

WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** held on **TUESDAY 6 JULY 2010 at 6.30 pm** in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Wimborne Minster.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr D G L Packer - Chairman
Cllr J Burden - Vice-Chairman
Cllr A K Oliver, MBE
Cllr R P Trehane

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT & APOLOGIES GIVEN

Cllr R W Booth
Cllr Mrs S A Cook
Cllr T F Wheeler – Ex-Officio – Chairman of the Council
Cllr R D Cook – Ex-Officio – Vice-Chairman of the Council

58 **RE-LAUNCH OF THE PARISH MAINTENANCE UNITS (PMUs)**
(Min 234 - 06.04.10)

The Town Clerk submitted a letter dated 18 June 2010 from the Dorset County Council's Highway Manager, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The letter gave details of the re-launch of the PMU service which involved a change from using two operatives twice a year in each area to one operative three times a year. The PMU would visit Wimborne Minster in June, October and February.

The Town Clerk was the nominated person who should be supplied with details of highway defects either by the public or Members of the Town Council and he would report them to the County Council.

The Committee felt it was the duty and responsibility of Members of the Council to note highway defects and report them to the Town Clerk.

The public would also be advised of the new system in the next Town Council newsletter.

59 **LICENSING ACT 2003 - REVIEWED DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

The Town Clerk submitted a letter dated 23 June 2010 from the Licensing Manager at East Dorset District Council, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The letter sought the views of the Town Council on the District Council's Draft Statement of Licensing Policy for the period 2011-2014.

RESOLVED that the Licensing Manager be informed that the Town Council welcomes the fact that Town and Parish Councils are now being sent copies of applications under the Act, but is disappointed that they are not 'Interested Parties' able to make an official representation about applications as opposed to acting as an individual.

60 **THE CRICKETERS PUBLIC HOUSE - VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE**

In connection with the previous Minute, the Chairman drew Members' attention to the first application circulated to the Town Council under the new system by the District Council.

The Cricketers Public House was proposing to increase the opening hours on Fridays and Saturdays from 0130 to 0230, together with music and retail activities connected therewith.

The Chairman advised Members that, although he was as a District Councillor, a member of the District Council's Licensing Committee he could not sit on any panel set up to hear applications from premises in Wimborne Minster. However, he was not debarred from making representations on behalf of 'Interested Persons' at such a panel hearing.

He was therefore prepared to represent the views of residents in connection with this application if they would write to him with details of their objections by 22 July 2010.

Members of the Committee were asked to inform local residents of the Chairman's offer.

61 **NO RIGHT TURN RESTRICTION - PRIORS WALK INTO EAST BOROUGH**

The Town Clerk submitted an email dated 24 June 2010 from Alan Jowsey of Dorset County Council, a copy of which had been circulated to

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each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

At the request of this Committee, the County Council had reviewed the 'No Right Turn' restriction and other signage at this junction and was proposing no changes.

62 **HEDGES, TREES AND THE HIGHWAY**

The Chairman submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Committee was asked to reaffirm its commitment when complaints are received by the Town Clerk of advising property owners about their obligations for removing parts of hedges or trees which overgrow footpaths and highways to the detriment of highway safety.

The Chairman added that he was proposing to issue a press release on the subject and hoped that the article which appeared in the summer 2009 Town Council Newsletter could be repeated in the next edition.

RESOLVED that the Town Council continues to field complaints regarding overgrown hedges and trees as suggested in the report.

63 **VICTORIA ROAD/WESTFIELD CLOSE JUNCTION - BANK MAINTENANCE**

In connection with the previous Minute, Cllr Oliver referred to a letter dated 3 July 2010 written to the Eastern Area Highway Office by Mr & Mrs Pascall of 1 Westfield Close which attempted to remind the County Council of its responsibility as owner for maintaining the bank between the pavement and Victoria Road boundary of the Pascall's property.

This letter had been copied to the Town Clerk and selected other Councillors which for clarification is attached as **Appendix E** to these Minutes.

Cllr Oliver was of the view that if the County Council was seeking the assistance of the Town Council in the enforcement of the law relating to overgrown hedges and trees, it should at least ensure that its own land was free of criticism.

In the case of this land, the County Council could not consistently accept that it was responsible for its maintenance and this caused erroneous complaints to Mr & Mrs Pascall.

RESOLVED that County Councillor Cook be asked to take up this perennial problem to ensure that the County Council consistently honours its maintenance responsibility.

64 **SOUTH EAST DORSET TRANSPORT STUDY - CONSULTATION**
(Min 55 - 07.07.09)

The Town Clerk submitted a letter dated 18 June 2010 from Atkins Ltd, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix F** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The letter advised the Town Council of the next phase of consultation to develop a transport strategy for South East Dorset.

The Chairman invited Members to complete the questionnaire (which could be downloaded) on a personal basis or to submit a completed questionnaire to the Town Clerk to enable a corporate submission to be made. The closing date for comments was 30 July 2010.

65 **PLANNING DECISIONS**

The Town Clerk submitted for information a schedule of planning decisions made by East Dorset District Council, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix G** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

66 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMENTS**

The Town Clerk submitted for information a schedule of comments on planning applications dated 14 June 2010, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix H** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Chairman elaborated on the reason for his objection to the application relating to 10 Beaufort Drive which had been contrary to his and other Members' original view that the Town Council had no objection to the revised roof form to the rear of the property. The Chairman's reasons, together with the formal comment made on the application to the District Council are shown as **Appendix I** to these Minutes.

The meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

Signed Dated
Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council