

Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils

Colliton Annexe, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils held on Saturday 7th November 2009, in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester at 10.00 am

1) Welcome

The President, Dr Malcolm Macleod OBE took the Chair.

The President welcomed 57 representatives of member Town and Parish Councils, and the following guests, Cllr J Wilson, Chairman, Dorset County Council, Mr David Jenkins, Chief Executive, Dorset County Council, Cllr Mrs P A Reynolds, Chairman, East Dorset District Council, Cllr S Hitchings, Vice-Chairman, North Dorset District Council, Cllr N A H Cake, Chairman, Purbeck District Council, Cllr R Coatsworth, Chairman, West Dorset District Council, Cllr Mrs A Kenwood, Mayor, Weymouth & Portland Borough Council, Mr Sam Field, Vice-President, Dorset Community Action, Mr John Hyde, DAPTC Past President, Mr John Freeman, DAPTC Vice-President and Cllr Ken Whetlor, DAPTC Vice-President.

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Guests:

Dorset County Council	Cllr Angus Campbell, Leader
Christchurch Borough Council	Cllr David Flagg, Mayor
Christchurch Borough Council	Cllr A Griffiths, Leader
Christchurch Borough Council	Mr M Turvey, Chief Executive
East Dorset District Council	Cllr S Flower, Leader
East Dorset District Council	Mr David McIntosh, Chief Executive
North Dorset District Council	Cllr Peter Webb, Leader
North Dorset District Council	Cllr Colin Kay, Chairman
North Dorset District Council	Mrs E Goodall, Chief Executive
Purbeck District Council	Cllr D Budd, Leader
Purbeck District Council	Mr Steve Mackenzie, Chief Executive
West Dorset District Council	Cllr Robert Gould, Leader
West Dorset District Council	Mr David Clarke, Chief Executive
Weymouth & Portland Borough Council	Mr T Grainger, Chief Executive
Dorset Community Action	Mr Steve Place

And many local councillors.

3) Elections of Honorary Officers

- President - Dr Malcolm Macleod was nominated to continue as President.
Proposed: Cllr Tony Gibb
Seconded: Cllr Susan Bennett
Carried
- Vice-Presidents – Mr John Freeman and Cllr Ken Whetlor were nominated as Vice-Presidents.
Proposed: Cllr Lindsey Dedden
Seconded: Cllr Tony Gibb
Carried

- Honorary Treasurer – Mr Paul Ackrill was nominated as Honorary Treasurer
Proposed: Cllr Haydn White
Seconded: Cllr Alan Thacker
Carried
- Honorary Auditor – Mr Andrew Notley was nominated as Honorary Auditor
Proposed: Cllr Tony Gibb
Seconded: Cllr Caroline Macleod
Carried

4) Appointment of Representatives and Deputies to NALC

NALC Rep, Cllr K Whetlor was nominated to continue as NALC Representative

Proposed: Cllr Caroline Macleod

Seconded: Cllr Haydn White

Carried

Deputy NALC Rep, Cllr H White was nominated to continue as Deputy NALC Representative

Proposed: Cllr David Barrett

Seconded: Cllr Tony Gibb

Carried

5) Minutes of the last Annual General meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Saturday 1st November 2008, had been circulated previously and were accepted as a true record of the meeting, and signed by the President.

Proposed: Cllr Tony Gibb

Seconded: Cllr Susan Bennett

Carried

6) Annual Reports

The reports, which had been circulated with the Agenda, were accepted.

Proposed: Cllr Haydn White

Seconded: Cllr Jane Stannard

Carried

7) Treasurer's Report

The report, which had been circulated with the Agenda, was accepted.

Proposed: Mr David Wragg

Seconded: Cllr Jackie Stayt

Carried

The Chief Executive confirmed to the meeting that although three of the district councils had supported DAPTC, they had made it clear that it was a one-off payment and a letter of thanks had been sent to the three districts.

The Office Manager confirmed that the publications figure was for the bulk purchase of "Local Council Administration", and this would be recouped from councils on delivery.

8) Audited Accounts for Financial year 2008/09

The Audited Accounts for the financial year 2008/09 were received and approved.

Proposed: Mr David Wragg

Seconded: Cllr Jackie Stayt

Carried

9) Chief Executive Report on Subscriptions

The report, which had been circulated with the Agenda, was accepted.

Proposed: Mr David Wragg

Seconded: Cllr Susan Bennett

Carried

10) Resolutions submitted by Member Councils

The Chairman reminded councils that any 'burning issues' could be submitted to the Executive Committee during the year.

1. Arne Parish Council

Arne Parish Council proposed the following motion:-

That DAPTC urge all licensing authorities in Dorset to agree by way of policy to notify the relevant parish or town council of any application for a licence that is in their parish as soon as possible giving sufficient details to enable that council to ensure the appropriate people are made aware of the application.

