

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH MAY 2007 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM AT 7.00 P.M.**

Present – Councillor L. Burns (Town Mayor); Councillor Mrs. S. Elmes (Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors D. Budd; Mrs. D. Cleaton; Miss M. Cotton; K. Critchley; K. Green; B. Jaeger; E. Osmond; M. Russell; Mrs. A. Selby; Mrs. A. Tighe; Mrs. M. Wainwright and Mrs. J. Webb.

Officers present – Mr. Rodney Curtis, Town Clerk and Mrs. Andrea Dominy, Mayor's Secretary.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2006 were confirmed after the following amendment – Minute 9 – line 1 delete Budd insert Baggs.

**3. ADDRESS BY OUTGOING TOWN MAYOR**

The Town Mayor welcomed those present to the meeting.

The Town Mayor reported that both he and the Mayoress had thoroughly enjoyed visiting the many organisations in Wareham and the town should be very grateful to the many volunteers who give so much time to help others in the community.

He reported that they had visited many towns in Dorset whilst attending Civic Days and on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2006 hosted Wareham Town's own Civic Day. This included a visit to the Rex Cinema, the Parish Church of Lady St. Mary's Annual Flower Festival, a visit to St. Martin's Church and a boat trip on the River Frome followed by tea in the Corn Exchange.

A Sub Committee of the Wareham Carnival Committee sought the Town Council's support to organise an International Guggenmusik Festival and as Mayor he had chaired the Committee. Over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> July 2006, bands from Bournemouth, Switzerland and Germany assembled in the town centre and the Quay and provided excellent entertainment to thousands of people.

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In 2006 at the instigation of the Town Clerk a new Wareham Town Guide was produced and 10,000 copies were printed and launched at the Tourism and Heritage Centre.

A new Best Allotment Competition was introduced by the Town Council and the Awards Ceremony took place in conjunction with the Wareham in Bloom Awards Presentation Evening. Wareham was awarded a Silver Gilt in the South and South East in Bloom regional competition and he was delighted to hear that Councillor Osmond, Chairman of Wareham in Bloom Committee, had been awarded an Outstanding Achievement award by South and South East in Bloom for his services to Wareham in Bloom over many years.

In response to the number of weeds on roads and pavements in the town, a meeting was held with the Mayor, the Town Clerk and officers at Dorset County Council. Promises to improve the situation had not been kept and a further meeting was planned in the near future.

The Mayor also reported that he had expressed concern over the lack of policing in the town. Discussions took place with the relevant officers and it was clear that there had been a reduction in Police Officers but further Support Officers had been promised when funds become available. Funds are available to provide a further 3 CCTV cameras in the town area and applications had been made for planning permission.

The Mayor reported that at his Mayor Making Ceremony last year he announced that one of his objectives was to deal with the grossly overgrown public open space at Hauses Field. Following a site visit with Kevin Randall, Project Manager of Wareham and District Development Trust, it was agreed that a joint project should proceed for this site. He was pleased to report that two extensive consultations with local residents then took place, and with the support of Dorset Community Action work commenced in early September with 50 volunteers clearing the site and with refreshments being provided by local residents. The site was then ready for ploughing by the Young Farmers and the sowing of grass seed. To date, a BMX facility had been installed, a picnic area was nearly complete, a children's play area was under construction and work on a sensory garden had started. The Mayor wished to place on record his sincere thanks and that of the Council, for the tremendous amount of work put in by Kevin Randall, to the local Community Beat Officer, PC Moira Connolly, for her continued support and her work with young people on Northmoor Park.

On 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2007 together with 58 citizens of Wareham the Mayor had attended the ancient ceremony of Beating the Sea Bounds when the

Wareham Mayor challenged the Mayor of Poole in the Wareham Channel. This was a wonderful day but he would, however, owing to tidal restrictions, have the dubious privilege of being the only Wareham Mayor who travelled to and from Poole in a very smart new double decker bus!!!

