

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 8th AUGUST 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), Mrs S D Elmes, K Green (Deputy Mayor), Mrs L I Kenyon, E L Osmond, M G Russell, Mrs M A Selby, Mrs J Spooner, Mrs C E Turner, Mrs N Wiggins

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

Members of the Public: 1

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ms D Adkins, D Critchley, M Wiggins and D Hutton.

Members of the Wareham Music Festival were presented with a cheque for £200 by the Mayor. Festival Secretary Mrs J Hall thanked the Council for the donation while Mrs S Dean, Treasurer, emphasised that £4000 - £5000 needed to be raised every year for this major event to go ahead. It was hoped that the remainder of the funds would be raised through donations during the Festival weekend over August Bank Holiday weekend. Mr D Wheatley referred to the performers and the programme of events and the Chairman, Mr R Curtis, thanked all members of the Music Festival Committee who had worked so hard over the last year to ensure that it would be a success this year.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NIL

38. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH JUNE 2011.

The minutes of the meeting of 28th June 2011 were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Mayor subject to the following amendments:

- Page 4 Item 28(e) to add: Present: delete 'Mrs N. Spooner' insert 'Mrs N Wiggins'

39. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28TH JUNE 2011.

Item 23 (d) The Mayor reported to Town Council that, after discussion with Rev. Andy Bowerman, the Civic Service for 2012 would be at 11am and a provisional booking had been made for June 10th 2012.

Item 30 - Public Conveniences in Wareham - Councillor K Critchley informed the Council that Purbeck District Council had a meeting of the Policy Development Panel scheduled for 21st September 2011 and would be looking to Wareham Town Council for recommendations regarding the Howards Lane

Facilities. Councillor Mrs Wiggins requested that the Town Clerk send all members of the Public Conveniences Working Party a copy of the correspondence sent to Purbeck District Council. The Town Clerk replied that he would do so.

40. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

No members of the public wished to speak.

41. **TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

Nil received.

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

There were no Members' questions.

43. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor had attended approximately 16 events since the last Town Council meeting. Two events were of significance to the town. The Town Criers Competition in July had been very successful and generated interest from the public, particularly from the shoppers on the Quay. The second event to be noted was the Wareham Carnival which had a Hollywood Theme. The Mayor had written to the Chairman of the Carnival to thank them all for their hard work.

The Mayor mentioned that she was looking forward to her Civic Day on Friday 12th August.

44. **TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Planning and Transport Committee – 27th June 2011**

Councillor Selby presented the minutes of the meeting. Councillor Budd commented that Dorset County Council should be advised that Wareham Town Council would not support any proposals to change the current parking arrangements in Wareham. Councillor K Critchley remarked that any change to on street parking would be detrimental to the town traders. Following discussion it was unanimously agreed and

RESOLVED that all current on street parking provisions in Wareham remain since any change would be detrimental to the town's traders and residents.

b) **Planning and Transport Committee – 18th July 2011**

Councillor Selby presented the minutes of the meeting and highlighted item 35 - Core Strategy Proposals for Wareham - and presented a recommendation that the Town Council be involved in the public consultation process. Councillor Mrs Elmes proposed that Town Council should be involved in the public consultation and it was seconded by Councillor Mrs Spooner.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council be involved in the public consultation for Core Strategy Proposals for Wareham.

c) **Amenities Committee 20th July 2011**

Councillor Budd presented the minutes of the meeting.

Councillor Russell was concerned that many areas of the Worgret Road Recreation Ground were being fenced off. Councillor Budd replied that no additional areas were being added and there had not been a problem identified by the Amenities Committee.

Councillor Russell was concerned that the new lengthsman and caretaker were working together too often. The Town Clerk explained that some tasks required both members of staff working together on health and safety grounds and that the lengthsman had been learning the duties of the caretaker, as he was required to cover for him on his days off.

Councillor Russell was concerned over the Worgret Road and Monmouth Road boundary fence to the Worgret Road Recreation ground being used by the fairground for siting of toilets and generators. The Town Clerk replied that he had not been made aware of the problem at the time from any resident but would ensure future hirers of the site would be directed away from these areas.

