

**WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL**

**AT THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE LAVERTON, BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY ON MONDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2013 AT 7.00 PM.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr W D Tout (Chairman)  
Cllrs S Andrews, Mrs S Ezra, D Bradshaw and I Cunningham,  
Mr K Harvey, Town Clerk, & Mrs B Mantle

**G.1807 PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Mr S Pyne, Westbury Amateur Swimming Club.**

Mr Pyne expressed his Club's concerns regarding the continuing closure of Westbury Swimming Pool as a result of the failure of the new pool liner.

Mr Pyne was advised that the Swimming Club should write immediately to the Town Council in order that this matter may be placed on the next Highways, Planning & Development Committee agenda.

**G.1808 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE.**

Cllrs M Cuthbert-Murray – unwell

Cllr S Miles - personal

Cllr M Sutton – personal

**G.1809 DISPENSATIONS. Nil.**

**G.1810 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Nil**

**G.1811 MINUTES.** The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**G.1812 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES. Nil.**

**Members' matters arising.** Nil.

**G.1813 WILTSHIRE WEST DISTRICT SCOUT ASSOCIATION.** Defer to the next Town Council meeting.

**G.1214 BITHAM BROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION.** It was agreed to make a grant of £500 to help with the project of replacing the pond liner in the school wildlife area. (LGA 1972 Section 137.)

**G.1215 WESTBURY TRAIN WATCH – update from Cllr I Cunningham.**

The invitation to tender for the electrification of the Great Western route had been modified and now the scheme did not extend to Westbury. The Rail Minister agreed to morning and evening trains, but under the new scheme it was apparent the high speed trains would come straight through Westbury. Train Watch was now working with passenger groups from Bedwyn and Pewsey, who are campaigning to be considered for electrification. Train

Watch through local MP's have obtained funding for a study of electrification beyond Newbury. However, ARUP, who are carrying out the study, will be using standard models, which do not include special reasons for Westbury. At the recent meeting with ARUP they went through their model, and also visited the town. The ARUP representatives were surprised at how extensive the industrial and residential areas are, and also the links going through town. In addition, they had not realised that although Westbury is only 20 miles from the M4, the actual journey time to the M4 is so long. The Town Council has provided ARUP with a copy of its Vision document, together with information on the industrial estates.

The Study will be looking at the following:

- Proposed Post-Electrification Service without extension.
- Option 1: Extension from Newbury to Bedwyn.
- Option 2: Extension from Bedwyn to Westbury, including electrification into Westbury Yard to facilitate electric freight.
- Option 3: Extension beyond Westbury to the Mendip quarries.
- Option 4: Extension through Trowbridge to Bath, and Thingley Junction via Melksham.

Option 2 would probably give Westbury more trains due to linking with electrified trains.

Forthcoming key dates are 8<sup>th</sup> April – finalise economic appraisal; 15<sup>th</sup> April – issue draft business case report; and 29<sup>th</sup> April – issue final business case report.

**G.1216 CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS FOR REPORT.** Nil.

**G.1217 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE MATTERS.** Nil.

**G.1218 WORKING GROUP'S REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a. Events Working Group. Nil.
- b. Website Working Group. Nil.
- c. Westbury Tourism Working Group. Nil.
- d. Delegation of Services Working Group. Nil.

**G.1219 TASK & FINISH GROUPS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a. Charter Fayres & Markets. Cllr Miles reported he will be writing to Wiltshire Council for their view.
- b. Communications – Cllr Cunningham reported the Group are looking at the pros and cons of a table of defined communications method,

including costs and will be reporting further. The Town Clerk will be drafting a communications policy for the Council.

- c. War Memorial. Nil.

**G.1220 ACCOUNTS:**

**List of Payments** – circulated, agreed and signed by the Chair.

**7.40 pm**