

WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

AT THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE LAVERTON,
BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY ON MONDAY, 3rd SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 7.00 PM.

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Ezra (Chairman)

**Cllrs S Andrews, D Bradshaw, I Cunningham, M Cuthbert-Murray,
R Hawker, D Jenkins, S Miles, Mrs C Mitchell, Mrs D O'Hara, C Pope,
W D Tout and D Windess (left 8.05 pm).**

**Mr K Harvey, Town Clerk, and Mrs B Mantle.
PCSO Jo Philpott
Nine members of the public**

T.2686 Cllr Mrs Ezra read out the following statement on behalf of the Management Team with regard to the Laverton Institute Trust Management Committee.

“This statement is issued by the Town Council Management Team with regard to the situation affecting the Chairmanship of the Laverton Institute Trust Management Committee. It has become necessary to make this statement because of rumours that are circulating around the town and inaccurate statements that have been posted on various websites.

I can confirm that Cllr Hawker resigned from the Laverton Institute Trust Management Committee of his own volition, and we cannot go into the detail of this matter due to reasons of confidentiality.”

T.2687

PUBLIC FORM:

Mr R Covington:

Proposed Grange Farm Wind Farm

Sarah Jane Angell:

Comments posted by Cllr Hawker on the Westbury Town Forum.

Mr E Bridges:

Request made to Town Council to fund legal advice on the future of Westbury Hospital.

Dr P Biggs:

Complaint regarding town councillors attacking each other in the local press

Cllr Morland's attendance record

Conduct of meetings, and poor chairmanship

Westbury War Memorial

Westbury By-Pass

HUB

Proposed Grange Farm Wind Farm

Westbury Hospital site

Poor conduct of town councillors

Rev J Burke:

Urged councillors to put the past behind them, and work for the good of the town.

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T.2688 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Gordon King	-	Personal
Cllr F Morland	-	Clash of meetings

T.2689 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

T.2690 MINUTES. The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 2nd July 2012 were amended to show that Cllr Morland sent his apologies, and together with the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 6th August 2012 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

T.2691 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES. None.

Members' matters arising from these minutes. Cllr Tout asked that he be referred to as W D Tout in all Town Council minutes and documentation, and not W Tout.

T.2692 POLICE REPORT. Jo Philpott gave the following report:

There have been numerous complaints about anti-social behaviour by large groups of youths in and around Westbury, and in particular around the Market Place and Maristow Street. The public should ring 101 to report this behaviour.

There have been more thefts of diesel and metal from the West Wilts Trading Estate, and the PCSO's will be trying to set up a Business Watch.

PCSO Mat Stewart has now left the Westbury Neighbourhood Policing Team to become a regular police officer. PCSO Hannah Jamieson has replaced him, and is settling into Westbury very well. Hannah will be setting up new neighbourhood watch schemes and will be the contact at the police station for any neighbourhood watch enquiries.

Bluez n Zuz is still going strong, and the next event will be at The Railway Pub on 26.09.2012.

The fire setting in Westbury is improving although not completely stopped. The offenders have been identified, and numerous partner agencies are now involved.

Cllr Ezra asked about a recent incident involving young adults in Grassacres Park. Pc Philpott undertook to check the logs and inform the Town Clerk.

Cllr Jenkins asked about the log sheets he has been sending out to residents in West End and Maristow Street areas, which are collated by Wiltshire Council, but nothing had come through to Pc Philpott.