Councillor Elmes noted item 20 to delete 'curator' insert 'curate'. Item 15 to delete 'Gomez' insert 'Gomes'.

Councillor Russell asked Councillor Budd how much the Hauses Field footpath lighting was estimated to cost. Councillor Budd replied that it would be approximately £17000 and would be debated at the next Amenities meeting but unlikely to be approved because of the cost. Councillor Russell suggested that perhaps a shorter length of lighting along the pathway could be considered. The Town Clerk replied that he had spoken to Dorset County Council and that unless the whole length of the footpath was lit, joining up two circuits from Tantinoby Lane to Northmoor Park, then the installation would not be supported.

d) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee 25th July 2011

Councillor K Critchley presented the minutes of the meeting. Councillor Critchley explained that although it had been resolved to pay for the past Mayor's badges there was no allocated budget for this financial year.

Insert: Present: 'Councillor Mrs D Cleaton'.

Councillor K Critchley highlighted Minute 28 and the Resolution to include past Mayors in various civic and community events which would now be included in the Mayor's Handbook.

45. REPORTS BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

County Council

Councillor Budd presented his report (see ANNEX A)

District Council

Councillor K Critchley presented his report (see ANNEX B)

WAREHAM and DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Councillor Mrs Elmes presented her report (see ANNEX C)

DAPTC

Councillor Mrs Turner reported on her attendance at the meeting on 20th July:

- The County Council's Winter Maintenance Officer had told members that the network of Dorset County Council routes to be cleared had been increased by 150 miles. Parishes and Town Councils would, however, need to buy their own salt bins and fill and spread the salt. Any accidents incurred through salt spreading would be referred to Dorset County Council who were still responsible for any claims arising.
- Salt bins: not sustainable financially, in future parishes would need to purchase salt from the County and there was a plan for self-help within parishes for 2012/2013. A meeting would take place the next day and parish/town clerks would be notified.
- Legality of lengthsman spreading salt on footways, concerns expressed on public safety/compensation claims. It was reported that if someone had an accident then all claims should be forwarded to County Council as being legally responsible.
- DAPTC Chief Executive's report. DAPTC were seeking a representative to attend the Purbeck Standards Board meetings, nobody had come forward and she had, in her absence, proposed Councillor Mrs L Kenyon, who had agreed.
- Planning Board Development Panel - Councillor Mrs Turner had been appointed to the panel and would report to Council on future meetings.

VIRIDOR WASTE MANAGEMENT LANDFILL CREDITS

Councillor Russell informed the Council that Viridor had awarded Wareham and District Development Trust £19,000 and that Wareham Rugby Club had also applied for funding for new facilities.

PURBECK OLYMPIC NETWORKING GROUP

The Town Clerk stated that the Olympic Flame would possibly be coming through Wareham on Friday 13th July 2012 on its way to Bournemouth, further details would be confirmed when known.

HEMSBACH TWINNING ASSOCIATION

The Mayor confirmed that she would be attending the celebrations of the anniversary of the Wareham-Hemsbach twinning in September and a certificate from the Town Council would be presented.

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

A budget report dated 28th July 2011 was scrutinised by Council and a number of cheques were presented for signature in payment of current invoices. It was proposed by Councillor K Critchley, seconded by Councillor Mrs Selby and:

RESOLVED that the budget report be noted and accepted, accounts for payment in the sum of £5945.96, be approved and signatories instructed to sign cheques in payment of this sum, including a total of £3492.29 noted as being for urgent payments.

47. **DORSET POLICE - ENQUIRY OFFICE REVIEW and 'ONE TEAM' PROGRAMME**

The Council considered correspondence attached to the agenda. Councillor K Critchley commented on the 'One Team' programme he was concerned over the possibility of station closure in Wareham and he suggested that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should be delegated to take any action required on behalf of Wareham Town Council if there were any developments before the next Town Council meeting. This was agreed by Council.

