

WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

AT THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE LAVERTON, BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY ON MONDAY, 3rd MARCH 2008 AT 7.00 PM.

PRESENT: Cllr C Finbow (Chairman).

Cllrs S Andrews, A Berrisford, M Cuthbert-Murray, Mrs G Denison-Pender, P Ezra, Mrs S Ezra, R Hawker, M Hawkins, D Hulin, Mrs C Mitchell, H Prickett, Mrs J Reed, I Taylor and D Windess.

**Also in attendance: County Cllr Miss F de Rhé Philipe
PC N Holt
Five members of the public**

T.1803 PUBLIC FORUM:

- Mr P Biggs – The Laverton; The Snooker Club; Market Place improvements; and decriminalisation of traffic orders.
- Mr B Evans – Requested answer to earlier letter to the Town Council; lack of advertising of Town Council meetings; questionnaire circulated to Westbury residents by Dr A Murrison MP, in particular the question regarding The Laverton; redundancy payment to Hall Manager; Westbury By-Pass and lack of information on the views of individual councillors; signage warning of wildfowl on the highway at Slag Lane adjacent to the lake and litter.

T.1804 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE. Cllr F Morland – personal.

T.1805 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Cllr P Ezra – Agenda item 10. (personal & prejudicial) – nomination of his wife.

T.1806 MINUTES. Following amendment, the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 7th January 2008 were signed by the Chairman.

T.1807 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES.

- a. Westbury Post Offices (T.1783). Post Office Ltd's confirmation of receipt, together with response by West Wiltshire District Council to them, regarding proposed closures and cutbacks in West Wiltshire.** No date has been received as yet with regard to closure. County Cllr Miss de Rhé Philipe reported that some county councils are looking at how they can help by providing accommodation.
- b. Changes to Bus Services X4 & X5 Bath to Salisbury (T.1784).** Noted.

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c. Members' matters arising from the previous Minutes. Nil.

T.1808

POLICE REPORT. PC Holt reported that the crime detection rate in Westbury had risen since his last report from 19.4% to 21-22% at the present time – the goal is to increase this to a third. The local police are continuing to work with local agencies and partners in order to resolve some of the more long term problems. He hopes to report further at a future date on the recent arrest in connection with the spate of diesel thefts. With regard to the serious incident at Bitham Mill, the man arrested is now in the crown court, and is expected to receive a lengthy term of imprisonment if convicted.

PC Holt is still endeavouring to get the Neighbourhood Tasking Group off the ground.

Youths – the police are trying to reduce the amount of youngsters on the streets on Friday and Saturday evenings, and have been encouraging them to attend a disco in Trowbridge, and are also working with the Youth Centre to open on Friday and Saturday evenings.

A police contact point has been opened up in the Library providing telephone and e-mail facilities for reporting crime and also to receive lost property.

The new chief constable will be carrying out a fundamental review of the local police enquiry offices and how people contact the police. He has also set a target of 28% crime rate to make Wiltshire the safest county in the country, and will be endeavouring to get more officers on the streets and to reduce bureaucracy.

Decriminalisation (car parking) – he could not give a clear idea of how it will work at the present time, but anticipates an enforcement officer will be patrolling the streets and issuing £60 fines. There will be a review in 12 months time following which residential parking schemes will be considered once it is known where the anticipated displacement parking occurs. The Clerk reported there will be one enforcement officer for each of the five towns in West Wiltshire.

Following his report, PC Holt gave the following answers to councillors' questions:

- There has only been one house burglary recently, and a house to house was carried out immediately. A projector has been taken from Matravers School – there is forensic evidence in both cases.
- Attempted burglaries – each one is different. Woodland Industrial Estate had a damaged door to an empty unit, and this was recorded as an attempted burglary, but youngsters were probably responsible.
- Untaxed and uninsured vehicles – in the first instance notices are issued to owners if known, and then the clampers take action. If a car is abandoned, then the District Council tows it away. There is

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only one team of clampers in the county, and so it is not possible to know when the team will be in Westbury.

T.1809 WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT. County Cllr Miss de Rhé Philipe reported that the County Council's budget has been set and increased by 4.8%, and that Wiltshire gets the second lowest grant from the government in the country. Unitary has gone through both houses of parliament, and the new authority will come into existence next April. Judgement has not been given on the judicial review yet, but this should not affect the decision made by parliament. The County Council has met informally twice with the district councils to ensure a seamless transition.

T.1810 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES. The following Minutes were received and noted.

Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	21.01.08
Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	18.02.08
General Purposes Committee	-	04.02.08

T.1811 MATTERS ARISING. Nil.

T.1812 TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR. Cllr M Hawkins was nominated.

T.1813 TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR'S DEPUTY FOR THE ENSUING YEAR. Cllr Mrs S Ezra was nominated.

T.1814 STREET FAYRE & EVENING CONCERT – SATURDAY, 12TH JULY 2008 – STEWARDING. An appeal was made by members of the Street Fayre Working Group for councillors to put their names forward to help on the day.

T.1815 It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mr P Biggs to address the meeting.

T.1816 HEALTH CARE IN WESTBURY (T.1782) – PROGRESS REPORT. Independent treatment centre – this is a government initiative across the country, and it is planned to establish one such centre in Devizes. The Primary Care Trust (PCT) will be buying day surgery provision at the centre, and all Wiltshire's day surgery will be performed there. With regard to the future of Westbury Hospital, if no one or no organisation wishes to use the hospital site for a health related use, then the PCT must sell the site.

Members welcomed the update from Eastleigh Surgery, and agreed to seek clarification on their commitment for a second doctors' surgery site at Leigh Park.

Cllr Finbow thanked Mr Biggs for his contribution.

T.1817 Standing Orders were then reinstated.

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- T.1818** **WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – FORTHCOMING BOUNDARY REVIEW.** The Clerk reported on the forthcoming boundary review of the new Wiltshire Unitary Authority.
- T.1819** **DISABLED ACCESS SWING, GRASSACRES PARK.** It was agreed not to administer the handing out of restraints for this equipment due to the remoteness of the Town Council offices from Grassacres Park, and to write to West Wiltshire District Council accordingly.
- T.1820** **JUTE BAGS.** The following logo was agreed:
- “Keeping the town green”** (printed above the picture on both sides of the bag).
- The cost per bag is £1.41 plus VAT, and it was agreed to order 2000 bags to distribute them free of charge through the shops (if agreeable) and also at the forthcoming Street Fayre.
- T.1821** **CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE:**
- a. **Westbury Leigh Community Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting – Friday, 28th March at 7.30 pm.**
Noted.
 - b. **Wiltshire Primary Care Trust – Publication “Step by Step”.**
Noted.
 - c. **West Wiltshire District Council – Budget 2008/09.** Noted.
 - d. **Civic Reception/Awards Evening.** The Clerk passed on comments received from Mr Al Summers and two other guests, who wished to say how thrilled they were and how much they enjoyed the meeting.
- T.1822** **THE LAVERTON INSTITUTE TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.** Following the decision taken by Town Council on the 25th February 2008 to let the Hall on an unsupervised basis to selected local groups, Cllr Taylor reported that the Masonic Lodge and the Church of the Living God were happy to continue hiring the hall - new terms and conditions and hire agreement to be confirmed.
- T.1823** **TOWN CENTRE VIABILITY GROUP.** The Group has agreed to support the Market Place improvements refined option b.
- T.1824** **WHITE HORSE AREA ACTION GROUP.** Three directors have recently retired, and Cllr P Ezra has taken on one of the positions. A new group has been formed covering “health and wellbeing”, which primarily deals with transport for the elderly and particularly the disabled, and also works for general improvements in the town where bus services do not quite meet the need.

T.1825 WESTBURY TOURISM GROUP. The Group will give full support to Minute T.1820.

T.1826 COMMUNICATIONS BY THE TOWN MAYOR. Cllr Finbow reported on the following events he attended on behalf of the Council:

Westbury Rotarians annual dinner.
Westbury Town Council Civic Awards Evening.

T.1827 WESTBURY MARKET PLACE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. It was agreed that Westbury Town Council writes to Wiltshire County Council and West Wiltshire District Council reaffirming its previous decision to adopt refined option b.

T.1828 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT – 2nd INTERIM. The response to the audit report was approved as presented.

T.1829 AUDIT COMMISSION – NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR 2007/08 – 2011/12. Noted.

T.1830 PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS. On report by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer it was unanimously 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:-

4 th February 2008	-	£141,021.44
3 rd March 2008	-	£38,273.78

T.1831 WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS. Questions regarding Lafarge Cement UK should be put to the environmental health officers at West Wiltshire District Council, who, together with the Environment Agency, monitor operations at the site.

8.58 pm

**Signed on behalf of the Meeting
this seventh day of May 2008**

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Chairman