



---

## Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 7pm on Wednesday 24 August 2022 at Martock Parish Hall

Present: Councillor John Hole (Chairman)  
Councillor Neil Bloomfield  
Councillor Suzanne Luxton  
Councillor Graham MacDonald  
Councillor Alison Warne  
Councillor Tony Welsh

Deputy Parish Clerk: Sally Scattergood  
Acting Clerk (for the purpose of the meeting): Vanessa Ricketts

### 96. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joy Bailey (Vice Chairman) and Councillor Paul Helyer.

### 97. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 98. Public participation time

There were 7 members of the public present. A member of the public noted water contamination of the Hinton Brook and expressed concern regarding Wessex Water discharging sewerage into the water courses and requested that this be discussed at a future meeting. The Chairman agreed for this to be a future agenda item.

County Councillor John Bailey presented his report which had been previously received by Members. County Councillor Emily Pearlstone was also present.

District Councillor Louise Clarke reported the return of face to face meetings and the progress of local government reorganisation.

District Councillor Neil Bloomfield noted that the SEND school in Ash had been passed under delegated authority. He further reported that the District Council Internal Audit report had been very critical of the Authority, especially regarding the remuneration of senior officers.

### 99. Confirmation of minutes of previous meetings

Members considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 July 2022 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 4 August 2022.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2022 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 4 August 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **100. Committee Minutes**

The minutes of the following Committee meeting that had taken place since the last full Council meeting were presented:

- Buildings and Open Spaces Committee – 21 July 2022

**Resolved** that the minutes be received. The Planning Chairman's monthly report was noted.

#### **101. Payment of outstanding creditors**

The list of outstanding creditors and balances due for payment including reports of any outstanding payments made were presented.

**Resolved** that the payments be approved.

#### **102. Co-option of Members of Council**

Members considered two written applications for co-option to the Council from Mr Ash Warne and Dr Andrew Clegg.

**Resolved** that Mr Ash Warne and Dr Andrew Clegg be co-opted to the Council with immediate effect.

#### **103. Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Councillor Warne and Councillor Clegg read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 S83 (4). The Deputy Proper Officer countersigned the Declarations.

#### **104. Finance reports**

The following finance reports were considered:

- a. Bank reconciliations
- b. Earmarked reserves

**Resolved** that the reports be accepted.

#### **105. Membership of the Personnel Committee**

Members were asked to submit themselves for Membership of the Personnel Committee.

**Resolved** that Councillors Bloomfield, MacDonald, Helyer, Alison Warne and Bailey be appointed to the Council's Personnel Committee.

#### **106. Council Policies**

Members considered the following policies which had been presented for adoption:

- a) Equalities Policy
- b) Community Engagement Policy
- c) CCTV Policy

**Resolved** that the Equalities Policy and Community Engagement policy be adopted.

**Resolved** that the CCTV policy be deferred until the next full meeting of Council in order for Member observations to be addressed.

#### **107. Outside tap provision**

Members were asked to consider the provision of a water tap for use by the Youth Club to water the flower displays. It was reported that the tap would be within the toilets of the Market House and that the Youth Club had raised the finance necessary for this project.

**Resolved** that permission to place an outside tap in the Market House outside toilets be given.

#### **108. Election**

The District Councillor reported that, as of that day, the notice of poll had not been published but that the Election should be held on 8 September at the latest.

Member considered whether it would be necessary to have poll cards.

**Resolved** that due to the cost poll cards would not be required.

#### **109. Council open day event**

The Chairman asked Members to consider holding an open event for residents to meet the Council and air concerns.

**Resolved** that a meeting take place in the Parish Hall and a further meeting take place at the Farmers Market.

#### **110. Resignation of a Councillor**

Members were advised of the resignation of Councillor Alan Potter. It was noted that the District Council had been advised and the notice of Casual Vacancy had been posted.

#### **111. Cemetery Extension**

An initial discussion was held to consider purchasing additional land for the cemetery. It was noted that this had first been considered approximately 3 years ago.

**Resolved** that a Task and Finish Group be set up to investigate the possibility of a cemetery extension, comprised of Councillors Bloomfield, Clegg, Ash Warne and Luxton.

**112. Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 28 September 2022 at 7.00pm.

**113. Confidential Session**

**Resolved** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the nature of the business to be transacted.

**114. Parish Hall carpet.**

Members considered quotations for the supply and fitting of the carpet for the Parish Hall.

**Resolved** that quotation from Kingfisher Carpets be approved.

**115. Memorial Bench at the Cemetery**

Members considered a request from a member of the public for a Memorial Bench at the cemetery. It was noted that the Council's policy on benches stated that no more benches would be accepted within the cemetery.

**Resolved** that the request be refused.

**116. Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2022/23 Financial Year**

Members considered a report with quotations for a new Internal Auditor for the 2022/23 financial year.

**Resolved** that Do the Numbers Ltd be appointed as the council's internal auditor for the 2022/23 financial year.

**117. Co-op Lease**

Members were updated on the current situation regarding the Co-op lease.

**Resolved** that the Co-op recommendations be accepted and Councillor Helyer be instructed to progress this matter.

**118. Acting up allowance**

Members considered awarding the Deputy Parish Clerk an Acting Up Allowance for having been the Proper Officer to the Council in the absence of the Clerk for a period of 7 weeks and 1 day due to sickness absence.

**Resolved** that an acting up allowance, as set out in the confidential report, be paid to the Deputy Clerk.

Members recorded their grateful thanks to the Deputy Clerk and expressed their admiration of what she had achieved during the period.

### **119. Tennis Court Maintenance Quotations**

Members considered the quotations for the maintenance of the tennis courts contract

**Resolved** that First Serve be awarded the contract for the maintenance of the courts.

Meeting finished: 8:22pm

Approved (date):

Signed by the Chair: \_\_\_\_\_