

WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**AT THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE LAVERTON,
BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY ON MONDAY, 1st JULY 2013 AT 7.00 PM.**

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs C Mitchell (Chairman)

**Cllrs S Andrews, D Bradshaw, I Cunningham, Mrs S Ezra, R Hawker
(7.05 pm), D Jenkins, G King, F Morland, M Sutton and W D Tout.
Mr K Harvey, Town Clerk, and Mrs B Mantle.**

Two members of the public.

T.2869 PUBLIC FORM:

Dr P Biggs:

- Voting in meetings.
- 125th Anniversary - Westbury Swimming Pool.
- Attendance by town councillors at town events.

T.2870 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr S Miles	-	Unwell
Cllr I Taylor	-	Personal
Cllr P Wakeman	-	Personal
Cllr D Windess	-	Personal

T.2871 DISPENSATIONS. Nil.

T.2872 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Nil.

T.2873 PRESENTATION BY NICK BATES, SENIOR PUBLIC PROTECTION OFFICER, WILTSHIRE COUNCIL, ON EMERGENCY PLANNING.

Mr Bates spoke about the recent desk top exercise, in which the Emergency Planning Working Group took part. The object of this exercise was to explore community resilience and to test local emergency plans. The Town Council has no emergency plan in place, but the Working Group took part in the exercise in order to gain a better idea of what is required. The aim is to use the local community, their skills and facilities to act in the first instance should the emergency services be delayed or unable to attend, and also to assist the emergency services with local knowledge. He suggested forming a plan for each Westbury ward detailing available community halls, food supplies, transport, doctors and nurses, etc, and also identifying vulnerable residents, such as the elderly, isolated families with children, and farmers with livestock. He emphasised that it is for each community to know its own area, so help can be given or requested from surrounding parishes. There is always an emergency planning officer on duty to help and co-ordinate. In the event of an emergency or large scale disaster, local knowledge is very important. However, the most common emergency is weather related when typically emergency services may be delayed, or even unable to attend.

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- T.2874 PRESENTATION BY KATIE FIELDING ON MEMBERSHIP OF WILTSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (WALC).**
WALC is a membership organisation for parish and town councils. The Executive Committee is made up from member councils to discuss relevant local issues. It is a stand-alone organisation and contracts for resources to Community First, and employs two members of staff. Membership of WALC grants automatic membership of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), giving local councils a national voice. NALC provides legal and procedural advice, and issues updates on legislation and legal matters, as well as consulting local councils on a wide variety of issues. As a member, Westbury Town Council has direct access to the NALC legal team. WALC is in regular contact with local councils with information on current topics. It also organises training for both council members and staff, and offers discounted publications.
- It was resolved to pay the annual subscription of £1,276.50 to Wiltshire Association of Local Councils.
- T.2875 MINUTES.** The Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on the 13th May 2013 and the Town Council Meeting held on the 17th June 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
- T.2876 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES:** Nil.
- Members' matters arising from these Minutes:** Concerns were raised over the lack of response to matters raised in the Public Forum, and the need to improve communication with the public.
- T.2877 POLICE REPORT.** There has been an addition to the ranks of the Westbury NPT in the form of PS Neil Duffin. He has joined the team as the dedicated NPT Sergeant for Westbury, and has previously worked as a response officer and a member of the Neighbourhood Tasking Team with a specific responsibility for targeting criminals within the community.
- The previous NPT Priorities were both closed at the last NTG held on 11 June. In relation to the first priority of speeding – NPT conducted 57 static patrols at various locations in the Town. This has resulted in 4 Fixed Penalty Notices being issued for speeding or using a mobile phone whilst driving. A metro count was also conducted on Warminster Road at Chalford and showed that large percentiles of traffic were speeding. This issue was subsequently raised at the Community Area Traffic Board and the location has been added for use of the Speed Indicator Device.
- The second Priority was in relation to littering and the NPT carried out 65 dedicated patrols regarding this. Patrols focused on the High Street car park, Connemara Park area of Westbury Leigh, and Indigo Lane. The main offenders varied upon location – in the High Street area it tended to be adults that were less considerate as to where they put their rubbish, whilst in the parks it was younger people (youths). During these patrols the NPT have engaged with members of the public and educated young people, who gather in those areas.

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Graffiti has been highlighted as a concern within the Town. In particular the numerous examples of 'I Love U' that are regularly appearing on both Council and private property. To that end this problem has been adopted by the NPT as a current policing priority.

Illegal use of bikes in Wellhead woods and the surrounding tracks and bridleways has become an issue again, and this has been adopted by the NPT as a police priority as well.

