

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER 2011 AT 7.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM BH20 4NS**

**Present:** Councillors Mr D A Budd, Mr K Critchley, Mrs D R Cleaton (Town Mayor), Mr D Critchley, Mrs S D Elmes, Mr K Green (Deputy Mayor), Mr D Hutton, Mrs L I Kenyon, Mr E L Osmond, Mr M G Russell, Mrs M A Selby, Mrs J Spooner, Mrs C E Turner, Mrs N Wiggins, Mr M Wiggins

**Officers present:** Mr R M Curtis, Town Clerk  
Mrs D T Cousins, Administration Officer

**Members of Public: 1**

**74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ms D Adkins.

**75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
**Nil**

**76. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

The minutes of the meeting of 20th September 2011 were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Mayor subject to the following amendments

- Item 62 pg21 delete '62' insert '63'
- Item 63 pg22 delete '63' insert '64'
- Item 65 pg22 line 1 delete 'Committee' insert 'Council'
- Item 67 pg23 line 9 delete 'cvarnival' insert 'carnival'
- Item 69 pg24 line 2 delete 'adjoining' replace 'in close proximity to'

**77. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

- Item 62 pg21 **Amenities Committee** Councillor Osmond informed the Council that he had contacted County Council on three occasions to request that vandalised panes of glass be replaced at the Bere Road bus shelter.
- Item 66 pg22 – 'Superfast Broadband' would be referred to the next Policy, Resource and Finance Committee meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

**78. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME –**

No members of the public wished to speak.

**79. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

Nil received.

**80. TO ANSWER MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (IF ANY)**

There were no questions.

**81. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced that she had attended six civic events since the last Town Council meeting. Two notable events had been the dedication of the new West window in Lady St Mary's Church and the 'Percy Westerman' weekend celebrating the life and works of this neglected local childrens' author.

**82. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- (a) **Planning and Transport Committee** 19 Sept, 10<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011 – Councillor Mrs Selby presented the minutes of the meetings. Councillor Russell asked a question on the 'tree notices' abbreviations.
- (b) **Amenities Committee** 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011 – Councillor D Budd presented the minutes of the meeting.
- (c) **Human Resources Panel** 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011 – Councillor Mrs Kenyon presented the minutes of the meeting. Councillor Russell asked the Town Clerk for information regarding the training of Members in financial matters.
- (d) **Policy, Resources and Finance Committee** 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011 – Councillor K Critchley presented the minutes of the meeting. There was one recommendation regarding the employment of the Clerk to the Wareham Burials Joint Committee by Wareham St Martins Parish Council acting as a lead council on this matter, rather than Wareham Town Council. The five members who represented Wareham Town Council on the Burials Committee – Councillors, K. Critchley, K. Green, Mrs C Turner, Mrs J Spooner, Mrs N Wiggins - declared a personal interest in the matter. It was then proposed by Councillor K Critchley, seconded by Councillor E Osmond and:

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to the employment of the Clerk to the Wareham Burials Joint Committee by Wareham St Martins Parish Council acting as lead council for her employment in future, since she could not be employed by a committee acting as an employing body.

**83. REPORTS BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.****County Council**

Councillor D Budd presented his report (see ANNEX A)

**District Council**

Councillor K Critchley presented his report (see ANNEX B)

**Purbeck Transport Development Panel**

Councillor Mrs Turner presented her report (see ANNEX C)

**Wareham and District Development Trust**

Councillor Elmes presented her report (see ANNEX D)

**84. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS, ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY MEMBERS AND INSTRUCTION TO SIGNATORIES TO SIGN CHEQUES**

A number of cheques were presented for signature in payment of current invoices. Councillor E Osmond declared a personal interest in the payment of

two cheques to himself for reimbursement regarding plants he had purchased for Wareham in Bloom.

It was proposed by Councillor K Critchley, seconded by Councillor Mr K Green and:

**RESOLVED** that accounts for payment in the sum of £11,772.92, be approved and signatories be authorised and instructed to sign cheques in payment of this sum.

