

## WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**AT THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE LAVERTON, BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY ON MONDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2008 AT 7.00 PM.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr M Hawkins (Chair).  
Cllrs S Andrews, A Berrisford, M Cuthbert-Murray,  
Mrs G Denison-Pender, P Ezra, Mrs S Ezra, R Hawker, D Hulin,  
Mrs C Mitchell, H Prickett, Mrs J Reed, I Taylor, and D Windess.  
(Cllrs Mrs S Ezra and P Ezra arrived at 7.55 pm due to family commitments.)  
L J Fry (Town Clerk) and Mrs B Mantle.

**Also in attendance: Fourteen members of the public.**

- T.1771 PUBLIC FORUM.** Mr P Biggs – Christmas Lights; Westbury Town Council’s decision taken on 12.11.07 regarding The Laverton; Agenda item 11. Westbury Post Offices; Westbury swimming pool; Agenda item 10. Healthcare in Westbury; and availability of additional agenda paperwork. Mr J Clegg - Westbury Town Council’s decision taken on 12.11.07 regarding The Laverton; and Christmas festivities. Mr D Tout – Agenda item 11. Westbury Post Offices; and Agenda item 12. Changes to Bus Services X4/X5.
- T.1772 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr C Finbow – unwell. County Cllr Miss F de Rhé Philipe – clash of meetings. PC N Holt – annual leave.
- T.1773 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr M Cuthbert-Murray: Agenda item 11 – personal (High Street trader).
- T.1774 MINUTES.** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007 were signed by the Chairman.
- T.1775 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES.** Nil.  
**Members’ matters arising from the previous Minutes.** Nil.
- T.1776 POLICE REPORT.** Nil.
- T.1777 WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT.** Nil.
- T.1778 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES.** The following Minutes were received and noted.
- |  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| Highways, Planning & Development Committee | - | 19.11.2007 |
| Highways, Planning & Development Committee | - | 17.12.2007 |
| General Purposes Committee                 | - | 03.12.2007 |

**T.1779**            **MATTERS ARISING.** Nil.

**T.1780**            It was agreed to bring forward Agenda item 10.

**T.1781**            **HEALTH CARE IN WESTBURY.** Mr Bill Fanning, Chairman of the Westbury Project Group, reported on the current position with negotiations between the Westbury Group Practice and the Wiltshire Primary Care Trust, regarding provision of local health services. Negotiations are progressing on services to be commissioned, which will indicate what accommodation will be needed, together with costings, etc. Day surgery and children's daytime observation unit have definitely been ruled out; mobile diagnostic services, near patient testing, family planning service, 24 hour neighbourhood team and GP surgery have been agreed; and negotiations are ongoing for a pharmacy, intravenous therapy, blood transfusions, oncology services, rehabilitation, community and social care, dentist, opticians, minor injuries unit and one stop shop.

The next meeting with the Wiltshire Primary Care Trust will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008. Cllrs Berrisford, Mrs Denison-Pender and Cuthbert-Murray agreed to attend.

**T.1782**            **APPROVAL OF BUDGET 2008/2009.** The Draft Budget for 2008/2009 was unanimously approved, and this Council's Precept shall be £312,836.00.

**T.1783**            **WESTBURY POST OFFICES.** On behalf of the residents and users of the Queens Square Post Office, Cllr Mrs Mitchell presented a petition containing 400 signatures against its closure.

Cllr Hawker proposed that this Town Council condemns the proposed closure of the Queen Square, Westbury Sub-Post Office and also believes that the best way Westbury's main Post Office can serve the town is to relocate into Westbury High Street.

Cllr Hawkins proposed the following amendment, which was unanimously approved, becoming the substantive motion and was duly carried:

That this Town Council condemns the proposed closure of Queens Square, Westbury Sub-Post Office as this proposition is unacceptable, because of the hardship that will be caused to the local population, in particular the weakest, most infirm and most vulnerable members of the town. Furthermore, this Town Council will protest in the strongest possible terms to Post office Counter Ltd against this and any other local post office closures.