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- T.2693 PRESENTATION BY MR S CARRINGTON (WESTBURY ROTARIANS) ON THE REFURBISHMENT OF WESTBURY WHITE HORSE.** A short film of the project was shown to the meeting. It was considered that maintenance work should be carried out to the White Horse every two to three years, and it was hoped to fund this with contributions from English Heritage, Wiltshire Council and Westbury Town Council. The Westbury Rotarians have received a generous donation, which they are holding in trust for this purpose. Steve Carrington explained that the joints still remain to be filled and painted, but due to the wet weather it has not been possible to complete this.
- Cllr Mrs Ezra thanked Mr Carrington for his presentation and congratulated him and the Westbury Rotarians on such a successful project, which has restored this important landmark and is once again a source of pride to the people of Westbury and the surrounding area.
- T.2694 WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.** Wiltshire Cllr Hawker reported on the new Code of Conduct, and Wiltshire Cllr Jenkins encouraged more town councillors to attend the Area Board meetings.
- T.2695 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES.** The following Minutes were received and noted:
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| Highways, Planning & Development Committee | - | 16.07.2012 |
| Highways, Planning & Development Committee | - | 20.08.2012 |
| General Purposes Committee | - | 06.08.2012 |
- T.2696 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES.** Nil.
- T.2697 WESTBURY HOSPITAL (T.2666).** A letter from Messrs Pinniger Finch & Co had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. The letter advised that the key issue was whether it was practicable to keep the site as a hospital. Should this prove not to be the case, then there is some uncertainty as to what the Secretary of State may use the property for. It is these two issues that would require expert opinion from a Barrister. Initial costs for this would be approximately £1,100 to £1,200. Application to the Land Registry has shown the hospital site to be in the ownership of the Wiltshire Primary Care Trust. However, the Trust's intentions with regard to the site are not known at the present time.
- Members expressed concern that in pursuing this case, costs could escalate beyond the Town Council's means. Following a joint proposal by Cllr Andrews and Cllr Jenkins, it was agreed to proceed no further with this matter, and to issue a statement to the local press as to why the Town Council has taken this decision.

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T.2698 NOTICE OF MOTION received from Cllr R Hawker on the 15th August 2012.

This Council condemns and wholly rejects the thoroughly disgraceful, untrue, muddled and misleading statement recently published by former town councillor Bill Braid, who recently resigned off the Council for the second time (the first time being in January 2003 when he let the whole town down by resigning mid-term as Mayor – a totally unprecedented and shameful event) because he was once again unable to push other councillors into voting the way he wanted on issues relating to The Laverton.

Cllr Hawker withdrew this motion.

T.2699 NOTICE OF MOTION received from Cllr R Hawker on the 15th August 2012.

All town council staff are banned from making politically-motivated comments at any time. When advising councillors, staff should focus on the relevant facts and law. Their political opinions on any part or activity of the council, including which councillor should occupy seats on committees, working groups or third party bodies, is not relevant to their role as staff. The management team will liaise with the Clerk to ensure that this is fully understood and enshrined in all contracts of employment.

Cllr Hawker withdrew this motion.

T.2700 NOTICE OF MOTION received from Cllr Mrs S Ezra on the 16th August 2012.

To amend Westbury Town Council's Standing Orders as follows (addition in bold):

Standing Order 37.

- a. The Town Council and every committee may appoint working groups for the purposes to be specified by the Council or specific committee.
- b. The minimum membership of each working group should be four with no maximum.**

Cllr Mrs Ezra amended her Motion as follows:

- b. The minimum membership of each working group shall be four with a maximum of seven members, which includes the two ex-officio members.

Cllr Tout proposed an amendment to reduce the maximum number to six members. This amendment was defeated.

Cllr Mrs Ezra's amended motion was approved.

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T.2701 NOTICE OF MOTION received from Cllr Mrs S Ezra on the 16th August 2012.

That this Town Council should set an example by recycling its waste paper, card and plastic.

Motion approved.

T.2702 NOTICE OF MOTION received from Cllr D Bradshaw, Chairman, Leisure Facilities Working Group on 21st August 2012.

Allocation of Working Groups to relevant Committees – Town Council Minute T.2533 dated 5th September 2011. To approve the Leisure Facilities Working Group reporting to General Purposes Committee instead of the Highways, Planning & Development Committee.

Motion approved.

T.2703 NOTICE OF MOTION received from Cllr D Jenkins and seconded by Cllr G King on the 23rd August 2012. This council is rightly proud of our town's railway heritage, and the depth and breadth of the rail services that operate from here.

We note with concern that HM Governments specification to potential bidders for the Great Western Franchise is likely to result in the down grading of the Berks & Hants line, east of Newbury from being a high speed intercity route to being semi-fast local route inevitably increasing journey times to and from London and operating in a lower standard of livery.

This council recognises the importance of the maintenance of high speed services for local commuters who daily travel to the capital for work & business purposes and is resolved to write to the Minister (the Rt Hon Teresa Villiers MP) and object in the strongest possible terms to any proposals that may either cause or result in: the downgrading of the Berks & Hants line; the inconvenience of local commuters; putting already overstretched local services under greater pressure or inadvertently putting the local economy, jobs and business at risk.

Council requires that a close eye on HM Governments handling of the Great Western Franchise process will be maintained to ensure that no further adverse development is not overlooked.

The motion was approved, and the General Purposes Committee was delegated to monitor the situation.