Councillor Osmond referred to a statistic that anti-social behaviour was down by 8.9% possibly because they are not being reported. He gave examples of the bus shelter at Wareham Station and the noticeboard at Carey which had both been vandalised recently and had not been reported. He also informed the Council that a coach had broken down on the A351 flyover recently and there had been traffic chaos in the town, since it had not been moved for several hours. Councillor Osmond had written to the Police asking what the Police response had been on that day and was still awaiting a reply.

RESOLVED that the correspondence be noted at this stage, and Councillor Osmond's concerns be also noted.

48. **ANPR CAMERAS at A351 WAREHAM – ELECTRICITY SUPPLY**

The Council considered a request from the Dorset Police ANPR Manager to take an electrical power supply from the base of the Council's existing CCTV mast to feed 3 ANPR cameras, which will be installed using Community Safety Partnership funding, as reported earlier this year. After discussion, Councillor Critchley advised that the electricity used would be roughly the equivalent of a 40watt domestic bulb and would be an insignificant additional cost. He suggested that the Town Clerk be authorised to allow Dorset Police the use of the power supply as long as the projected cost did not exceed £150. This was proposed by Councillor Budd and seconded by Councillor Osmond.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be authorised to contact Dorset Police to authorise the use of the Council's existing CCTV mast to feed the 3 ANPR cameras at a maximum cost of £150 per year.

49. **STORAGE OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL VALUABLE ITEMS**

The Council considered forthcoming changes to the Safe Custody Service of Lloyds TSB which would mean that, from the 15th September 2011, the bank will no longer be able to store the items 'of intrinsic value' at their branches. Council was requested to consider using the Bank's recommended security company, G4S, using their specialist facilities which the Bank already uses, to store items currently held at the Wareham branch. After discussion it was

agreed unanimously by Council that the authority for the decision should be delegated to the Policy, Resource and Finance Committee.

RESOLVED that any decision regarding storage of Wareham Town Council valuable items be delegated to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee at its next meeting.

50. **STANDING ORDERS WORKING PARTY**

The Council was requested to:

(a) Approve the following suggested Terms of Reference:

- Review existing Standing Orders in relation to NALC Model Standing Orders
- To consider any other relevant changes
- Procedure of Co-option of councillors
- Procedure for selection of Honoured Townsmen
- Any other associated issues as considered appropriate by SO's Working Party

After discussion, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED that the suggested Terms of Reference for the Standing Orders Working Party be accepted and approved.

(b) To appoint a Conservative Party nominee for the Standing Orders Working Party. Councillor Mrs Spooner proposed Councillor Russell as the Conservative Party representative and it was seconded by Councillor M Wiggins.

RESOLVED that Councillor Russell be elected as Conservative Party representative to the Standing Orders Working Party.

(c) To agree a date for the first Working Party in September.

RESOLVED that the date for the first Standing Orders Working Party be Friday 2nd September 2011 at 10am.

51. **ANY OTHER ITEMSTHE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT (for report or for the next agenda only)**

The Mayor asked councillors to arrive early for the next Town Council meeting at 6.30pm on 20th September for an official photograph to be taken.

The Chairman of Wareham in Bloom announced that the stones on the Saxon Roundabout had been secured, following safety concerns after people had been observed on the roundabout.

The Mayor requested that the Town Councillors sign the Mayors Book as witnesses to the new Mayor at the Mayor Making meeting in May 2011.

The Town Clerk read out a letter from a Spanish tourist thanking Wareham for the warm welcome received whilst on a recent holiday in the area.

52. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Council noted the date of the next meeting, scheduled for 7.00 pm on **Tuesday 20th September 2011.**

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

..... Mayor

**COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT
TO WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL****ANNEX A
8 August 2011****Future of the Library Service**

Two proposals regarding the future of the library service were before the County Council at its meeting on 21 July:

Option B which would withdraw County Council financial support from nine rural libraries including Corfe Castle and Wool, which unless supported by the parish councils would have to close and :

Option D which would further reduce library resource funding, the book fund, management and support staff over and above Option B, but would keep all 34 libraries open.

Option B was chosen on a 21 to 20 recorded vote.

