

WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**AT THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE LAVERTON,
BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY ON MONDAY, 7th JULY 2014 AT 7.00 PM.**

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs C Mitchell (Chairman)

**Cllrs S Andrews, D Bradshaw, I Cunningham, Mrs S Ezra, R Hawker,
D Jenkins, G King, F Morland, M Sutton, I Taylor, W D Tout, and D
Windess.**

Mr K Harvey, Town Clerk, and Mrs B Mantle.

Also in attendance: Police Inspector Alan Webb
One member of the public

T.3122 PUBLIC FORM:

Dr P Biggs:

- Horticultural standards around the town centre, particularly concerning the flower beds in front of the Library and the planting around the Rotunda. Dr Biggs suggested permanent planting in these areas.
- White Horse News article on the re-opening of Westbury Hospital. Dr Biggs suggested inviting Dr Stephen Rowlands, Chair of the Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group, to speak to the Town Council, regarding this matter.
- Dr Biggs congratulated the Town Clerk on his very interesting and positive report given at the Annual Town Council meeting on the 6th May, and suggested this should appear in the White Horse News.

T.3123 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr S Miles - Business commitment.
Cllr P Wakeman - Personal.

T.3124 DISPENSATIONS: Nil.

T.3125 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Nil.

T.3126 MINUTES. The Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on the 6th May 2014, and the Town Council Meetings held on the 12th May 2014 and the 16th June 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

T.3127 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES: Nil.

Members' matters arising from these Minutes:

T.3108 12th May 2014 – Cllr Morland asked whether any progress had been made with the proposed joint working group with Wiltshire Council to explore alternative routes for a Westbury By-Pass. The Clerk hoped to arrange this in the near future.

T.3128 POLICE REPORT. Inspector Webb reported as follows:

Westbury NPT	Crime				Detections*	
	12 mths to June 13	12 mths to June 14	Volume Change	% Change	12 mths to Jun 13	12 mths to Jun 14
Victim based crime	626	692	+66	+10.5%	20%	18%
Domestic burglary	37	38	+1	+2.7%	14%	29%
Non domestic burglary	45	57	+12	+26.7%	4%	4%
Vehicle crime	84	76	-8	-9.5%	5%	9%
Criminal damage and arson	145	156	+11	+7.6%	18%	8%
Violence against the person	153	164	+11	+7.2%	36%	38%
ASB incident (YTD)	615	437	-178	-28.9%		

*Detections include both sanction detections and local resolutions.

The first quarter figures were disappointing, showing a marked increase in overall victim based crime. However, to add some context over the past 90 days there were seven dwelling burglaries in the Westbury area, of which property was stolen from two addresses, both of which were insecure. In four no entry was gained.

Violence against the person remains an issue and this increased to a small extent during the Football World Cup. Violent crime continues to show a greater increase in violence without injury.

Inspector Webb has secured two detective constables, who will work out of Warminster Station and also a rural crime officer. Although these posts already existed in Wiltshire Police, having the officers working from Warminster Station should increase local expertise, resilience and visibility. There is also a continuing reduction in anti-social behaviour.

Inspector Webb gave the following information in answer to questions raised by Members:

- Rise in non domestic burglary – this is a county-wide problem with gangs coming in from the Midlands. The Police are actively hunting these criminals.
- Return of the ♥U artist repainting the old graffiti - Inspector Webb will consider having some of the graffiti removed in order to catch the person doing this.
- Promoting anti-theft measures – Inspector Webb felt posters warning people to lock their valuables up gave the wrong impression. Westbury remains one of the safest places to live, and Wiltshire one of the safest counties to live in. Members agreed they did not want to alarm residents unnecessarily.

T.3129 WILTSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.

Wiltshire Cllr R Hawker: Grassacres Park – in answer to questions raised by Cllr Tout, regarding the lack of work by Balfour Beatty.

There is no schedule for litter picking, and no scheduled days for grass cutting. Wiltshire Council's contract with Balfour Beatty only specifies grass cutting once it has reached a certain length, and does not include clearing up the grass cuttings, which would double the cost of the contract. The problem with brambles in the Park has been reported.

Re-opening the toilets in the Park. The toilets need replacing before they can be re-opened, and it is unlikely Wiltshire Council will meet the cost of this as there are toilets nearby in the High Street Car Park.

Cllr Hawker suggested the Town Council's Streetscene Working Group take up the continuing problem of litter in the Park with Wiltshire Council.

Wiltshire Cllr D Jenkins: Garden waste collection – Cllr Jenkins urged all councillors to complete Wiltshire Council's consultation on the green bin collections. Many civic recycling bins have been removed around the County, and Westbury has lost all of its bins. The Westbury Community Area Board has written to Wiltshire Council requesting that these be returned, especially as Westbury has no civic amenity site in the town either.

Wiltshire Cllr G King:

- a. Planning and environmental action being taken to rectify the untidy site at Chalford.
- b. Exploring ways that Wellhead Wood may, or may not be brought into community use.

T.3130 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES. The following Minutes were received and noted:

Finance Committee	-	9 th June 2014
Policy & Resources Committee	-	2 nd June 2014
Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	19 th May 2014
Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	16 th June 2014
Interim Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	23 rd May 2014

T.3131 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES.

Cllr Morland asked that his vote be recorded, as requested, under P.3821 Highways, Planning & Development Committee dated 16th June 2014, and Cllr Hawker drew Members attention to the extraordinary number of consultations being presented to this committee at the present time.

T.3132 NOTICE of MOTION received from Cllr Mrs S Ezra on 21st May 2014.