T.2704 NOTICE OF MOTION received from Cllrs M Cuthbert-Murray and Mrs S Ezra on 24th August 2012.

Following recent inspection of allotments to the rear of the Groves in Queens Road, the Clerk to write to Wiltshire Council requesting a proposal outlining

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their intentions, together with confirmation of the land ownership, maintenance costs and details of rents and any current tenants.

Following receipt of this information, the Delegation of Services Working Group to consider this matter and make recommendation to full Town Council in November.

Motion approved. It was noted that Warminster Town Council has taken over its allotments from Wiltshire Council, and has formed an allotment association. The Town Clerk to contact Warminster Town Council for more information.

T.2705 NOTICE OF MOTION received from Cllr Mrs C Mitchell, Chairman, Play Areas Working Group, dated the 24th August 2012.

- a. The Play Areas Working Group is proposing to install a new piece of youth equipment to be placed in Grassacres Park. The total cost of the equipment is £10,000 to £12,000, and the Town Council has been offered £4,040 from the Area Board's ring fenced youth budget. This money does not have to be match funded, but it does have to be used within this financial year. This will be dealt with at the Area Board in October. There is currently £3,000.00 allocated for play area equipment in the Capital Projects Programme for 2012-2013, and the Play Areas Working Group proposes that this be increased to £8,000.00. Full details of this project will be submitted to Town Council for approval at a later date.
- b. On inspection of the skate park with Tim Woolford of Wiltshire Council, it was noted that the skate ramps were in need of repair and maintenance to bring the park up to a safe standard as the ramps are lifting and this could be a health and safety issue. The Play Areas Working Group are currently seeking quotes for these repairs and would request that the Town Council agrees to release the necessary funds from the skate park maintenance budget.

Motion approved.

T.2706 NOTICE OF MOTION received from Cllr I Cunningham dated 25th August 2012.

That the council should establish a working group (or use an appropriate existing group) to examine methods that the council can use to consult with the people of the town and make recommendations towards a consultation policy for the council to adopt.

Motion approved. It was agreed to refer this matter to the General Purposes Committee.

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T.2707 VACANCIES.

1. Following the resignation of Cllr W Braid, the following members were appointed:

Laverton Institute Trust Management Working Group – Cllr D Bradshaw.
Leigh Park Residents Association – Cllr M Cuthbert-Murray.
2. Following the resolution at T.2700, the following members were appointed to bring the membership up to four:

CCTV Working Group – Cllr Mrs D O’Hara
Flood Relief Working Group – Cllrs D Bradshaw and I Cunningham
3. Christmas in Westbury Working Group – Cllrs Mrs D O’Hara and D Bradshaw were appointed to bring the membership to six.
4. Website Working Group – Cllr I Cunningham was appointed to bring further expertise to this group.

T.2708 CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE/MATTERS:

- a. Double yellow lines are now being painted at the agreed sites around Westbury.
- b. Jennings Fun Fair will be on site at Penleigh Playing Field from the 23rd to 30th September. Wiltshire Council will be monitoring any damage to the field surface by heavy vehicles.

T.2709 THE LAVERTON INSTITUTE TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. Cllr Mrs Ezra reported on the Hall hire income as follows:

April	£682.20
May	£953.40
June	£701.00
July	£576.40
August	£345.00 (a week’s booking had been cancelled due to lack of support).
September	£1,143.00 (provisional)

It is anticipated that the Landfill grant applications will be submitted in early September to fund the disabled parking space, blackout blinds for the Abraham Room and the development of a new website for The Laverton. An application will also be made to Awards 4 All to fund the free events and assessment programme in February 2013. This is in effect a feasibility study and soft consultation to provoke interest in/review of the building and its possible use by the community.

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In future consideration will be given to other funding such as the Heritage Lottery Fund with regard to the fabric of the building, but this is a much more complex matter.

T.2710 **COMMUNICATIONS BY THE TOWN MAYOR.** Since July Cllr Mrs Ezra represented the town at the following events:

Hudson Field, Salisbury – Olympic flame
Opening of the collection point at the Co-op Supermarket for the town Food Bank

A vote of thanks was made to the Co-op Supermarket for providing this facility.

T.2711 **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:

6 th August 2012	-	£26,196.09
3 rd September 2012	-	£17,434.38

b. Monthly Statement – July (revised). Noted.

9.22 pm

**Signed on behalf of the meeting
this fifth day of November 2012**

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Chairman

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