

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 15th JANUARY, 2008 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillor Mrs. S. Elmes (Town Mayor); Councillor M. Russell (Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis; L. Burns; Miss M. Cotton; K. Critchley; Mrs. A. Tighe; Mrs. C. Turner; Mrs. M. Wainwright and Mrs. J. Webb.

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

Members of the public – 0 Press – 0.

107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Budd, Mrs. Cleaton, Green, and Osmond.

108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

109. PRESENTATION BY LOCAL SCOUT – WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

Niall Gordon, a Scout from 1st Wareham Scout Group gave a presentation on his trip to the World Scout Jamboree at Highland Park, Essex on 1st August 2007. He had been selected by the Wareham and Isle of Purbeck District Scout Council to represent the area and he expressed his grateful thanks to the Town Council and an anonymous councillor donor for donations to enable him to attend this event. He reported that he had raised £1,000.00 to attend, £300.00 of which had been donated to the International Bursary Fund which provides funding to third world countries and enables Scouts worldwide to attend such events.

Over 40,000 attended the Jamboree, a Festival of Friendship attended by Scouts from all over the world, ranging in age from 14 – 17 years. It was an exciting and enjoyable event with long, hardworking days and enjoyable evenings but a very rewarding experience. During the Jamboree, one hundred years of Scouting was celebrated. All corners of the world were represented but the language barrier did not seem to matter.

Niall then answered questions from Councillors.

PAGE 45

Councillor Mrs. Webb asked if it would be possible to provide some literature as a historical record of the Jamboree for the Museum and Niall undertook to provide this.

The Mayor thanked Niall for his interesting presentation.

110. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2007

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4TH December, 2007 were confirmed after the following amendment –

Page 39 – line 22 – delete ‘Part’ insert ‘Party’.

Page 41 – line 23 – delete ‘amend’ insert ‘re-word’.

111. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 95 – Councillor Webb reported that a second question had been raised by her regarding the Human Resources Panel meeting of 3 December 2007 and that this had not been included in the Minute. The Clerk reported that he would investigate and suggest an appropriate amendment to the Minute accordingly.

Post-meeting note: Councillor Webb’s question was in two parts and answered as such by the Mayor. It is suggested that an amendment be made at the next meeting of Council on 4th March 2008 as follows: Page 38, Minute 95 , line 3 after ‘Panel’ ...insert ‘ and the frequency/legality of various meetings of the Human Resources Panel since May 2007.’

Minute 101 - The Clerk reported that he had received further information regarding the all-weather floodlit games facility at Wareham Middle School. This would be an ‘astro-turf’ facility, for training purposes only, including referees. It was not to be used for football match fixtures and would not be in conflict with the Town Council’s facility at the adjacent Recreation Ground. There would be a fee payable through the Purbeck Leisure centre.

112 TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

113. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

PAGE 46

114. TO ANSWER MEMBERS QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None.

115. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that she had attended the Chairman of East Dorset East Dorset District Council's Carol Service, the North Dorset District Council Carol Service and the Lady St. Mary Carol Service.

She had also attended Wareham Churches Lunch Club, Blandford Forum Town Council's Carol Service, lit the Rotary Tree of Lights at Wareham Hospital, and welcomed Father Christmas to Wareham.

The Mayor also reported on various events attended since the last meeting including the Wareham Hospital League of Friends Christmas Party, the Blind Society Christmas Party, Wareham Middle School Carol Concert, the Chairman of East Dorset District Council's Christmas Reception and the Purbeck Day Centre's Christmas Fair in the Corn Exchange.

She also attended a Reception at the 2185 ATC Squadron, Wareham where the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset appointed one of the local Cadets to be a Lord Lieutenant's Cadet.

The Mayor held a Christmas Coffee Morning for her Charities which raised £32.00 in donations, and she had attended Carol Services in Gillingham and Poole.

On Christmas Day she visited Wareham Hospital, Anglebury Court and the Churches in Wareham Christmas Party.

On 12th January, 2008 the Mayor opened the Family History Day organised by the Museum Committee and held in the Corn Exchange.

Police Inspector Adams was not able to attend the Council meeting due to unavoidable commitments but it was planned for him to attend the next meeting on 4th March, give a short presentation and answer Members' questions. The Mayor and Town Clerk had, however, met him at the Town Hall on 11th January and discussions were held regarding the crime situation in the Town, mostly centred on vandalism and irresponsible behaviour by youths. Inspector Adams reported that the enhanced CCTV cameras were working well and had recently led to a number of arrests. The issue of sirens being used in the day was raised

PAGE 47

and the Inspector reported that it was unavoidable in some situations. He fully supported the provision of a Town Centre Youth Facility.