The Mayor's Charity this year was the Wareham Scouts and Guides fund for a new combined hut and at a presentation evening on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 a cheque in the sum of £15,500 was presented to this fund. A "Burns Supper", Mayor's Charity Spring Ball and many other fund raising events were held to raise money for this worthy cause. An application to Viridor Landfill was made and was rewarded with a grant of £70,000.00. A planning application would be submitted shortly for the hut.

The Mayor and Mayoress wished to record their grateful thanks to the Sergeant at Mace, Mr. Nigel Spiller, for all his help and support, the two Mayor's Constables, the Officers of the Town Council, especially Mr. Roger Jones for administering the Mayor's Charity Account, the volunteers who ran the Wareham Town Museum and the newly appointed Groundsman/Handyman for the prompt manner in which he carried out his duties.

Finally, the Mayor wished to place on record his sincere appreciation for the help and support of his wife Helen who had carried out her duties as Mayoress magnificently.

4. **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR**

Councillor Osmond proposed and Councillor Budd seconded that –

Councillor Mrs. S. Elmes be elected Town Mayor.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

5. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE**

The Town Mayor read out to the meeting the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signed the document which was witnessed by the Town Clerk.

The Mayor requested Rev W. Blakey to say a prayer.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S OFFICIALS**

The Mayor announced that Councillor Mrs. D. Cleaton would be her Mayoress. Rev W. Blakey was appointed Mayor's Chaplain and Mr. N.

Spiller was confirmed as Sergeant at Mace, the two constables being Mr. Ball and Mr. Gould.

The Mayor's Guide would be Lauren Tubbs, Mayor's Air Training Cadet Corporal Luke Paynter, Mayor's Scout would be Mitchell Pope and Boys Brigade Chloe Blake.

**7. ADDRESS BY TOWN MAYOR**

The Town Mayor thanked those present for attending the Ceremony and announced that Councillor Mrs. M. Wainwright would propose a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor.

Councillor Mrs. M. Wainwright thanked Councillor Burns for a memorable year in office as Mayor of Wareham. She thanked him for his support and enthusiasm, particularly with regard to his Charity and the events held to support it, including the Mayor's Charity Ball. During the year both the Mayor and Mayoress had shown great interest in all the voluntary organisations in the town and helped wherever possible. She hoped that they had enjoyed their year in office and wished them an enjoyable and well deserved forthcoming holiday.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Wainwright for her vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor and Mayoress and she too wished them an enjoyable holiday. Both had raised the profile of the town in many ways, she stated, and had proved to be wonderful ambassadors for the Council.

The Mayor reported that she had first come to live in Wareham in 1964 and was happy to return to Wareham in 1995. When she arrived in 1964 there was a youth club in West Street, Wareham, which had taken over from Mrs. Fiddimore's café in South Street. Both were open 7 days a week and were well used by the youth of the town. During her year in office she would like to look at the feasibility of again providing such a facility in the form of a 'drop in centre'. To get this off the ground, an item would be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Community Partnership.

The Mayor reported that she was looking forward to her year in office and doing her very best for the town. She thanked her fellow Councilors for their trust in her.

8. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

Councillor Mrs. Selby proposed and Councillor Mrs. Cleaton seconded that –

Councillor Mr. M. Russell be elected Deputy Town Mayor.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Councillor Russell announced that Mrs. D. Russell would be Deputy Town Mayoress.

9. **TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES ON STANDING COMMITTEES**

On a proposal by Councillor Budd and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Selby it was –

**RESOLVED** to Suspend Standing Order No. 51 to enable the Standing Committees to be appointed at the 29th May, 2007.

This was agreed by Council.

10. **TO CONFIRM (A) POSSESSION OF DEEDS, REGALIA IN CUSTODY OF THE COUNCIL: AND (B) INSURANCE COVER FOR ITEMS ABOVE**

The Town Clerk confirmed that the deeds and regalia were in safe custody and that the Council had insurance cover for its property (until November 2007 when it would be reconsidered).

11. **CIVIC SERVICE**

The Town Mayor announced the date of the Civic Service which would be held on Sunday, 17th June, 2007 at 11.30 a.m. at the Parish Church of Lady St. Mary, Wareham.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.