

WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

AT THE MEETING OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD AT THE LAVERTON, BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY ON MONDAY 7th APRIL 2014 AT 7.00 PM.

PRESENT: Cllrs S Andrews (Deputy Chair), D Bradshaw, Mrs S Ezra and M Sutton.
Mr K Harvey, Town Clerk, & Mrs B Mantle

Also in attendance: Cllr D Jenkins

G.1291 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr S Miles	-	Illness
Mrs C Mitchell	-	Personal
Cllr D Windess	-	Business

G.1292 DISPENSATIONS. Nil.

G.1293 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Nil

G.1294 MINUTES. The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee held on the 3rd February 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

G.1295 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES. Nil

Members' matters arising. Nil.

G.1296 RECOMMENDATION RECEIVED FROM Cllr D JENKINS on 20th Feb 2014. As part of the motion last November to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great War it was agreed by Council that remembrance of the second World War be included, though there is no specific anniversary to commemorate. Even though this was the case, the group realised this was a mistake, and the focus of the group should be on the 100th commemoration.

It was agreed at the Great War Task & Finish meeting on Dec 16th 2014 that the Group aims to recommend an appropriate legacy to commemorate The Great War (1914-1918), working with and seeking advice from other organisations and individuals as appropriate.

Cllr Jenkins proposed to recommend to Town Council to rename the Group "Great War Commemoration".

APPROVED.

G.1297 RECOMMENDATION RECEIVED FROM Cllr D JENKINS on 24th Mar 2014. To ask for nominations for additional members to the Great War Commemoration Task & Finish Group.

It was agreed to defer this to the Annual Town Council meeting on 6th May when all working and task and finish groups are considered.

G.1298

RECOMMENDATION RECEIVED FROM THE COMMITTEE

CRITERIA TASK & FINISH GROUP on 27th Mar 2014. Background -

The structure of the council is well established and has served councillors to good effect over a number of years, but like all static structures has been subject to changing circumstances and personnel, and the ‘creep’ of remit and purpose to which all organisations are subject over time.

This has led to some committees being overburdened with work and others becoming almost dormant, and it is only due to the application and talents of past and present councillors that the council has functioned as well as it has.

An example of imbalance is that the members of HP&D sit for long hours, whilst those on GP rarely sit more than 30 minutes, and indeed often there is nothing for the agenda. That a committee that recommends and scrutinises policy, which should have a major role as it does in most other councils, shows how much original intentions have morphed over time, and the purpose of this review is to recommend a method to return to the original concept of policy and the decision making process.

Recommendations:-

1. Rename GP Committee as Policy and Resources Committee.
2. Accept revised terms of references for committees and management team.
3. Consider the option to designate long term working groups as sub committees/committees.
4. Committees to review and scrutinise each meeting that those Working Groups report to.
5. Working Groups and Task and Finish groups to be populated from full council rather than be restricted to relevant committee members.
6. Standing orders to be revised to reflect these changes.

It was RESOLVED to submit the recommendations to Town Council, without amendment.

G.1299

RECOMMENDATION RECEIVED FROM Cllr D JENKINS on 28th

Mar 2014. To purchase two giant poppies for installation, one on the Laverton and the other on the Library, subject to satisfactory and safe securing.

Cost by way of donation £600 - £700 per poppy.

Cost of cherry picker to hang said poppy – approx £120 per annum (it could be removed each year when the cherry picker returns to remove the Christmas lights).

Subject to Installation being overcome without additional costs (other than immediate fixings) – i.e. without the need to obtain listed building consent costs.

Cllr Jenkins was asked to put a request through the Area Board to Wiltshire Council to ascertain whether this giant poppy can be attached to the front of the Library. However, it was considered too difficult to attach one of these poppies to the front of The Laverton.

G.1300 CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS FOR REPORT. An additional Town Council meeting will be called to respond to Wiltshire Council's consultation on youth services.

G.1301 APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID 2013/14 – COMMUNITY FIRST. It was RESOLVED to make a grant of £100 to Community First under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137.

G.1302 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE MATTERS:

- a. **The Post Office.** Update on the continuing temporary closure of The Ham Post Office.
- b. **The former Eastleigh Surgery site.** A Planning Application to develop twelve one and two bedroom flats will be considered at the next Highways, Planning & Development Committee meeting on 14th April.
- c. **Staffing Matters.** Mrs Lilly Bale has now commenced duties as The Laverton Development and Marketing Manager.

G.1303 BUDGET BIDS. Nil

G.1304 WORKING GROUP'S REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. **Events Working Group.** The summer celebration arrangements are proceeding well. There will be the usual summer stalls, Model Railway, puppet show and dog show. It is hoped there will be a market on the Saturday, but this has not yet been confirmed. With regard to the evening entertainment all is arranged, but the Group is still waiting to hear back from Police Licensing before applying to Wiltshire Council.

The Tea Dance is arranged for the Sunday afternoon

Christmas in Westbury, with the lights switch-on, is progressing. The Christmas Card competition will be held again, but the fancy dress will be replaced with a model making competition. The Christmas booklet will take the same form as previous years, and the advertising charges will be held as at last year.

Christmas Tree Festival (11th to 14th December) will be held in the church, with possibly a Victorian market outside on the Saturday.

Childrens' Christmas party will be held on the 13th December at Leighton Recreation Centre. Tickets this year will be £4.00 and Cllr

Hawker has agreed to be Santa again. The party for the young people will be held at the Swimming Pool, date to be confirmed, and the tickets will be £1.00, which will be refunded on the day.

- b. **Website Working Group.** Nil.
- c. **Westbury Tourism Working Group.** The Group continues to work with Visit Wiltshire in order to promote the town and achieve its objective of raising the profile of Westbury. A promotional event was held at The Laverton to which appropriate businesses in the town were invited to meet Visit Wiltshire and learn about the organisation and the benefits and opportunities available. Both the White Horse Country Park and DC Leisure expressed a strong interest, and once the Visit Wiltshire brochures have been delivered, the Group will visit those key businesses in the town, who did not attend the event, to explain the benefits and encourage interest.
- d. **Delegation of Services Working Group.** The Group held a site meeting with Wiltshire Council's officers, to check on the progress of reinstating the allotments. Wiltshire Council is currently clearing the allotments at the Groves in Queens Road. It is not Wiltshire Council's policy to "force" a service on to a town or parish council, but any council may apply to take on a service. The Group will be proposing to Town Council to take on allotments in principle. However, certain conditions must be satisfied first before the council takes on these allotments. A further meeting will be held shortly to look at how many allotments are possible from the space available – possibly twenty. There are other areas in the town that have been allotments in the past, but current ownership needs to be ascertained. The Group's opinion is that the Council may consider taking on these services on a no-cost basis, although there will be the benefit of rental income. Any income can be put in an ear marked reserve to deal with any possible problems arising in the future. The Council will need to consider security; maintenance of common areas; water storage; permission for sheds, etc.

Cllr Sutton proposed that for a future meeting, a list be drawn up of possible services that the Town Council could be interested in.

G.1305 TASK & FINISH GROUPS REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. **Charter Fairs & Markets.** Cllr Miles has been in communication with the Wiltshire Council Market Team, but due to illness has not been able to make any progress.
- b. **Great War & Second World War.** Report as submitted at G.1296.

G.1306 ACCOUNTS:

List of Payments – noted.

8.05 pm