

WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Cllr M Hawkins (Chair).
Cllrs S Andrews, A Berrisford, M Cuthbert-Murray,
Mrs G Denison-Pender, Mrs S Ezra, C Finbow, R Hawker,
Mrs C Mitchell, F Morland, Mrs J Reed, I Taylor and D Windess.

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

T.1928 PUBLIC FORUM:

Mr P Biggs -

- Coopers Foodstore exit.
- Crime detection rates.
- Improvements to The Laverton.
- Co-option of members of the public to The Laverton Institute Trust Management Committee.

T.1929 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE. Cllr D Hulin – Business commitment.

T.1930 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Cllr H Prickett – Agenda item 21. – Member of the Westbury Area Music Group (personal & prejudicial).

All Members with a personal and prejudicial interest withdrew from the meeting at the appropriate time.

T.1931 MINUTES. The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 1st September 2008 were signed by the Chairman.

T.1932 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- a. **One Council for Wiltshire – Parish Council Discussion Forum (T.1917).** Cllr Andrews attended this Forum on behalf of the Town Council and reported that the new Wiltshire Council's budget will be £832,000,000.00 for the first year. The unitary council is hoping to save £50,000,000.00 on the budget through economies of scale, however, only £1,000,000.00 of savings have been identified through staff reductions. Quite a number of temporary staff have had to be recruited due to higher numbers of staff leaving.

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In the interim, services will be overseen by the Implementation Executive. Services will continue, although no planning decisions will be taken, or policies approved during this period.

The new Wiltshire Council will commence on the 1st April 2009, although the elections will not take place until June. There will be 98 Wiltshire Councillors, representing approximately 3,500 electors. Twenty Community Area Boards, each with a budget of £50,000.00, will be established, of which twelve have already been piloted. The Westbury Community Area Board will have three Wiltshire Councillors, plus one who will represent the surrounding White Horse area. Other representatives on the Board will be town and parish councillors, the Chair of the Community Area Partnerships, and representatives from the Police and emergency services.

County Cllr Miss F de Rhé Philipe informed that planning meetings will continue, and although most development control is done by West Wiltshire District Council, county councillors are also trained in planning. All corporate and service directors in charge of services have already been appointed and are due to take up their posts on 1st January 2009, and have three months to ensure a smooth transition to the new Council.

- b. Members' matters arising from the previous Minutes.** Nil.

T.1933

POLICE REPORT. PC Nick Holt presented a written report (see attached), and replied to the concerns raised in the Public Forum, regarding crime detection rates.

- a. Detection Rates:** the Police audit, record and process crime. Every crime reported is investigated. Some crimes are very low level, ie the recent spate of cars being damaged, which invariably happens late at night as a result of anti-social activity. These incidents are recorded as a crime for insurance purposes, and invariably are not witnessed and, therefore, almost impossible to solve. Resources are concentrated on offenders and victims, which is why the detection rate is low, but these figures have to be seen in context of what is being recorded and what resources are available. The aim is to get the detection rate up to 28%.

It is important to make people feel safe, and do everything that is realistic under the circumstances. The PCSO's contact every victim of crime by a follow up visit or telephone call.

- b. Conviction Rates:** The conviction rate is about 20% nationally.
- c. Coopers Foodstore exit:** This needs to be taken up with Coopers with a possible solution being a speed ramp – PC N Holt offered to assist.

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Community Partnership Forums:

- a. The Youth Centre will open as soon as the necessary staff are recruited.
- b. Anti-social behaviour - warning notices are being issued to some children.
- c. Speed traps will be set up over the coming months.

In answer to Members' questions, PC Holt reported as follows:

- Government is trying to foster the idea that ordinary people take more control over and responsibility for their locality with the full support of their local police.
- The local police are endeavouring to improve the detection rate and to make people feel safer.
- Those arrested for low level crimes are now dealt with at the Melksham Divisional Headquarters, allowing the arresting officer to return to Westbury much sooner.
- Neighbourhood areas may be amalgamated.

PC Holt was thanked for his report, and it was agreed to invite Police Inspector Minty to a Town Council meeting in the New Year.

T.1934

WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT. County Cllr Miss F de Rhé Philipe reported on the enormous amount of work being undertaken on the transition to unitary. Area boards are currently being piloted in a few areas with some pilots proving more successful than others. However, she was confident that by the 1st April 2009, the model will be established, although it is expected the boards will evolve over time.

County Cllr Miss F de Rhé Philipe accepted there could be some confusion over the acronym of CAB for the Community Area Boards with that of the Citizens Advice Bureau, and undertook to raise this point.

T.1935

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

Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	15.09.08
Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	20.10.08
General Purposes Committee	-	06.10.08

T.1936

MATTERS ARISING. Nil.

T.1937 **CURRENT FINANCIAL BANKING CONCERNS.** Following advice from the Town Council’s accountants (DCK Beavers Ltd), the Management Team recommended incorporating emergency powers in Standing Orders to enable a limited number of signatories to be able to act in concert in the event of a significantly enhanced indication of risk attaching to either of Westbury Town Council’s banks, and to transfer the Council’s funds to another institution quickly should they (the nominated group) deem it necessary or prudent to do so.

