

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2009 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM AT 7.00 P.M.**

**Present: Councillor Mrs. A. Tighe (Town Mayor); Councillor E. Osmond (Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis; D. Budd; L. Burns; K. Critchley; K. Green; M. Russell; Mrs. A. Selby; Mrs C. Turner; Mrs. M. Wainwright and T. Williams.**

**Officers in attendance – Mr. R. Curtis, Town Clerk and Mrs. A. Dominy, Admin Assistant.**

**Members of the public 0.**

**Also in attendance: Danielle Mugridge of Bag it up Ltd.**

**Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Audrey Tighe presented a Past Mayor Badge to Councillor K. Green.**

**44. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME** – an opportunity for members of the public to raise issues of concern or interest, ask a question or make a statement. *This item is also an opportunity, in accordance with paragraph 12(2) of the Code of Conduct, for any Member to speak who has a prejudicial interest on a matter to be considered at this meeting.* Public participation time shall not exceed **30 minutes** for full Town Council meetings and any speaker shall not exceed **3 minutes**.

None.

**45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs. D. Cleaton, D Critchley and Mrs. S. Elmes.

**46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**47. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2009**

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 were confirmed after the following amendments –

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Page 15 – Minute 32 - line 21 – after “membrane” insert “to the bridge”;

Page 17 – Minute 39 – line 3 – delete £11.780.13 and insert £11/598.71.

Page 19 – line 2 - Minute 43 - delete “Harbin and Pitt Charity” and insert “Hemsbach Society”;

#### **48. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Critchley enquired as to the latest position regarding the Public Works Loan Board application for works to the Town Hall central heating system. The Town Clerk outlined the process for this application, the latest position and advised that he would chase the application.

#### **49. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS – to receive any petitions from members of the public, or from Councillors on behalf of their local community members, and any delegations from members of the public.**

None

#### **50. TO ANSWER MEMBERS QUESTIONS (IF ANY)**

None.

#### **51. MAYOR' ANNOUCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that she had attended the presentation evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wareham Boys Brigade and the Annual General Meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wareham Scout Group.

She had attended the first ever Town Criers Competition in Wareham and had also presented the prizes. This was a well supported and enjoyable event, despite the poor weather on the day, and she hoped that the event would continue.

She reported that Carnival week had been successful this year. The weather had been kind, the procession had been well attended and the events organised in the week had been well supported. She had presented the prizes to the winners of the Flowers and Produce competition.

The Mayor reported that she had officially opened the Darwin Project at the Purbeck School.

She also reported that she had attended a march from Carey Shops to the Railway Station to draw attention to the possible closure of the pedestrian crossing by Network Rail. This was well attended and the Mayor congratulated

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Councillor Budd for the way in which he dealt with the many questions raised by local residents on the day.

The Mayor requested that Agenda Item 11 be raised at this time. This was agreed by Council.

## **52. SOMERSET AND DORSET AIR AMBULANCE**

The Mayor welcomed Danielle Mugridge of BagitUp Ltd to the meeting, who reported on the work of the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance and some new initiatives which were said to be working well in support of recycling and the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance. The Air Ambulance Service had been in operation since March 2000 and since 2007 the service had carried out over 6000 missions over the two Counties. A UO Copter C35 was being used from a base in Henstridge and took patients to the most direct hospital. It was reported that it cost over £1.2 million per year to keep the service operational, with two pilots.

Council then heard how the Recycling to Save Lives Scheme helped to keep the helicopter service viable. Recycling banks accepted clothes, shoes and textiles. The donations were collected and then sorted into recyclable items, end of life items being recycled into industrial rags. Items in good condition were sold and reused and the funds were used to help save lives through the Air Ambulance.

It was noted that the organisation was looking for private sites on which to place its recycling bins. One bin was sited at the shops at Carey and she hoped that Council would give consideration to providing a site for a further bin.

After discussion, Councillor Osmond suggested that further consideration be given to the placing of a recycling bin in the Howards Lane Car Park, in a space by the western end ticket machine where there were missing bollards, and that this item be placed on the Agenda for the Amenities Committee in September 2009. This was endorsed and noted by the Town Clerk for that meeting.

The Mayor thanked Ms Mugridge for her interesting and informative presentation.

## **53. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) Amenities Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2009

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

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(b) Planning and Transport Committee -20<sup>th</sup> July, 2009

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(c) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2009

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted

Councillor Critchley requested that the car park machines be reviewed at the autumn budget meeting as both machines were becoming very unreliable and were obsolescent and this was noted by the Town Clerk.

#### **54. REPORTS BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

##### **Purbeck District Council**

Councillor Critchley reported that at the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 full meeting of the District Council members discussed Dorset Pathfinder and closer working between the southern cluster. Consideration was given to establishing principles for developing further the cluster working between Purbeck District Council, West Dorset District Council and Weymouth Borough Council. Once these principles have been agreed an outline business case for closer integration would be commissioned and guided by a steering group of 6 members comprising 2 members from each Council.

Following consultation with Town and Parish Councils on Planning Enforcement Policy the District Council adopted the report, which was based on an assessment of risk of harm that unauthorised development would cause, or have potential to cause. Following assessment it would be possible to allocate to each complaint a high, medium or low priority for action – even low priority cases should be inspected within 20 working days .