**T.1784**            **CHANGES TO BUS SERVICES X4/X5 BATH TO SALISBURY.** Currently bus services X4 & X5 provide a frequent service linking Bradford on Avon, Trowbridge, Westbury, Warminster, Codford and the Wylve Valley villages with Bath and Salisbury. These services have been jointly operated by the First and Wilts & Dorset bus

companies. Unfortunately, due to road works, congestion, increasing operating costs and the introduction of more restrictive legislation, Wilts & Dorset has decided to withdraw from the commercial operation of these services from 06.01.08 and First can no longer operate the routes south of Westbury/Warminster on a commercial basis.

First will now operate new bus services (264 & 265) twice per hour over most of the route during the daytime, and Sunday buses will also be available. Wilts & Dorset will run a new service (24) between Warminster and Salisbury, operating hourly during the day on weekdays and Saturdays. Unfortunately, there will be no buses running from Bath, Bradford-on-Avon, Trowbridge and Westbury through to Salisbury, but there will be connections between services 24 and 264/265 at Warminster – through fares will continue to be available.

Cllr Prickett raised concerns that the new timetable has no information on booked connections, and some connections appear to be extremely tight, making them impossible should buses be delayed. The Clerk reported that a major factor in the bus companies' decision has been the high percentage of concessionary fares, which affects the profitability of the routes.

It was agreed to write to Wiltshire County Council deploring the activities of the two bus companies concerned in slashing these services without full consultation to see if other services could be put in their place, and that the Clerk and Cllr Prickett will meet with Mr Phil Grocock, the Bus Network Manager at Wiltshire County Council, to discuss this matter further.

**T.1785**

**WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL(WWDC) – CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO STANDARDS ARRANGEMENTS IN WEST WILTSHIRE.** Cllr Hawker proposed responding to WWDC welcoming the changes as an improvement, and suggesting that Model 3 is adopted as it has the most advantages, particularly having the ability to allow substitutions.

However, Cllr Mrs Reed proposed an amendment supporting Model 1b., which gives an odd number on the Committee and each sub-committee. Also there will only be three district councillors, with six independents and six district councillors, which should be more sustainable with the new unitary authority.

The amendment was approved; this became the substantive motion and was carried.

**T.1786**

**APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES.** The following councillors were appointed to represent the Town Council on the organisations listed below:

|                           |   |                               |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Cllr R Hawker             | - | Leighton Sports Association   |
| Cllr S Andrews            | - | White Horse Children's Centre |
| Cllr Mrs G Denison-Pender | - | White Horse Area Action Group |

**T.1787 CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. **Training Day for New Councillors – Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008.** Members wishing to attend to contact the Clerk.
- b. **WWDC – Parish and Town Council Elections – Dates of Future Elections.** The decision taken by the Chairman to support 2013 was endorsed as the best way forward for town and parish councils in order to slot in with the second election of the proposed new Unitary Authority.
- c. **Westbury Town Neighbourhood Tasking Group.** The Clerk reported on the agenda and invitation for members to attend.

**T.1788 THE LAVERTON INSTITUTE TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.** Following the decision taken at the Town Council's Extraordinary Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007, the Laverton Hall has been closed for bookings beyond the end of March 2008. The Hall Manager has been served a redundancy notice and the Hall Attendant has been served notice, both to take effect on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

**T.1789 TOWN CENTRE VIABILITY GROUP.** The Pop to the Shops leaflet has been reissued and delivered to all properties in Westbury and surrounding villages. The redesigned town map is well in hand and will soon be on display.

**T.1790 COMMUNICATIONS BY THE TOWN MAYOR.** Nil.

**T.1791 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:-

|                               |   |            |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2007 | - | £48,845.63 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2008  | - | £23,420.72 |

**T.1792 WEST WILTSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.** Cllr Ezra raised concerns about the non attendance of some Westbury county and district councillors at Town Council meetings. The Clerk confirmed that agendas and minutes were always sent to those councillors.

**T.1793** It was resolved that in view of the confidential nature and commercial sensitivity of the business about to be transacted, the public and press be temporarily excluded and instructed to withdraw.

**T.1794**      **PART II – THE LAVERTON INSTITUTE SNOOKER CLUB.**

**T.1795**      It was resolved and approved to go back into open council.

**9.30 pm**

**Signed on behalf of the Meeting  
this third day of March 2008**

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**Chairman**