85. **TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET LINES – FINANCIAL YEAR 2012/2013**

Council considered the Town Council's budget lines for 2012/2013 which would be included in discussions at forthcoming budget setting meetings, prior to setting the Council's overall budget/precept in December. It was noted that a possible beating of the Sea Bounds, organised by Poole Borough Council and the Society of Poole Men, may take place in 2012 and which may involve some extra civic expense, to be decided when known.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs S Elmes, seconded by Councillor Mrs A Selby that the Deputy Mayor's allowance be increased by £100 per annum and the Mayor's allowance be increased by £100 per annum. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor K Green, left the meeting at this point, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the proposal.

**RESOLVED** that the Deputy Mayor's allowance be increased by £10 per annum and the Mayor's Allowance be increased by £100 per annum in financial year 2012/2013 and the proposed budget lines be amended accordingly.

Following further discussion, it was

**RESOLVED** that the proposed Town Council budget lines for financial year 2012/2013, with amendments agreed at the meeting, be submitted to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee.

86. **PURBECK ELECTORAL REVIEW**

The Council received a recommendation from the Town Council's Electoral Review Working Party. Before discussion, Councillor K Critchley spoke on behalf of all Purbeck District Councillors present at the meeting. He stressed that anything said by District Councillors who may be pre-disposed to support a particular stance would not pre-determine their position in any further debate at the District Council and they would therefore participate in the debate at Town Council with an open mind.

Councillor Mrs L Kenyon spoke on the strength of feeling expressed by the community over the possible closure of the rail crossing point at Wareham Railway Station in 2009. It was felt that this example of the community being against splitting the town into two halves, as noted by members of the Electoral review Working party, should be included in the recommendation to the Electoral Review Commission as indicative of a desire to remain as one single ward.

Councillor Mrs Selby recommended that Wareham should remain as a three member District Council ward, rather than two wards of two members each. Councillor K. Critchley, however, considered that there was no hope of this being achieved since if Wareham remained a 3 Member ward it would be under represented by nearly 18%, well outside the normal maximum deviation from the average of 10%.

Councillor D Budd pointed out that Council could opt for a 3 member ward in accordance with the recommendation but if that was not acceptable then the fall-back position could be for two wards of two members in each ward - which may be more acceptable and also fit the criteria better.

Following discussion, it was then proposed by Councillor M Russell and seconded by Councillor Mrs Spooner that Wareham remains a 3 member ward. Voting was as follows:

Vote: 2 For  
4 Against  
9 Abstentions

The proposal was therefore not agreed.

After further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Elmes and seconded by Councillor Mrs Kenyon that the draft recommendation be accepted with an amendment indicating the community's strength of feeling that the whole town should remain within a single ward and citing the example of support regarding the possible closure of the pedestrian rail crossing at Wareham Railway Station in 2009.

Vote: 11 For  
1 Against  
3 Abstentions

The proposal was carried.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed draft recommendation be accepted, with an amendment demonstrating the strength of feeling that the whole town should remain within a single ward boundary, and that the draft be forwarded to all councillors by the Town Clerk by e-mail the next day and indicating the deadline for submission by 14<sup>th</sup> November for the receipt of further comments.

#### 87. **WAREHAM COMMUNITY EVENTS IN 2012**

The Council received an update from the Town Clerk on plans by community organisations to celebrate three events in Wareham in 2012: Queen's Diamond Jubilee, 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Great Fire of Wareham and the Olympic Flame coming to Purbeck. It was confirmed that the Deputy Mayor was in attendance at the meeting representing the Town Council, together with the Mayor. Councillor Mrs Selby commented that it was important that the youth groups of Wareham be included in the planning of events. The Town Clerk replied that it was very much in the early planning stage, however all sections of the community were to be involved including youth groups and local schools if they wished to participate.

Another meeting would take place on 5<sup>th</sup> December when all plans, which were provisional at this stage, would hopefully be finalised ready for further action in the coming year ahead.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk's report be noted.

