

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 26TH JANUARY, 2010 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillor Mrs. A. Tighe (Town Mayor); Councillors D. Budd; Mrs. D. Cleaton; K. Critchley; D. Critchley; Mrs. S. Elmes; K. Green; Mrs. V. Green; M. Russell; Mrs. A. Selby; and Mrs. M. Wainwright.

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

Members of the public.

Also in attendance – Tania Kaplin. Ian Alexander and Katie Cruckshanks representing PEAT – Purbeck Environment Action Team.

131. 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.

132. PRESENTATION – TRANSITION PURBECK

Tania Kaplan, Ian Alexander and Katie Cruckshanks of the Purbeck Environmental Action Team gave a presentation on Transition Purbeck, part of the worldwide transition initiative which involves local people coming together to tackle the twin threats of peak oil and climate change by moving to a future not based on fossil fuels and to encourage people to have a sustainable lifestyle.

A three part presentation was given:

1. Concerning peak oil and climate change.
2. Raising awareness and creating links with local people and organisations.
3. The formation of an energy descent action plan.

Slides were shown and questions answered. Members were requested to become involved and invited to join Transition Purbeck.

The Mayor thanked the Team for their presentation and for attending the meeting.

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133. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs. P. Bowyer - Davis, Mrs. C. Turner and T. Williams.

134. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

135. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2009 AND SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4TH JANUARY, 2010

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16TH December, 2009 were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Mayor after the following amendments:

Page 63 – line 15 – delete floor;

Page 65 – line 27 – delete £106.750 insert £106,750;

Page 66 – line 8 – delete met;

Page 67 – line 22 – delete oof – insert of.

The Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 4th January, 2010 were confirmed as a correct record, subject to the Town Clerk checking that the minute and page numbers were correct, and signed by the Mayor.

Councillors K. Critchley and E. Osmond declared a retrospective interest in Minute 125, to be added to Page 69 – Agenda Items 4 and 5 as Purbeck District Councillors.

136. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

134. 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

137. TO ANSWER MEMBERS QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None.

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138. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported the sudden death of Father Geoffrey Watts and that she had attended his funeral service on 15th January, 2010. She also reported that she had attended the funeral of Mr. Arthur Grant, a former resident of Tyneham.

139. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 11th January, 2010

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(b) Planning and Transport Committee – 12th January, 2010

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

(c) Amenities Committee – 13th January, 2010

RESOLVED that the report be noted

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

District Councillor

Councillor Critchley reported that at the last meeting of the District Council, approval was given to expenditure totalling £19,000.00 funded from the unapproved Capital Budget for 2009/2010 for enhancement of the Town Walls Bowling Green area. A further annual enhancement budget of £10,000 was also agreed until 2014/2015.

Members also received a detailed assessment of the Core Strategy public consultation. This included the submission from Wareham Town Council and a resolution to endorse the publication of the consultation response was approved.

The District Council also approved changes to the Wareham permit holder fees as follows - reserved spaces increased from £5.77 to £6.04 per week and from £300.98 to £315.21 per year; unreserved from £4.32 to £4.53 per week and from £225.72 to £236.42. The hourly rates for the District Council car parks in Wareham would remain unchanged.

Councillor Critchley also reported that, following a detailed presentation, the Council approved a recommendation to join the Dorset For You website partnership with estimated savings for the financial year 2010/2011 of £17,775

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equivalent to a Council tax of 90p, rising to £26,193 from 2011/2012 and to £27,150 from 2014/2015

He also reported that the Council Tax base for billing purposes for Wareham Town had been set and approved at £2,234.34.

County Councillor

Councillor Budd reported that a survey to ascertain evening, night and early morning use of the railway crossing had been undertaken from Wednesday, 16th December, 2009 – Tuesday, 22nd December, 2009 between the hours of 7.00 p.m. to 7.00 a.m. on weekdays, with an extended period over the weekend. The results were expected by the end of the month.

Members would also be aware that Network Rail had closed the rail station footbridge due to damage to the brick paving caused by the recent inclement weather conditions. Listed Building Consent was required for the temporary repairs. The District Council was working with Network Rail so that this did not delay the works.

Councillor Budd also reported on the Purbeck School Review advising members that the County Council's Cabinet had rejected proposals to split secondary education in Purbeck between sites in Wareham and Swanage as proposed by campaign group 'Education Swanage'. It was considered that it would not be in the best interest of pupils throughout Purbeck as it would be more difficult educationally and financially to offer a full range of subjects and after school activities at two schools rather than one.

He also reported that the County Council was proposing to make a further bid to the 'Building Schools for the Future' programme which, if successful, would allow the rebuilding of the Purbeck School rather than its refurbishment.

Representative Reports

Councillor Mrs. Wainwright reported on the Dorset Age Partnership Meeting held on 20th January, 2010 at which presentations were given on the following topics – Developing Community Services and Self Directed Support Pilots.

Discussions followed on the merits of the management of the way funding choices could be made. If a client was eligible for help in their care, the option to choose how the funding might be spent could be up to the individual concerned. It could be a preference to organise their own arrangements for services i.e. home help, in which case they would pay this from their funding allowance. However several concerns were raised. Costing estimates for choice were not readily available and a close monitoring system would be needed. This was also a Central Government initiative and funding would be redirected over time so that people had

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their own money to buy services. A period of 3 years was also mentioned. An article concerning this had appeared in "Your Dorset" – Winter 2010 edition.