Renewable Energy

The County Council's Cabinet has approved use of up to £1.5 million of prudential borrowing to finance solar photovoltaic installations on suitable County Council owned buildings. This is an 'invest to save' proposal which will over 25 years earn the Council a net income of around £1.5 million and contribute to tackling climate change, reducing energy costs, enhance the environment and support the local economy.

Closure of the A351 Road

The A351 road between Bakers Arms and Blackhill Roundabouts will be closed from the 19th September for five weeks for major resurfacing and drainage works. I have reported previously that this work has been postponed on a number of occasions but now appears to be going ahead; the downside is that we can look forward to some serious traffic disruption.

Fatal Traffic Accident Reports

County Councillors are now being sent joint DCC Officer and Police reports of fatal road traffic accidents within their Division. I received last week the report of the collision in Sandford Road which happened on 25th June when a motor cyclist hit a parked car.

The report states that a blood test showed that the deceased was twice over the legal drink drive limit and excessive speed may have been a factor. It was noted that the parked car was facing in the wrong direction; the nearside should be to the kerb at night.

Councillor D. A. Budd

Purbeck District Council Report**ANNEX B****08/08/11****Built Environment Issues****Pre- Submission Core Strategy Proposed Changes**

Council approved a recommendation that the proposed changes to the Core Strategy pre-submission be approved for public consultation and that, provided no other significant changes are required, then the submission should be made to the Secretary of State at the end of the consultation period. Consultation is scheduled to take place between the 1st of September and the 13th of October. Submission is planned for November with examination in the New Year. Subject to the latest information on the Localism Bill, adoption would follow in mid 2012.

Housing and social Issues**Amalgamation of Synergy Housing Group**

Following a full debate including a question and answers session at Policy Group on the 12th of July, Council supported proposals from Synergy Housing to amalgamate the group in the interest of streamlining and improving the current and future services received by Purbeck tenants and leaseholders and meeting with the recommendations of the Housing Quality Network.

Corporate Issues**Electoral Review**

As reported at the last Town Council meeting by Councillor Osmond, the Boundary Commission has commenced a review of Purbeck. The Council has initially been asked to submit a proposal on the optimum size of Council. After careful consideration and taking into account the electoral commission's guidance on effective and efficient governance arrangements, electoral equality, i.e. (ratio of councillors to electors), effective and convenient local government and community identities and interests, the Council has recommended to the Commission that the Council size should increase from 24 to 27 Members.

It was also reported at the last Town Council meeting that all-out elections would be held in 2012. Whilst this was the initial timing suggested by the Commission, it soon became apparent that this would not be possible due to the fact that six months notice has to be given following Parliament's approval. Therefore, the first opportunity for all-out elections will be May 2014. with Dorset County Elections in 2013.

Change of leadership

Following the by-election in Lytchett Matravers held on the 7th of July in which the Conservatives took a seat from the Liberal Democrats, the composition of the District Council is now 12 Conservative, 10 Liberal Democrat and 2 Independent Members. Under Urgent Items the chairman accepted resignations to stand down from the leadership of Council from Cllr David Budd as Leader of the Council, myself as Deputy Leader of council and from the four Liberal Democrat spokespersons. New appointments were made immediately with Councillor Gary Suttle elected as the new leader of Council and Councillor Barry Quinn as Deputy Leader of Council. The District Council is now in Conservative administration with the Liberal Democrats taking shadow roles. The position of Chairman is unaffected by these changes.

Councillor K Critchley.

ANNEX C**Report on Wareham and District Development Trust Meeting held on Thursday 28th July 2011.**

WDDT has negotiated to purchase the Wareham Bears from Mr Gerry Cottle of Wookey Hole. The sum paid was very reasonable. They had also purchased a teddy bear stuffing machine. The Chairman, Mr Philip Daubeny, Mr Peter Scupholme and Mr John Scott have negotiated with Miss Barnard at the Blue Pool to lease the Wareham Bears from WDDT, as this was the only space in the area big enough to house them. Miss Barnard is purchasing the teddy bear stuffing machine from the Trust and will be paying a small commission to the WDDT for every bear sold. WDDT has been promised a grant of £19,000 with certain provisos from Viridor to go towards paying for Information boards on the Wareham Walls.

Councillor Mrs S Elmes