The recommendation was accepted, and it was resolved that the nominated group for this purpose should consist of the following:

- Town Clerk (Assistant to the Town Clerk in his absence)
- Town Mayor
- Town Mayor’s Deputy
- Chairmen of the two committees

It was further resolved that the Town Clerk, and two others from the nominated group have authority to effect a bank transfer in such an emergency, and that the bank mandate be updated accordingly.

T.1938. **THE LAVERTON INSTITUTE TRUST.**

- a. It was resolved to approve the following reports and recommendations as submitted by Mr J Parker, Project Officer:
 - i. The outline proposal.
 - ii. Planned actions.
 - iii. Public consultation process.
- b. It was resolved to immediately implement the strategy recommended by the Laverton Institute Trust Management Committee (LITMC) to convert the ground floor area currently occupied by The Laverton Institute Snooker Club to office space for use by Westbury Town Council, and to approve additional rent (including services) payable to The Laverton Institute Trust of £10,000.00 per annum for that space.
- c. **Proposed Laverton Institute Budget 2009-2010.** It was agreed to submit the draft Laverton Institute Budget for 2009-2010 as proposed by the LITMC to the forthcoming General Purposes Committee for consideration for inclusion in the Town Council’s Budget for 2009-2010.
- d. Cllr S Andrews was appointed to The Laverton Institute Trust Management Committee (Working Group) to replace the late Cllr Peter Ezra.

T.1939 **FIREWORKS.** Cllr C Finbow proposed that this Town Council supports a total ban on the public sale of fireworks and to forward its concerns to Dr Andrew Murrison MP to lobby Parliament to this end.

The motion was defeated, and the recorded vote was as follows:

Name	For	Against	Abstained
Cllr S Andrews		✓	
Cllr A Berrisford		✓	
Cllr M Cuthbert-Murray		✓	
Cllr Mrs G Denison-Pender		✓	
Cllr Mrs S Ezra		✓	
Cllr C Finbow	✓		
Cllr R Hawker	✓		
Cllr M Hawkins	✓		
Cllr Mrs C Mitchell	✓		
Cllr F Morland		✓	
Cllr H Prickett	✓		
Cllr Mrs J Reed		✓	
Cllr I Taylor	✓		
Cllr D Windess		✓	

T.1940 **PROPOSED ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR WILTSHIRE - Northern, Central/Mid and Southern.** It was resolved that Westbury should be part of the Central/Mid area at the commencement of the new unitary authority.

T.1941 **WESTBURY & BA13 COMMUNITY GROUP – “WHERE TO ? AND HOW TO ?” BOOKLET, AND SECTION 137 GRANT REQUEST.** It was agreed to place a business card size advertisement in this publication at a cost of £125.00, and the Town Clerk confirmed that a grant application form has already been sent to the Westbury & BA13 Community Group.

T.1942 **WARMINSTER CCTV COMMITTEE.** Cllr M Cuthbert-Murray was duly appointed to represent the Town Council on this committee.

T.1943 **CLERK’S CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. **West Wiltshire District Council – Parish Forum.** Noted.
- b. **Christmas in Westbury 2008 – Barn Dance.** Noted.

- c. **Notes for the Diary** – Grants Evening – Wednesday, 11th February 2009 and Civic Reception & Awards – Friday, 20th February 2009. Noted.

T.1944 TOWN CENTRE VIABILITY GROUP. Nothing to report.

T.1945 WHITE HORSE AREA ACTION GROUP. Nothing to report.

T.1946 WESTBURY TOURISM GROUP. Cllr H Prickett informed the next meeting will be on the 10th November 2008.

T.1947 COMMUNICATIONS BY THE TOWN MAYOR. Cllr M Hawkins reported he had attended the following events on behalf of the Town Council:

12.09.08	Ivybridge, Devon, to collect the Action for Market Towns Environment & Culture Category Regional winner award for the Christmas in Westbury project.
14.09.08	Lions of Westbury Donkey Derby
24.09.08	All Saints Church – Rev Jonathan Burke Collation
27.09.08	Opening of the Children’s Centre, Eden Vale
30.09.08	Matravers Awards Evening Lions District Service, Warminster
13.10.08	Selwood Housing Annual General Meeting
17.10.08	Westbury Junior School Formal Civic Reception (50 th Anniversary)
17.10.08	Cllr Mrs S Ezra (Town Mayor’s Deputy) attended the Judging of Christmas Card Competition arranged by the White Horse Lodge Freemasons

T.1948 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:-

6 th October 2008	-	£21,495.72
3 rd November 2008	-	£24,071.24

T.1949 SUGGESTED BUDGET BIDS 2008/2009. It was agreed to recommend the following items for inclusion in the Draft Budget:

Westbury Area Music Festival	£1,000.00
Staged replacement of Town Criers Regalia	

T.1950 WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Hawker reported on the progress with the open spaces at Paxman's Way.

T.1951 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.1952 **PART II – STAFFING.** Cllr Hawkins presented the Management Team's report on its "Proposed Changes to Administration". (See attached.)

Cllr Morland did not believe there was sufficient evidence to support the supposition that the new unitary authority will increase the workload of the Town Council, and was concerned, in the current worsening economic climate, that these proposals will adversely affect the precepts for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The recommendations contained within the report were accepted. However, Cllr F Morland voted against the recommendations, and Cllr I Taylor abstained from the vote.

T.1953 It was resolved to return to open council.

10.15 pm

**Signed on behalf of the Meeting
this fifth day of January 2009**

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Chairman