

## WEST MOORS PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the **EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in the Council Chamber, Pavilion, Fryer Field, West Moors at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. P. Holden- Chairman		
Cllr. J. Bartley	Cllr D Butt	Cllr Ms S Edwards
Cllr Mrs O Holder	Cllr. Mrs C. Holmes	Cllr J Lewis
Cllr Mrs J Lovegrove	Cllr B Shephard	Cllr N Smith
Cllr Mrs J Ware		

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ms J Weedon (Clerk)  
District Councillor A Clarke  
7 Members of the public

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Mrs P Yeo Cllr Ms S Zyga

**Absent without apologies:** Cllr B Bailey

**11/047 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None

**11/048 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Members of the public were invited to participate during the debate.

**11/049 WEST MOORS LIBRARY DCC EXPRESSION OF INTENT/INTEREST FORM**

The purpose of the meeting was to make a decision in respect of the Dorset County Council consultation letter received 23rd March 2011 where the parish council's views were sought on the level of interest in 2 options being offered by the county council. The options from the DCC expression of intent/interest form were read out to all those present and an e-mail from Tracy Long (library service manager) containing financial data relating to West Moors library costs was distributed.

Cllr B Shephard suggested that three basic questions required an answer before proceeding

Question One: Is it our objective to persuade DCC to move our library to the 'Town' list? (On the assumption that the answer is yes)

Question Two: How are we most likely to achieve this?

- a) By simply refusing to express any intention to consider the county's offer of support for a community library.
- b) By offering some measure of support to the County, be it by means of volunteer staffing, agreeing to meet some of the regular maintenance costs or some other offer, which will reduce the existing running costs.
- c) By some other incentive not yet defined

Question Three: If none of the above measures result in us reaching an agreement with the County to place our library on the Town list, are we prepared to consider ANY offer of support for a community library WITHOUT the repayment of the monies due in respect of the Daphne Harrison bequest.

A full debate then took place about if the community managed, but DCC still owned the building would the Daphne Harrison legacy still be repayable by DCC. The answer to this question was unknown as a response from County on the definition of closure has not yet been received. It was felt that there were still too many questions that we have not received answers to. Clarification over the community book offer was given and although the DCC offer includes 500 new books per year this would not include expensive books such as hard backs and talking books so if these were required then the amount of new books would be less.

Members were informed that it is the intention of DCC to provide a full repairing lease of the building should the community take it over, therefore the maintenance of the building would become the responsibility of the community, the full costs of which are not fully known.

It was reiterated that figures had not been received from DCC for the fully managed service offer, making it impossible to make an informed decision and the financial data received from the library service did not appear to include all possible expenditure. Members felt that there was not enough relevant information from DCC.

The Parish Council have been trying in the first instance to get the West Moors library reclassified onto the Town list (libraries not under threat of closure).

After debate it was

**RESOLVED that the following response be sent to Dorset County Council**  
**'It is the unanimous view of West Moors Parish Council that the case for retaining the West Moors library as a fully funded County Council library is so compelling on financial, social and strategic grounds that we urge Dorset County Council to review its decision to close our library and to move West Moors library onto the 'Town' list. Therefore, we do not wish at this time to express an intent or interest in the community library offer, or the fully funded managed service provided by County Council subject to charges being payable by the Parish Council, in their present form.**

**For ease of reference our full case, which was presented to Dorset County Council's Full Council meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011, supported by a petition of over 2000 signatures, and also subsequently supported by East Dorset District Council Community Engagement committee meeting of the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011, is attached.**

**However, we are cognisant of the financial constraints being placed on Dorset County Council and are therefore willing to enter into discussions with Dorset County Council on how we may help to reduce the cost of maintaining the library on the 'Town' list, by providing a volunteer group, thus enabling the existing costs to be reduced.**

**The adoption of such an arrangement would allow the community of West Moors to enable savings to be made to the running costs of our library and remove the necessity of Dorset County Council to repay a large portion of the substantial investment in our library made by this community via the Daphne Harrison bequest. At the present time the repayment due to the Parish Council, should the library close at the end of March 2012, stands at £65,000'**

Voting: Unanimous

The debate continued and members were informed that a spreadsheet of all the residents who agreed to volunteer has been produced showing how many hours etc people were willing to give. Cllr Shephard reported that he had sent a request to DCC under the Freedom of Information Act for all relevant information from the PDP committee relating to libraries.

Members requested that posters be displayed with the outcome of the extraordinary Parish council meeting and that a press release be sent out with the information. A copy of the resolution to be sent to Cllr Peter Finney.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20 pm

SIGNED ..... DATE .....  
Chairman