Purbeck District Council had invited the Town Council to submit a male and female Volunteer of the Year to enter the District event. It was hoped to enter this year's Town Council Volunteer of the year together with the runner up, with their permission.

On Friday, 7th March, 2008 the Rex Players were due to perform a Gala evening in aid of the Mayor's Charities.

The Mayor also reported that a replica Viking Longboat would be arriving on 25th January, 2008 at Wareham Quay at 8.00 p.m to celebrate a 'Down Helly Aa, similar to last year's event. All Councillors were invited to attend.

116. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Wareham in Bloom Committee – 5th December, 2007

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(b) Planning and Transport Committee - 10th December, 2007
Planning and Transport Committee – 14th January. 2008

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

(c) Museum Committee – 11th December, 2007

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Councillor Mrs. Webb, Chairman of the Museum Committee, gave a brief report on the Family History Day held in the Corn Exchange on 12th January, 2008. This event had been supported by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Renaissance South West. 250 people had attended the event and requests had been received to hold this event again next year. She thanked Mrs. Hale and all volunteers who helped in any way to organise this event.

(d) Human Resources Panel – 14th December, 2008

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Councillor Mrs. Webb noted that Minute 35 confirmed the minutes of the Human Resources Panel meeting held on 3rd December, 2007. These minutes had not

PAGE 48

been received by Council and the Town Clerk advised that he would investigate with a view to presenting them to the next Council Meeting on 4th March, 2008.

Post-meeting note: the 3rd December 2007 HR Panel Minutes were presented to Council verbally on 4th December 2007 by Councillor Russell, the Town Clerk having prepared them at very short notice for that meeting from the day before, and were therefore not included on the previous week's agenda for that Council meeting. The minutes will be included on the next Council agenda on 4th March 2008 for formal noting by Council.

(e) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 7th January, 2008

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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

District Councillor

There was no District Councillor's Report.

County Councillor

There was no County Councillor's Report..

Representatives on Outside Bodies

There were no Representatives on Outside Bodies Reports.

Councillor Mrs. Tighe requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Father Christmas/Christmas Lights Committee for all their hard work involved in the lighting in the town over the Christmas period and the arrival of Father Christmas. Councillor Burns declared a personal interest in this item under the Model Code of Conduct as a member of both the Father Christmas and the Christmas Lights Committee.

118. STANDING ORDERS – PROXY PROPER OFFICER

RESOLVED that this item should stand adjourned without discussion and placed on the table until the next meeting of the Town Council under Standing Order No. 77.

119. STANDING ORDERS WORKING PARTY

Members had been advised that it was necessary to appoint a new Standing Orders Working Party for the current Civic Year. After discussion it was -

RESOLVED that Councillors Critchley, Mrs. Elmes (Mayor), Russell, Mrs. Selby and Mrs. Tighe be appointed to the new Standing Orders Working Party. The first meeting to be held after 4th March, 2008.

120. TOWN GUIDE WORKING PARTY

Members had been advised that the drafting of the new Town Guide for 2008/2009 was due by the end of May, 2008. The Town Clerk requested volunteers so attend meetings of a new Town Guide Working Party commencing February 2008.

RESOLVED that Councillors Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis and Mrs. Selby be appointed to assist the Town Clerk in the preparation of the new Town Guide 2008/2009.

121. SWANAGE DAY CENTRE

Members had been circulated with correspondence from the Save Swanage Day Care Centre Campaign.

Councillor Mrs. Wainwright reported to Council on the various meetings that she had attended to discuss the closure of the Swanage Day Care Centre. She reported on the implications if this facility should close, particularly with regard to the people using this facility and to their carers, the knock-on effect in Wareham and the fact that additional help would need to be provided from the volunteer sector in the community.

After a lengthy discussion in which many Members expressed their concerns, it was

RESOLVED

that the Town Clerk send a letter to Adult and Community Services, Dorset County Council expressing Wareham Town Council's concerns and unanimous feeling that the closure of the Swanage Day Centre is deplorable with copies of this correspondence to be sent to The Town Clerk, Swanage Town Council, Mr. Jim Knight, MP and Mrs. Annette Brooke, MP.

Councillor Mrs Wainwright also reported on a Dorset Association of Parish and Town Council's publication of an advertisement, requesting applicants for the

PAGE 50

position of 'Wayfinder' to provide support to people at a cost of £2800.00 per annum. This would involve giving assistance to people in the community when the day care facility was no longer there.

122. 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 15TH January, 2008 was handed to and acknowledged by each member of the Council.

RESOLVED that the report of up to date expenditure and income against budget and accounts dated 15th January, 2008 and current payments totalling £10,407.06 be approved.

123. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT (For report or for noting as a future agenda item)

The Mayor wished to record the Town Council's condolences to Councillor Mrs. Cleaton on the death of her mother on 27th December, 2007,

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The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.