Councillor Critchley also reported that at a meeting of the Policy Group on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2009 the Group recommended that Council approve a new 25 year lease on the Wareham Town Walls.

##### **Dorset County Council**

Councillor Budd reported that the County Council's Cabinet approved in principle the change from a three tier to two tier system of education in the Purbeck Pyramid on the grounds that this would remove the significant majority of surplus places and ensure a viable and sustainable school system across the Purbeck area. He confirmed that, locally, the Northmoor Park area would, under the plans, exclusively be a part of the Lady St. Mary catchment area. He reported

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that the Sandford Primary School would feed into Lytchett Minster School and that it was yet to be determined whether Bere Regis would also feed into Lytchett or the Purbeck School. There would be further consultation in Wool and Swanage.

Councillor Budd also reported that it now transpired that, under the County Council's Constitution, the seven Cabinet members would take all the decisions regarding the Purbeck Review, the remaining 38 members including himself would not have any vote on the issue. The revised timetable following further public consultation in Wool and Swanage was for the Cabinet to consider issuing statutory notices in May 2010 with a final decision in July 2010, subject to an adjudication process which may delay matters until December 2010. It was currently anticipated that phased implementation would commence in September 2012. He had asked questions at the 8<sup>th</sup> July County Council meeting and reported that the capital cost of implementing the charges was most likely to be around £54 million of which £20 million was already allocated for the Primary element. The Secondary element would be funded from the Government's 'Buildings schools for the Future' programme, he was sceptical that the money would materialise in the current financial circumstances and the County Council had admitted that it would pose difficulties if it had to fund a significant shortfall from borrowing,

Councillor Mrs. Selby asked Councillor Budd for the names of the 7 Cabinet members making the decisions on the Review. Councillor Budd advised that he would give her this information at the end of the meeting.

### **Representatives on outside bodies**

Councillor Burns reported that he had attended a meeting of the Purbeck Heritage Committee and had visited the Stone Centre in Swanage. He also reported that there would be a new bus service between Bournemouth and Weymouth.

Councillor Mrs. Wainwright reported on a Wareham Age Concern meeting she had attended. 'Helping Hands' were still looking to recruit more volunteer drivers Wareham Area Seniors Forum was also looking for volunteers.

She also reported that the Sainsbury's store now had a book in which members of the public could write suggestions and comments about stock ranges or services; she stressed the value of customer response to the new store.

Councillor Green had received a set of minutes from the last DAPTC (Town and Larger Councils meeting) and had noted that Wareham had no representative present. Councillor Williams was the Town Council's representative but had not

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received the papers via email from DAPTC in time. The Town Clerk offered to investigate and assured Members that there would be no future problems.

Councillor Osmond reported that the new footpath above the floodline at Priory Meadow was now open and in use.

#### **55. REPORT OF UP TO DATE EXPENDITURE AND INCOME AGAINST BUDGET AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY MEMBERS AND PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

A copy of the up to date consolidated income and expenditure account showing transactions dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 was handed to and acknowledged by each member of the Council and current payments totalling £2,385.15 be approved.

**RESOLVED** that the report of up to date expenditure and income against budget and accounts dated 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 totalling £2,385.15 be accepted and approved.

#### **56. WAREHAM RAIL CROSSING - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

Councillor Mrs. Selby reported that a petition containing 483 signatures had been submitted to Dorset County Council.

Councillor Budd gave an update on the present position with regard to the crossing. Both the District and County Council's Press Officers were devising a publicity campaign to encourage people to use the crossing responsibly.

Mr. Tim Westwood, Dorset County Council, would be attending a meeting with the Rail Regulator shortly to discuss this problem. Annette Brooke, MP, had written a letter to the Chief Executive of Dorset County Council expressing her concerns over the proposed closure of the crossing.

Councillor Mrs. Selby stated that it was a minority of people causing the problem who needed to be named and shamed.

#### **57. CHANGE OF DATE – COUNCIL MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER 2009**

Members were requested to consider changing the dates of the Town Council Meetings from (a) Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 to Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 and from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 to Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2009, owing to a clash with Purbeck District Council's Policy Group Meeting.

After a discussion it was –

**RESOLVED** that the dates of the Council meetings to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 and 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 be changed to 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 and 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2009.

**58. RE-FORMATION OF WAREHAM COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

Members were advised of plans to re-form the Wareham Community Partnership in September 2009. The Partnership would meet 6 times per year and help to initiate action on outstanding items in the Wareham Community Plan (adopted by the Town Council in September 2005 as the cornerstone of its policies), whilst also considering further items following any new survey or refresher plan. Council was requested to confirm its representation as Councillor Mrs. Elmes and Councillor Mrs. Selby and to consider any further nominations.

After a discussion it was –

**RESOLVED** that (a) the Town Council's representatives on the Wareham Community Partnership would be Councillor Mrs. S. Elmes and Councillor Mrs. A. Selby; and (b) that no administrative support would be provided by Wareham Town Council.

**59. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT** (for report or for the next agenda only)

Councillor Osmond reported on visits he had undertaken on behalf of the Mayor to the Princes Trust Team Display at Bovington Camp and the Police Open Day at Winfrith Headquarters. Both had been very interesting.

**60. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 at 7.00 pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.39 p.m.

..... Mayor