An amendment was put to the meeting to delete the words "by way of policy"

Proposed: Mr Bob Gillis

Seconded: Cllr Jane Stannard

Vote: 10/27 AGAINST – NOT CARRIED

The original motion was then voted on:

Proposed: Miss Debbie Weller

Seconded: Cllr Richard Denton-White

Carried

2. Blandford Town Council

Blandford Forum Town Council proposed the following motion:-

That the DAPTC, with the aid of NALC and our local MPs, does everything in its power to effect a change to the national regulation, so that Town Councils will have the same mandatory right of rate relief on their buildings as Parish Councils do on Parish Halls.

Proposed: Cllr Haydn White

Seconded: Cllr Jackie Stayt

Carried

3. Chideock Parish Council

Chideock Parish Council proposed the following motion:-

That the DAPTC strongly urges all district and borough planning authorities to:-

- 1. Consider as a matter of policy, greater use of Article 4 Direction to remove Permitted Development Rights from sensitive designations, including Conservation Areas, AONB, Heritage Coast, and Green Belt.***
- 2. Engage with Parish and Town Councils in preparing lists of areas and locations where such rights should be removed in order to protect them from unsuitable and inappropriate development. (CPC to provide photos of examples of inappropriate development)***
- 3. Include specific proposals in their Local Development Frameworks.***

Proposed: Cllr Kate Geraghty

Seconded: Mr John Vanderwolfe

Carried

4. Corscombe, Halstock and District Parish Council

Corscombe, Halstock and District Parish Council proposed the following motion:-

That DAPTC urge Dorset County Council to establish and implement a county standard for fingerposts, including grid reference finials, distance mileages, and the use of strong and traditional materials; and that lost and broken signs should be replaced speedily.

After discussion the Proposer agreed an alternative wording to the above resolution:

That DAPTC urge Dorset County Council to establish and implement county standards for fingerposts, including finials with grid references and place name, distance mileages, and the use of strong and traditional materials; and that lost and broken signs should be replaced speedily.

Proposed: Cllr Martin Manning

Seconded: Cllr Antony Edwards

Carried

5. Portland Town Council

Portland Town Council proposed the following motion:-

That those members present and voting at the 2009 AGM give retrospective approval for the transfer to reserves of the surplus for the financial year ending 31 March 2008 – an amount of £4,224.96p.

The following amendment was submitted by Symondsburry Parish Council:-

That retrospective approval be given to transfer the surplus for the financial year ending 31 March 2008 – an amount of £4224.96 to form part of the affiliation fees of member councils for the year 2010/11.

Portland Town Council confirmed that the amended resolution should be voted on, and their resolution be withdrawn.

Proposed: David Wragg

Seconded: Cllr Janet Page

Carried

6. Puncknowle & Swyre Parish Council

Puncknowle & Swyre Parish Council proposed the following motion:-

That DAPTC urges each Parish Council across the county to improve public access to information about their local government administrative function in the community - through maintenance of a website listing standard information with meeting agenda, minutes, papers etc. and the work, responsibilities, and personnel of the Parish Council. Such websites should be accessible through the other local government information website for the county www.dorsetforyou.com. As a means of ensuring small Parishes can develop, be trained in and maintain such websites and to provide economic use of public funds, DAPTC should seek to obtain funds for and to develop a standard model or template website for Parishes and provision of suitable training in their use. This work should build on and become added-value to the former excellent initiative of Connecting Dorset.

Proposed: Cllr Antony Edwards

Seconded: Cllr Martin Manning

Vote: 21 For, 8 Against, 10 Abstentions

Carried

7. The Eastern Area Committee of DAPTC

The Eastern Area Committee of DAPTC proposed the following motion:-

That DAPTC write to the County and District Councils to place on record their grave concern at the number of unelected “action groups” or “partnerships” which have access to government funding. These bodies are unaccountable, unelected and regularly usurp the authority of elected Parish and Town Councils.”

After discussion the following amendment was agreed:

That DAPTC write to the County, Borough and District Councils requesting that any un-elected action groups or partnerships who seek government funding should be required as a pre-condition of funding to seek support of their Parish or Town Council.

Proposed: Eastern Area meeting

Seconded: Cllr Susan Bennett

Carried

11) Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments 1 - 5, which had been circulated with the Agenda, were accepted.

Proposed: Executive committee

Seconded: Cllr Tony Gibb

Carried

Amendment 6, which had been circulated with the Agenda was discussed

Proposed: Portland Town Council

Vote: 4 For, 28 Against

Not Carried

12) Presentation by Alexis Wood, Highways Agency

Unfortunately Ms Wood failed to attend due to personal difficulties on the day.

Therefore a motion for closure of the AGM was put:

Proposed: David Wragg

Seconded: Cllr Tony Gibb

Carried

The formal part of the AGM was concluded at 12.30pm, followed by lunch and exhibitors.