Community Speed Watch (CSW) reported that there had been some issues in Chippenham, regarding lack of support, and acknowledgement of statistics. As a result of this members of the Bitham Park scheme intended to give up carrying out Speed Watch checks. Unfortunately, there has been a backup in processing results due to Police staffing shortfalls in Chippenham. Westbury NPT is currently piloting a trial whereupon the reports and details of speeding motorists are passed to us as opposed to Chippenham, and we will conduct the checks and issue the letters to offending motorists.

T.2878

WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.

Wiltshire Cllr D Jenkins: The Westbury Campus will be discussed at the next Area Board meeting on 15th August at All Saints Church Hall at 6.30 pm. Also the Neighbourhood Plan, which will give local people a better say in what happens in their own area. It is vital that the Town Council focuses on this in the near future. On 11th July there will be a Wiltshire Core Strategy discussion, which involves Westbury, at the Civic Centre, Trowbridge.

Wiltshire Cllr G King: Wiltshire Council development control has moved to a new IT system, which will affect the information the Town Council receives in future. Training for town and parish councils on the new system has been arranged for the 8th July.

Wiltshire Cllr R Hawker: The Neighbourhood Plan will be discussed at the Highways, Planning & Development Committee, and then afterwards at the next Town Council meeting.

T.2879

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

Finance Committee	-	10.06.2013
General Purposes Committee	-	03.06.2013
Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	20.05.2013
Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	17.06.2013

T.2880

MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES. Nil.

T.2881

NOTICE of MOTION received from the Laverton Institute Trust Management Working Group dated 21st May 2013.

In order to meet the advertised Laverton Main Hall seating capacity, to approve the purchase of five x 5ft and seven x 5ft 6in round banqueting tables at a total cost of £678.

APPROVED.

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T.2882 NOTICE of MOTION received from Cllr I Cunningham dated the 29th May 2013.

That Westbury Town Council should publish its standing orders and financial regulations on the Westbury Town Council web site.

APPROVED.

T.2883 NOTICE of MOTION received from the General Purposes Committee dated the 3rd June 2013.

Reinstatement of a War Memorial in the Market Place (T.2799). The result of the survey is as follows:

Of the 1049 votes received, 498 were discounted, and of the remaining 551 votes, 349 were Yes votes, 201 were No votes and one did not know.

It is recommended that this scheme does not go ahead unless it can be fully funded externally.

Cllr Mrs Ezra called for a recorded vote.

	For	Against	Abstained
Cllr S Andrews	X		
Cllr D Bradshaw	X		
Cllr I Cunningham	X		
Cllr S Ezra	X		
Cllr R Hawker			
Cllr D Jenkins	X		
Cllr G King	X		
Cllr Mrs C Mitchell	X		
Cllr F Morland			X
Cllr M Sutton	X		
Cllr D Tout	X		
Totals	9		1

APPROVED.

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- T.2884** NOTICE of MOTION received from the Laverton Institute Trust Management Working Group dated 4th June 2013.
- To instruct Jones Lang LaSalle to proceed to tender stage for replacement of the Laverton Institute boiler, together with associated works, and the removal of the remaining asbestos within the building.
- APPROVED.
- T.2885** NOTICE of MOTION received from the Laverton Institute Trust Management Working Group dated 4th June 2013.
- To approve the donation of the remaining old Wiltshire College computers (5) to local charities.
- APPROVED.
- T.2886** NOTICE of MOTION received from the Laverton Institute Trust Management Working Group dated 4th June 2013.
- To approve the request received from the Citizens Advice Bureau, should they decide, to extend their weekly sessions currently open from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm to open from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm. Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) currently run weekly sessions in the Abraham Suite, which is let free of charge from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm. Following a request from the CAB, to approve possibly extending their sessions from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm and to continue to let this accommodation free of
- APPROVED.
- T.2887** NOTICE of MOTION received from the Laverton Institute Trust Management Working Group dated 4th June 2013.
- To approve extending Mr John Parker's role as a retained consultant at a rate of £20.00 per hour for the period 1st April 2013 until 31st March 2014 in support of the continuing Laverton Project. Funding of £5,000.00 for this purpose has been approved and included in the budget for 2013-2014.
- APPROVED
- T.2888** NOTICE of MOTION received from the Finance Committee dated 10th June 2013.
- To appoint the following members to the Internal Audit Review Working Group:
- Cllrs S Andrews, D Bradshaw, Mrs S Ezra and D Jenkins.
(Current membership: Cllrs S Andrews, Mrs S Ezra, D Jenkins and G King.)
- APPROVED.

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T.2889 NOTICE of MOTION received from Cllr I Cunningham dated 12th June 2013.