**88. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN WAREHAM**

Councillor Mrs Elmes withdrew a recommendation from the Public Convenience Working Party - as included in the agenda - due to a re-consideration of aims and objectives by the working party members. It was then:

**RESOLVED** that the Public Convenience Working Party be delegated to reconvene and agree a revised recommendation to Purbeck District Council's Policy Development Panel by 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

**89. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS**

The Council received revised Standing Orders following a recent review by the Standing Orders Working Party. Draft SO's were tabled at the meeting. In accordance with Standing Orders, there was no discussion on the document which remained 'on the table' until the next Council meeting - allowing time for Members to read and digest the contents.

Councillor Budd announced that any issues from Councillors could be put forward to the Standing Orders Working Party: Councillor Budd, Councillor Mrs Selby, Councillor Russell, the Mayor or the Town Clerk. It was then proposed by Councillor Budd, seconded by

**RESOLVED** that the draft revised Standing Orders remain 'on the table' pending further discussion at the next Town Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

**90. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS REVIEW**

The Council received recently reviewed Financial Regulations from the Financial Regulations Working Party. They were recommended for acceptance by the Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee. There was a discussion concerning an increase in maximum overtime hours per employee per week that the Town Clerk was authorised to approve, which had been increased from 2 hours to 10 hours in the new regulations. Councillor Mrs Spooner considered that this should be left unamended. Councillor D Critchley proposed that the Financial Regulations were approved with no amendments and this was seconded by Councillor Mrs Elmes.

A recorded vote was requested and was recorded as follows:

**For: (8)** Councillors Mr Budd, Mr K Critchley, Mrs Cleaton (Town Mayor), Mr D Critchley, Mrs Elmes, Mr Green (Deputy Mayor), Mr Osmond, Mrs Selby

**Against: (6)** Councillors Mr Hutton, Mrs Kenyon, Mr Russell, Mrs Wiggins, Mr Wiggins, Mrs Spooner

**Abstention: (1)** Mrs Turner

**RESOLVED:** that the reviewed Financial Regulations be approved with no amendments.

On a further un-recorded vote it was:

**RESOLVED** that the revised Financial Regulations be adopted.

**Votes:**

For: 8

Against: 5

Abstentions:2

91. **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR PANEL**

The Council nominated a Selection Panel consisting of a representative from each political group (3 Members) plus two other nominated councillors, to give a total of five Members, and a date to meet was considered. It was:

**RESOLVED** that a Selection Panel consisting of Councillors Mrs Selby, Mrs Elmes, Mr Russell, Mr Green and Mrs Kenyon be nominated to select the Volunteer of the Year 2011 and that the Selection Panel meeting be on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011 at 10.00 am.

92. **EXTERNAL AUDIT for FINANCIAL YEAR 2010/2011**

The Council considered the 'issues arising' report of the External Auditor, as recommended by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011. There were two minor issues which had been accepted by the committee.

**RESOLVED** that the Council accepts the report of the External Auditor.

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

The Mayor reminded Councillors of the Remembrance Day Parade and Church Service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and that the Council Chamber would be open from 10.00am for 'Robing Up'.

The Mayor also announced that the Town Council's Christmas Reception would be held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and that the Volunteer of the Year would be publicly announced on that occasion.

94. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Council noted the date of the next meeting, scheduled for 7.00pm **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

The meeting finished at 8.40 pm

..... Mayor

**ANNEX A****COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT  
TO WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
2 November 2011****Purbeck Schools Review**

On the 3 October I attended the Children's Services Overview Committee for an item on the Purbeck Schools review. It was recommended to and subsequently approved by the Cabinet that the capital programme for the change from three to two-tier education within the Purbeck pyramid of schools proceed at a cost of £36.5 million. Under the plan, Wareham Middle School will become The Purbeck School's Art and Drama Centre.

Approval was also given for the phased approach to work at The Purbeck School to be considered as one single project, which will enable funds to be vired between phases should there be a significant cost and / or educational benefit. I remain concerned that the overall budget may not be sufficient and that the timescale will not be achieved.