X-Ray Services – Westbury. To write to Wiltshire CCG, regarding the x-ray service currently available to the people of Westbury.

There is an excellent, but limited x-ray service already available in Westbury. Unfortunately, this facility sits idle a lot of the time, and the NHS does not seem to be making the best use of resources currently in place to improve access to community x-ray services, thus avoiding patients having to travel to Bath or Salisbury. There is also ample free parking for patients at the White Horse Health Centre.

APPROVED.

T.3133 NOTICE of MOTION received from Policy & Resources Committee on 2nd June 2014.

Standing Orders - Addition to item 33.(f) (All members of the Town Council are eligible to sit on all Working Groups and task & Finish Groups regardless of their originating committee.)

It is proposed that members will not be appointed at a meeting, but the following day the Town Clerk will circulate an email to give all councillors an equal opportunity to put themselves forward.

APPROVED.

T.3134 NOTICE of MOTION received from Cllr R Hawker on 12th June 2014.

Proposal for Town Council Dog Warden. This council recognises the problem of dog fouling on pedestrian thoroughfares, busy school routes and popular open spaces in the town. We recognise that while the majority of dog owners are considerate of others there is a minority that should be condemned for their irresponsible and dangerous inactions in not picking up dog mess laid in public areas. Dog faeces is a well known health concern as toxocaeria can involve the transfer of a worm to children which could lead to blindness. This council accepts that there is a strong public demand that action needs to be taken by local authorities and it notes that Wiltshire Council does not provide the resources to adequately deal with this issue. We further note the successful working relationship that this council has with Warminster Town Council and others in running the CCTV operation.

This council resolves to work with Warminster Town Council in investigating a joint dog warden service for the two towns through a joint task and finish group made up of three councillors each. The task and finish group, once having completed its work, will report to the Town Council's Delegation of Services Working Group, and take this forward from there.

APPROVED.

T.3135. SELWOOD HOUSING – CONSULTATION ON WESTBURY EXTRA CARE SCHEME. To respond to the consultation on Selwood Housing’s proposal to remodel the main block at Bell Orchard to provide eleven flats for extra care clients. As a consequence, the tenants in the main building at Bell Orchard will need to be moved.

It was agreed to write to Selwood Housing expressing the Town Council’s support for the redevelopment of Bell Orchard, but to also express Members’ concern that residents received letters of termination of their tenancies before having had a meeting to explain this proposal and how this redevelopment will affect them.

T.3136 STREETSCENE WORKING GROUP. To confirm the appointment of Cllr G King to the Streetscene Working Group. The current membership is as follows:

Cllrs D Bradshaw, I Cunningham, Mrs S Ezra, R Hawker, D Jenkins and M Sutton.

APPROVED.

T.3137 CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE/MATTERS:

- a. **Imperial Charity – Small Grants 2013-14.** Letter of thanks for grant of £250.00. Noted.
- b. **Westbury Summer Celebrations.** Leaflets advertising the Sports Roadshow in Grassacres Park will be handed out at this weekend’s Street Fayre. All staff and councillors have been issued with temporary name badges for the event. Balfour Beatty has also been asked to cut Soisy Gardens and clean up the town centre.

T.3138 THE LAVERTON INSTITUTE TRUST MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP. Report by Cllr D Bradshaw.

The Laverton website continues to attract increasing visits, and bookings also continue to increase with May being the highest with 23. Lilly Bale, Development & Marketing Manager, was interviewed on Radio Wiltshire recently, and gave some welcome publicity and information on The Laverton.

T.3139 PARTY IN PENLEIGH PARK WORKING GROUP. Report by Cllr R Hawker.

The Working has held its first meeting, and is now considering holding the event on 1st August 2015, which it hopes to confirm in September. The Group has identified the key elements of the event, ie funfair (different to the usual fair that visits Penleigh Park), BMX competition and displays, Evening Concert with a celebrity in order to raise money for the Hearts & Minds charity. The charity’s typical model for this type of event involves a celebrity attending free of charge with radio coverage. The next meeting will discuss

whether this is suitable for Westbury. There will be stalls, food and drink, beer tent, children's entertainers, displays, first aid, security, toilets, etc. It will also be necessary to carry out a thorough consultation with neighbouring residents. The Hearts & Minds event organiser will attend the next meeting, and advice will be sought from the Wiltshire Council Events Officer and also the local police.

The main purpose is to raise funds for the Hearts & Minds charity. The event will need initial funding and it is hoped to come to the next meeting in September with an outline plan and cash flow details. If it is successful, this event could be repeated in the future. The Group could also work with other local autism charities, who may be able to help with stewarding etc.

Cllr Cunningham raised concerns about this charity, whose accounts show that much of the funds raised in this country are transferred to the Irish Autism Action charity. Funds are also raised through the collection of old mobile phones, the proceeds from which provide i-pads for autistic children.

Cllr Hawker asked for specific questions to be put to the Working Group before its next meeting.

T.3140 COMMUNICATIONS BY THE TOWN MAYOR. Cllr Mrs Mitchell attended the following events on behalf of the Town Council:

Westbury Lions 41st Charity Dinner
Westbury Lions Donkey Derby
Tedworth House – Sports Help for Heroes

T.3141 ACCOUNTS:

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:

2 nd June 2014	-	£ 17,696.65
7th July 2014	-	As presented

T.3142 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.3143 STAFFING.

NOTICE of MOTION received from the Management Team on 27th June 2014.

T.3144 It was resolved to return to open council.

9.00 pm

**Signed on behalf of the meeting
this first day of September 2014**

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Chairman