and to ascertain whether there are any organisations in the town prepared to take these facilities over.
- **Car Parking.** Cllr Jenkins reported on the adverse effects the new car parking charges are having on the town centre with shoppers taking their business elsewhere. He feels Westbury is being squeezed by its larger neighbours, and a request to Wiltshire Council to reband the town was refused.

T.2562

MINUTES OF COMMITTEES. The following Minutes were received and noted:

Finance Committee	-	18.07.2011
Finance Committee	-	12.09.2011
Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	19.09.2011
Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	17.10.2011
General Purposes Committee	-	03.10.2011

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T.2563 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINTES.** Nil.

T.2564 **NOTICE OF MOTION received from the Finance Committee dated 12th September 2011.**

Recommendation to Town Council on a remit for the new Finance Committee.

To approve detailed procedural documentation for all financial procedures.

To consider the delegation of responsibility to committees for their own budgets, and to recommend to Town Council for approval the extent of that responsibility.

To receive recommendations from committees on proposed expenditure for inclusion in draft budgets.

To prepare the draft budget for approval by Town Council.

To monitor all income and expenditure against budget.

To review the Town Council's Financial Regulations on an annual basis for submission to the Annual Town Council meeting for approval.

To carry out an analytical review of payments made throughout the year.

To review year end ear marked and general reserves, and make recommendation to Town Council.

To monitor debtors, and set policy.

To review the Asset Register on an annual basis.

To monitor fixed term deposits.

To consider all small grant applications and make recommendation to Town Council.

To consider all internal audit reports, and recommend any necessary action to Town Council.

To approve the Annual Return submission to the external auditors.

The motion was approved.

T.2565

NOTICE OF MOTION received from The Laverton Institute Trust Management Committee (LITMC) on 27th October 2011.

- a. The Laverton Institute Trust Management Working Group is now converted into a standing committee of the Council called the “Laverton Committee” and is to hold meetings quarterly, or when there is sufficient or urgent business, and is to comprise of five councillors, plus the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio members, plus three non-voting seats for members of the public acting as representatives for users of the building and other parties interested in the success of The Laverton Institute Trust.

Westbury Heritage Society will be invited to appoint one representative and the other two representatives will be appointed by the membership of the Laverton General Interest Group (LGIG).

- b. To appoint members to the two vacant seats on the Laverton Committee.

Cllr Andrews proposed an amendment in that 10.a. of the motion be split into two parts: the first dealing with the issue of whether the status of the LITMC is converted from a working group to a standing committee, and the second dealing with its composition.

The amendment was approved.

Cllr Andrews then moved:

- a. That the Laverton Institute Trust Management Committee retains its status as a working group.

Cllr Hawker voted against the first part of the motion.

- b. That the composition of the Laverton Institute Trust Management Committee be as follows:

Mayor and Deputy Mayor
Five town councillors
Three non-voting members of the public

The motion was approved.

- c. It was proposed to appoint Cllrs W Braid and C Pope to the two vacant seats on the LITMC.

Approved.

T.2566

NOTICE OF MOTION received from Cllr G King on 28th October 2011. Council notes with concern the wealth of evidence provided by The Rural Communities Report, Wiltshire Council, the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Wessex Chambers of Commerce and others concerning the higher than average levels of economic and social isolation and exclusion caused through unemployment, debt and infirmity, that exists in Westbury. Council, therefore, welcomes the establishment of Crosspoint, a voluntary organisation sponsored by Westbury Churches Together, whose purpose is to specifically tackle this isolation and exclusion through the provision of support services via the provision of a welcome/drop in centre. Further, the Council, in recognition of the potential benefits of the welcome/drop in centre, is minded to support its continued development and viability and improving its ability to obtain external grant aid. The Council agrees to enter into a formal funding arrangement with Crosspoint totalling £30,000.00 over three years, to be paid in three separate annual amounts totalling £10,000.00 each year commencing April 2012. Cllr Hawker moved the following amendment:

This Council doubts whether the business plan of Crosspoint is viable, and invites Crosspoint to approach the Council formally to discuss its business plan in more detail.

The amendment failed.

Members then voted on the motion, which failed.

T.2567

NOTICE OF MOTION received from Cllr D Jenkins on 1st November 2011.

This motion notes that:

1. Westbury White Horse is in such a deplorable condition it looks ill and shabby. The horse is a dominant symbol, a major tourist attraction, and a feature for the town and surrounding area with strong historical importance to the community.
2. Due to English Heritage budget constraints they are arguing that there is no value in changing the situation.
3. It is deeply concerning that the horse in its present condition is affecting the image of the town and surrounding area.
4. When the horse was last cleaned English heritage did not find a lasting resilient solution.
5. Council therefore resolves to write to English Heritage in the strongest terms stating that this is unacceptable and requires a detailed timetable, giving a restorative solution, which is truly long lasting.

Cllr Hawker proposed the following amendment:

This proposal is referred to the Tourism Working Group with a view to taking up the matter with English Heritage to find out what the options are and report back to Town Council.

The amendment was agreed and became the substantive motion, which was approved.

- T.2568** **TV LICENCE – THE LAVERTON (T.2544).** An annual direct debit payment to the TV Licensing Authority (currently £145.50) was approved.
- T.2569** **FINANCE COMMITTEE.** It was agreed to change the date of the next Finance Committee from Monday, 12th December to Tuesday, 13th December 2011.
- T.2570** **CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE/MATTERS:**
- a. Westbury Heritage Society – letter of thanks for the Town Council’s grant of £7,000.00.
 - b. Copy of letter from a resident to Wiltshire Council complaining about obstruction of Snappersnipes by vehicles associated with The Laverton, and suggesting double yellow lines.
 - c. Delegation of Services. The Clerk reported on an initial discussion with Wiltshire Council officers. To report further to the Delegation of Services Working Group.
- T.2571** **THE LAVERTON INSTITUTE TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.** Cllr Hawker reported on the Launch Ceremony following the refurbishment of The Laverton. He apologised for not thanking the funders at the Launch, but will ensure that appropriate letters of thanks will be sent and signed by the Mayor.
- T.2572** **COMMUNICATIONS BY THE TOWN MAYOR.** The mayor reported he had attended the following on behalf of the Town Council:
- Official Opening – C S Bowyer, Funeral Directors
 - Official Opening of the Westbury Music & Arts Festival
 - Print Preview – Chantry Court
 - 21st Anniversary Variety Show, Athenaeum Theatre, Warminster
 - Civic Service – Wootten Bassett
 - District Service – Lions Club International
 - Relate AGM
 - The Laverton Launch and Open Day
 - Sight Awareness – Blindfolded Tour
 - Abseil for Diabetes UK
 - Funeral of Mr John Braidford
 - Calne Community Showcase & Film Festival

T.2573 ACCOUNTS:

- a. Payment of Accounts.** On report by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, it was resolved to approve the List of Payments made since the last meeting, or to be made, and to confirm the action of the Clerk, the Mayor and one other member in signing the necessary orders for payment and Bank Transfers as follows:

03.10.2011	-	£80,171.45
07.11.2011	-	£30,479.09

T.2574 It was resolved that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the public and press be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.

T.2575 EXTERNAL COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD – THE LAVERTON (T.2552).

T.2576 It was resolved to return to open council.

9.43 pm

**Signed on behalf of the meeting
this ninth day of January 2012**

Chairman