To instruct the Clerk to write to:

The Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin, Secretary of State for Transport

Copy to Rt Hon Simon Burns, Minister of State for Transport (rail strategy)

Copy to Fleur de Rhé-Philipe, Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Transport

Westbury Town Council, notes with disappointment the results for the DfT's recent investigation by ARUP into the proposed extension of electrification beyond Newbury to Westbury and further.

We note that a low BCR value for electrification to Westbury was an obvious consequence of only 2 electrified services being specified for Westbury using the newly electrified section; in itself, a surprising choice.

“Few potential service enhancements with services to Pewsey and Westbury still provided by West of England Services”

“EMU semi-fast services between Bedwyn and London: two services extended to Westbury” [Arup presentation Great Bedwyn 22 May 2013]

Whilst in the modelling of Great Bedwyn (option 1) most Newbury electric services were extended to Great Bedwyn, almost none of these were extended to Westbury (option 2).

We also note that ARUP were instructed by the DfT to assume the current through services for Westbury/London with:

“HST services: as per Option 1, no stops are removed”

“HST fast and semi-fast services run between the West Country and London: Maintained as Existing (DfT assumption)” [Arup presentation Great Bedwyn 22 May 2013]

The modelling for Westbury (options 2, 3 & 4) services did not include shuttle services to Newbury (or other electrified stops should extension to Bedwyn occur). The ARUP consultants confirmed that this too, was by instruction from the DfT.

In view of the above, Westbury Town Council assumes that in the next Franchise Competition for services on this line (from 2016):

- Existing fast and semi-fast through services between Westbury and London Paddington will be maintained at least at current levels
- Any shuttle services from Westbury between electrified stations closer to London will be *additional* services and not replacements.

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We would be grateful for written confirmation of these assumptions.

If you are unable to provide such confirmation, we would urgently seek an explanation as to why no other options were considered when turning down our electrification.

It was resolved to write to the Rt Hon Patrick McLoughlin, Secretary of State for Transport, as detailed above, with copies to the following:

Rt Hon Simon Burns, Minister of State for Transport (Rail Strategy)
Dr A Murrison, MP
Fleur de Rhé-Philippe, Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Transport

In addition, it was agreed to try to involve other local councils in this matter.

T.2890 NOTICE of MOTION received from the Events Working Group dated 24th June 2013.

To approve expenditure of up to £2,000.00 to fund celebrations to mark the Re-Launch and 125th Anniversary of Westbury Swimming Pool on the 7th & 8th September 2013. Funding to be taken from the General Reserve.

Cllr Bradshaw reported on progress to date with the celebrations. Wiltshire Council has agreed to arrange advertising, media coverage and refreshments, and has also offered additional funding of up to £1,500 towards the Town Council's celebrations.

Expenditure from General Reserve of up to £2,000 was approved.

T.2891 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE/MATTERS:

- a. **Bitham Brook Primary School.** Letter of thanks for the £500 grant funding towards the pond liner for their wildlife area.
- b. Forthcoming exhibition by HPH of Bath at The Laverton on the allocation for business/industrial land in Westbury.

Cllr Hawker expressed concerns that the developer was now talking about all forms of industrial warehousing and offices, which is contrary to the core strategy, and not the high quality business park proposed by the Town Council at the consultation stage.

- c. Details of the forthcoming public consultation on the proposed development at The Mead.

T.2892 THE LAVERTON INSTITUTE TRUST MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP. Cllr Bradshaw reported on the new Laverton website. Rob Escott has been selected to manage the website, which has been funded through The Laverton Experience Week grant. The website is now live and 237 visits have already been recorded, 166 of which were unique visits coming mostly

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through Google, but also through the Town Council website. Following on Facebook and Twitter has also increased over the last few months.

Hall hire for May and June was £750 and £954 respectively, and July is forecast to be £1,447.

T.2893 CCTV WORKING GROUP. Nil.

T.2894 COMMUNICATIONS BY THE TOWN MAYOR. To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to lay before the Council. Nil.

T.2895 ACCOUNTS:

Payment of Accounts. To approve the list of payments made since the last Meeting or to be made and to confirm the action of the Chairman and one other Member in signing the necessary orders for payment, Business Pass Cash/Visa Cards (if any) transactions, and staff remunerations:-

03.06.2013	-	£29,877.00
01.07.2013	-	£30,306.10

T.2896 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.

NOTICE of MOTION received from the Laverton Institute Trust Management Working Group dated 25th June 2013.

Provision of bar facilities for events at The Laverton.

T.2897 It was resolved to return to open council.

9.05 pm

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