

WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**AT THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE LAVERTON,  
BRATTON ROAD, WESTBURY ON MONDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009 AT 7.00 PM.**

**PRESENT: Cllr Mrs S Ezra (Chairman)**

**Cllrs S Andrews, A Berrisford, W Braid, M Cuthbert-Murray,  
Mrs G Denison-Pender, C Finbow, R Hawker, M Hawkins,  
D Hulin, Mrs C Mitchell, and D Windess.**

**Also in attendance: PC N Holt  
19 members of the public**

**T.2052 PUBLIC FORUM.**

**Mr Bruce Evans**

- Congratulated the new unitary councillors on their success in the recent Wiltshire Council election.
- Town Council grant toward Police van, and frequency of foot patrols.
- Publicity of Town Council budget and grants.
- Town Council vacancies.
- Letter received from government minister on openness of town councils.

The Clerk assured the meeting that the procedure with regard to Town Council casual vacancies was followed correctly.

Cllr Mrs Ezra refused the request made by Mr B Evans to be allowed to continue speaking in the Public Forum beyond the allotted five minutes by utilising his wife's five minutes (Mrs Evans was in attendance at the meeting, but had not indicated prior to the commencement of the Public Forum that she wished her views to be expressed by her husband). Cllr Mrs Ezra made this decision, as in her role as Chairman, she considered this request to be contrary to Standing Orders and a misuse of the Public Forum.

**T.2053 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE.  
Cllr F Morland – Personal.**

**T.2054 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

- Cllr C Finbow – Item 20. Personal and prejudicial (one of the applicants is a family member).
- Cllr Mrs G Denison-Pender – Item 20 Personal (sits on a committee with two of the applicants).
- Cllr R Hawker – Item 20 Personal (has made public comment on criteria for applicants).
- Cllr M Cuthbert-Murray – Item 20 Personal (acquainted with two of the applicants).

Contd.....

- Cllr S Andrews – Item 20 Personal (sits on a committee with two of the applicants).
- Cllr Mrs S Ezra – Item 20 Personal (sits on a committee with two of the applicants).

**T.2055**      **MINUTES.** The Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**T.2056**      **MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES.** Nil.

**T.2057**      **POLICE REPORT.** PC Holt reported that three priorities had been identified by the Neighbourhood Tasking Group:

1.      **Illegal parking in the Market Place.** There has been some improvement resulting from increased patrols by the civil enforcement officers, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. There are problems with speeding in Newtown and Alfred Street, but unfortunately Wiltshire Council have stated that Alfred Street is not suitable for a traffic management scheme.
2.      **Speed Watch.** Following the recruitment of a volunteer to run the local Speed Watch, four more volunteers have been identified, but will need to be trained. Once speeding motorists have been recorded, they will receive a letter from the police - three such letters will result in a prosecution.
3.      **Scramble Bikes etc.** Efforts have been very successful, with many warnings given out to youngsters with untaxed and uninsured bikes. Some motorbikes have been confiscated and destroyed.

There has been a marked increase in burglaries, with the hotels in Westbury targeted in particular. The perpetrators are not from Westbury, but from a regional team of burglars. A police team is currently working on this, and is confident of achieving a resolution. The numbers of reported burglaries have reduced over the past two weeks.

The forthcoming months will be challenging for the local police in that there will be a marked number of people moving to Westbury, who have past convictions, or are known to the police. PC Holt and his team will be working closely both with these individuals and Selwood Housing Association.

**Police Van.** Had the Town Council not contributed, together with Rygor Commercials, towards the cost of providing and fitting out this vehicle, its provision could only have been achieved by diverting funds to the detriment of other services. By working in partnership it means the limited budget goes much further. The van has helped the local police considerably, but in addition, the local police are using bicycles more, and the PCSO's are patrolling problem areas.

Members raised concerns about those individuals volunteering for Speed Watch: will they be under scrutiny; operate under a code of conduct; or be able to target individuals for personal reasons? In addition, why not use traffic police to carry out this role?

PC Holt assured Members that all volunteers are checked thoroughly, will work in small groups, be subject to the law and will only evidence speeding offences, nothing more. This initiative is no different to the well established Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Concerning traffic police, there are only two such officers covering this area, and they are engaged full-time on fatal road accidents, and trying to address the causes of these.