Councillor Mrs. Wainwright also reported on the Switchover Help Scheme –TV to Digital – which was very well explained by the Regional Project Co-ordinator and booklets were available to those that would like one. No action was needed until 2012 but it was pointed out that some people had been persuaded that a new aerial was needed, however this was not necessary for most equipment, and could be expensive.

She also reported that Fairtrade Fortnight would be held from Monday, 22nd February - Sunday, 7th March, 2010 inclusive and that a Food and Drink taster event would be held on 27th February, 2010 in the Parish Hall. More publicity would follow.

Councillor Russell reported on the meeting held on 14th January, 2010 with Mr. R. Holman, Headteacher, Purbeck School, Mr. P. Scupholme and Mr. L. Burns, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the School Governors. Also in attendance were Councillors Budd, Mrs. Cleaton, Osmond and Mrs. Turner.

Those attending were brought up to date with the current Purbeck new schooling initiative particularly with regard to the future of the Purbeck School. The discussion was frank and open and many possibilities explored. Some Councillors came away with the idea of opening up the debate further. The strong argument to retain the status quo regarding the Purbeck School as the sole secondary school rather than cause a split with Swanage and Wareham, and having effectively two separate schools from the same budget, had seemed to gather momentum. The cost of duplicating all the facilities at Swanage plus the updating of Purbeck's facilities seemed almost impossible. However, in the meantime, the County Council's Cabinet had met, and if the local newspapers were correct the decision had been made not to split and keep the Purbeck School only. This seemed to be the broad agreement of the Councillors present and thus negated the necessity to require further debate within the Town Council, although Councillors were always in a position to do this should they wish. It was interesting to learn that the other argument regarding pupils from Bere Regis being likely to have to attend Lytchett Minster School would have little effect on Purbeck School.

A tour of the school took place and Councillors were impressed with the present facilities but observed that a huge cash injection was needed to update the school. Various options on this aspect were considered. An open invitation to return for further viewing or debate was made by the Headteacher and the Chairman of Governors.

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Councillor Mrs. Selby reported that a football team from the Purbeck School, representing Dorset had reached the final in a football tournament and the final would be held on Thursday at Bristol.

Councillor Mrs. Tighe reported that Carnival week this year would be held on 12th – 18th July, 2010.

141. 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 26th January, 2010 was handed to and acknowledged by each member of the Council, together with current payments totalling £13,192.39 for approval.

RESOLVED that the report of up to date expenditure and income against budget and accounts dated 26th January, 2010 totalling £13,192.39 be approved.

142. TERMS OF REFERENCE: POLICY, RESOURCES AND FINANCE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE.

Members were given an update report on the work carried out by the Terms of Reference Working Party for both the Policy, Resources and Finance and Amenities Committees which met on 19th January, 2010. Due to current workload and various commitments, it had not been possible to complete the work involved and the Working Party would meet again in the near future to finalise the terms of reference.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

143. COUNCILLOR VACANCY – UPDATE

The Town Clerk gave an update on the vacancy notice currently being displayed for 14 days which had a further 2 days before it expired. The Town Council would then be able to co-opt another person on to the Town Council. After a discussion it was –

RESOLVED that the report given by the Town Clerk be noted and this item be placed on the next Council Agenda for consideration following the display, if appropriate, of co-option notices after 28th January 2010.

144. COUNCILLOR MRS. V. GREEN – COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Town Clerk reported that Councillor Mrs. V. Green's membership of Standing Committees and on Outside Bodies needed to be confirmed. After a discussion,

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Councillor Mrs. Green confirmed that she would be willing to become a member of the Planning and Transport Committee and the Wareham Burials Joint Committee it was –

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs. V. Green be elected as a member of (a) the Planning and Transport Committee and (b) as an appointed Town Council representative on the Wareham Burials Joint Committee.

145. STANDING ORDERS - REVISION

Members had been circulated with the report and recommendations of the Standing Orders Working Party which met on 2nd November, 2009 for consideration, this item having been deferred at the Town Council meeting on 16th December, 2009.

Councillor Budd reported on the proposed amendments and advised of the new draft Model Standing Orders shortly to be implemented by NALC. After a discussion it was –

RESOLVED to accept the proposed amendments and attach them as an addendum to the existing Standing Orders, pending consideration of new NALC Model Standing Orders.

146. COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS – CIVIC YEAR 2010/2011

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Draft Schedule of Meetings for the forthcoming Civic Year 2010/2011.

Councillor K. Critchley requested that the Financial Administrator be consulted as to the suitability of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee meetings being held on a Monday since he did not work on that day. After a discussion it was –

RESOLVED that subject to consultation with the Financial Administrator the Schedule of Meetings – Civic Year 2010/2011 be agreed.

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

The Town Clerk reported that both he and the Caretaker had attended an Emergency First Aid at work course that day and both would receive a Certificate of Attendance.

The Town Clerk advised that he had received an email from Purbeck District Council regarding a presentation on the subject of the link with Swanage Railway Signalling Works on Tuesday, 9th February, 2010 at Purbeck District Council at 6.30 p.m. He requested Councillors to advise him if they were able to attend.

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148. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, 2nd March, 2010.**

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

..... Mayor