**Disposal of Part of Middle School Playing Fields**

Associated with the Schools Review, the County Council has given notice under Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 that it has made an application to the Secretary of state for Education to dispose of part of the playing fields at Wareham Middle School. If the Town Council wishes to comment the closing date is 16 December 2011.

**Future of Day Care Services**

I attended the consultation meeting on the Future of Day Care Services in Dorset held in The Corn Exchange at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 17 October. The Director of Adult Services addressed a poorly attended meeting, due I believe to a lack of proactive publicity by the County Council. The three options which I reported on at the last meeting were described and the programme for making a decision outlined. The consultation closed on 24 October and a preferred option will be selected in December with further consultation between January and March 2012 and implementation commencing at the earliest from May 2012 depending on the option chosen.

The meeting was told that no decisions had been made, but unless a significant amount of work has been done on all options, some which will then be abortive, it appears to me to be a very ambitious timetable for implementation.

**Councillor D. A. Budd**

**ANNEX B****District Councillor's Report**

02/11/11

**Car Park Ticket Machines**

At a meeting of full Council held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, a report recommending the purchase of six new car park ticket machines, with associated equipment and installation works, at an estimated cost of £21,236 and funded from Council resources was approved. The model of machine that will be purchased is accredited as being Disability Discrimination Act compliant.

**Car Park Consultation Meeting**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, the annual consultation meeting on parking charges and other car parking matters in Wareham and Corfe Castle took place. A recommendation that there should be no increase in the hourly rate for Wareham was debated and supported. Permits should increase by 5% from £6.35 - £6.66 per week, £347.50 per year, reserved parking and from £4.76 - £5.00 per week, £260.65 per year, unreserved. However this recommendation may have to be revised due to a decision of the recently appointed policy group to seek an overall increase of 5% across the board increase in next year's income budget. Managers had been working on 2% as agreed for the previous financial year. A final decision will be taken during the Council's budget setting process.

**Councillor K. Critchley.**

**ANNEX C****Purbeck Transport Planning Development Panel**

I attended an all day meeting of the Purbeck Transport Planning Development Panel on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011. In the morning, I attended the meeting held at the Morden Village hall which was well attended by locals in the bed and breakfast trade, hoteliers, Tank Museum, Weld Estate, Monkey World, and shopkeepers in the towns. This meeting was held to elicit the views of those in trade and holiday camp sites etc., in relation to how we can maintain the funds of the Council for the infrastructure of our roads. It was a busy meeting and lots of views were given, some negative and some positive.

In the afternoon we reconvened at the Council chamber where the views were again aired and it was decided that these would be collated and brought back to another meeting to be held in due course, possibly now in January 2012.

**Councillor Mrs C Turner**

**ANNEX D****Report on Wareham District Development Trust Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011.**

1. The 'Wareham Bears' have arrived in Wareham and are being placed at the Blue Pool in the next few weeks. A lease has been signed for them to be part of the exhibits at the attraction. WDDT have also purchased a Teddy Bear stuffing machine from Wookey Hole which will be available for hire from WDDT by any local organisation for fund raising purposes. They also had a supply of unstuffed teddy skins. There will be a grand opening at the Blue Pool in the Spring of 2012.
2. The interpretation boards for the Town Walls are still at the design stage and will be ready to be installed in the first quarter of next year. Funding is in place.
3. The Town Pound. The students at Purbeck School have finished designing the animals to be placed in the Pound and they just need to be scanned into a computer to provide the data for manufacturing the boards.
4. Priors Meadow. After input from Dorset Wildlife Trust, there is now a better management regime in place. The flood bank is being restored.
5. WDDT is receiving more bookings for the Performance Platform. There was a discussion on whether it should be raised by a few inches to prevent it being flooded.
6. The WDDT AGM is on 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm at the Parish Hall. Colonel Mike Davis will give a talk on the Restoration of Tyneham.

**Councillor Mrs S. Elmes**