**T.2058**

**WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT.**

- Cllr R Hawker: He felt many people will have been disappointed by the refusal of the planning application for the Westbury By-Pass, which, in his opinion, probably means Westbury cannot hope for a by-pass for at least ten years. As Chairman of the new Westbury Community Area Board he has asked for a report from the Wiltshire Council officers to be presented to the Area Board meeting on 23.07.09. Although the by-pass has been cancelled, Wiltshire Council still has the £3.1 million contribution towards the scheme, but the £1.3 million anticipated for town improvements arising from the by-pass has now been lost.
- Cllr M Cuthbert-Murray: Reported on a new market/car boot sale enterprise shortly opening on the Northacre Business Park, which will be running for a trial period. If successful, this could be extended.
- Cllr D Jenkins: Encouraged town councillors and members of the public to attend the Westbury Community Area Board meetings, which he considers presents the ideal opportunity to discuss issues affecting the future development of Westbury.

**T.2059**

**WESTBURY AREA BOARD - SUGGESTIONS FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE WESTBURY AREA BOARD.**

Cllr Hawkins proposed the road improvements at Slag Lane and Frogmore Road. Further suggestions may be e-mailed to Wiltshire Cllr Hawker.

**T.2060**

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

Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	18.05.09
Highways, Planning & Development Committee	-	15.06.09
General Purposes Committee	-	01.06.09

**T.2061**

**MATTERS ARISING.** Nil.

**T.2062**

**TO CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF A FLOOD RELIEF WORKING GROUP, AND IF APPROVED TO APPOINT MEMBERS.** It was resolved not to form such a working group.

- T.2063**      **ILLEGAL PARKING IN THE MARKET PLACE.** It was agreed to pass this matter to the Town Centre Viability Group for investigation and subsequent recommendation to Town Council.
- T.2064**      **CLERK'S CORRESPONDENCE:**
- a.      **Grant to Wiltshire College.** Noted.
  - b.      **The Lopes Arms Hotel.** Letter congratulating the Town Council on the French March. The Town Clerk to reply.
  - c.      **Grant to Age Concern Wiltshire.** Noted.
- T.2065**      **THE LAVERTON INSTITUTE TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.** The Snooker Club has now vacated the premises, and it is understood they are happy with their new home in Dilton Marsh. King Sturge will now commence the tender process for adapting the area for Westbury Town Council use, and will approach firms both in the local and wider area.
- T.2066**      **TOWN CENTRE VIABILITY GROUP.** The Group met recently to consider a planning application for change of use at 7/10 High Street, and then made recommendation to the Highways, Planning & Development Committee to object to this proposal. This property is an A1 retail unit in the High Street, which is designated as a primary retail zone, and it is proposed to convert this to an Indian Restaurant and Takeaway. Although the unit has been empty for some time, it is hoped that improvements in the town centre, together with the opening of Morrison's, will encourage other businesses to open up in the High Street. Should the proposed change of use be granted, this would result in five such units, which will not generate sufficient footfall for a primary retail zone, and could threaten the viability of the High Street.
- T.2067**      **BA13 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP.** WHAAG has now been disbanded, and the BA13 Community Partnership has been created, forming the community area partnership for all of the Westbury Community Area and will feed ideas etc in to the Westbury Area Board.
- T.2068**      **WESTBURY TOURISM GROUP.** The next meeting is scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009.
- T.2069**      **COMMUNICATIONS BY THE TOWN MAYOR.** Cllr Mrs Ezra reported on the various events she had attended on behalf of the Town Council.
- T.2070**      **FINAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2008-2009.** The Action Plan as presented was noted, and the Town Council's response approved.

**T.2071 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:-

1 <sup>st</sup> June 2009	-	£61,357.25
6 <sup>th</sup> July 2009	-	£21,653.34

**T.2072 WESTBURY TOWN COUNCIL VACANCIES.**

- a. **To resolve to proceed with co-option.** Agreed.
- b. **To resolve to suspend Standing Orders to allow potential co-optees, if they so wish, to present their applications and answer any questions.** Agreed.
- c. **To resolve to reinstate Standing Orders.** Agreed.
- d. **Co-option of Members to the Town Council.** It was requested and agreed in accordance with Standing Orders that Members would cast their votes by means of a signed ballot, and applications were then considered from the following:

Mrs G Apps  
Mr I Bartlett  
Mr P Brown  
Mr R G Dredge  
Mr D Dyer  
Mr M Elliott (insufficient evidence of eligibility received)  
Mr S J Fairweather  
Mr S W Ferguson  
Mr D Jones  
Mr R H Leigh  
Mr D Lux  
Mrs C Rudin  
Mrs C Samways  
Mr W D Tout  
Mrs M Underwood

The following were duly co-opted to Westbury Town Council:

- i. **Ham Ward (first vacancy).** Mr P Brown
- ii. **Ham Ward (second vacancy).** Mr W D Tout
- iii. **Laverton Ward (one vacancy).** Mr D Jones

**T.2073 It was agreed 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.2074**      **STAFFING MATTERS. (*Part II Item*)**

**T.2075**      **It was agreed to return to open Council.**

**10.00 pm**