

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 7TH AUGUST, 2007 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 D. Budd; L. Burns; Mrs. D. Cleaton; Miss M. Cotton; K. Critchley; K. Green; B. Jaeger; E. Osmond; Mrs. A. Selby; Mrs. A. Tighe; Mrs. M. Wainwright and Mrs. J. Webb.

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

Mr. Peter Aston, Acting Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Purbeck District Council.

Members of the public – 1 Press – 0.

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

38. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH JUNE, 2007

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 26TH June, 2007 were confirmed after the following amendments -

- Page 8 – line 5 – delete Mis – insert Miss;
- Page 8 – Minute 19 – line 2 – delete 3007 – insert 2007;
- Page 10 – Minute 25 – line 8 – delete several – insert severed;
- Page 12 – line 9 – delete problem – insert purpose;

Councillor Budd proposed that Agenda Item 11 - Training Session: New Model Code of Conduct - be discussed at this point as Mr. Aston had another Parish Meeting to attend. This was seconded by Councillor Osmond and agreed by Council.

39. TRAINING SESSION – NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Mr. Peter Aston, Acting Head of Legal Services and Acting Monitoring Officer of Purbeck District Council attended the Meeting to provide a training session to Councillors on the New Code of Conduct which came into force on 3rd May, 2007.

He reported that the revised Code of Conduct must be adopted by 1st October, 2007.

Mr. Aston reported on the recommendations of the Standards Board for England, how the Code applies to Councillors and the general obligations of the Code. He also emphasised the importance of declaring personal and prejudicial interests and the registration of personal interests with the Monitoring Officer.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Aston for his informative presentation and for attending the meeting.

40. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Osmond advised that he had reported the increased use of police in Wareham to the North Purbeck Task Group and advised Mr. Borrett that sirens were only used when necessary.

Councillor Burns reported that two Police Officers had left Swanage Police Station and had not been replaced. He also commented on the use of sirens and advised that blue lights were more effective than sirens.

Councillor Selby reported that she had been advised that repair work would commence on The Rialto, North Street, Wareham at the end of August.

Councillor Mrs. Wainwright asked Councillor Miss Cotton if she had considered being a Governor at Lady St. Mary First School. Councillor Miss Cotton responded that she was happy to become a Community Governor.

Councillor Osmond advised members that Stretches Almshouses Charity would be celebrating its 2nd Centenary this year.

41. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

42. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

43. TO ANSWER MEMBERS QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None.

44. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Mrs. Elmes reported that, after discussion with several people including families of residents of Purbeck Lodge, she was making Purbeck Day Centre her other Charity for the year.

The Mayor reported that it had been a very busy time and she had attended a reception for the new Mayor of Sherborne, a service at Winchester Cathedral to celebrate 10 years of Naomi House, the Ceremony of the Keys at Portland Castle and the Civic Service at Yeovil.

She also reported visits to the High Sheriff's Summer Reception at Canford School and a performance of the New Hardy Players at the Rex Cinema.

On 5th July, 2007 the Judges of the Britain in Bloom competition visited Wareham.

Other functions included the UKAEA Summer Reception celebrating 50 years of Winfrith, the opening of Stoborough School Fete, judging the Wareham Carnival procession and attending the Wareham Boys Brigade Presentation Evening and the Annual General Meeting of the Citizens Advice Bureau

The Mayor reported she was pleased to attend the official opening of Hauses Field and held a tombola raising £77.00 for her Mayor's Charity.

The Mayor also reported on the Gillingham Civic Walkabout, Wimborne Civic Walkabout, the 100th Annual Dorset Arts and Crafts Fair, the 100 years of Scouting Celebrations at Buddens Farm and the Mayor of Yeovil's Murder Mystery Dinner.

The Mayor thanked the Rex Players for their efforts in raising £400.00 for her Charity at a concert.

The Mayor also reported that Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis had shown an interest in being co-opted as a Town Councillor. This item would be placed on the next Council Agenda.

45. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (a) Amenities Committee - 4th July 2007

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

- (b) Planning and Transport Committee – 16TH July, 2007

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

- (c) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 23rd July, 2007

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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

County Councillor

Councillor Budd reported (a) that work had started on the installation of a Zebra Crossing in Worgret Road; (b) a new bus stop was to be installed near the Golf Club in Sandford Road; (c) at a site meeting with representatives of the County Council and their engineering consultants and Network Rail, the County Council and Councillor Budd made it clear that only a full barrier crossing would provide a satisfactory long term solution; (d) problems had been experienced with the Sandford Lane and Railway Bridge. The problem was believed to be due to defective workmanship. The Contractor intended to replace them overnight on 8th and 9th August, 2007.

District Councillor

Councillor Osmond reported that the District Council had received two awards for the Town Walls, National Gold in the Green Apple Awards for promoting Environmental Best Practice and were nominated under the category of Monuments which recognised the success of the Wareham Town Walls Management Plan and the implementation of preserving the Local Architectural Heritage for which they received a Highly Commended Award.

He also reported on (a) the new training under the Revised Model Code of Conduct; (b) the District Council's Licensing Board would now determine all applications under the Gambling Act 2005 in Purbeck; (c) the under resourcing of the Planning Enforcement Service; (d) the training of over 100 children in cycling proficiency in July; and (e) the About Purbeck communication had been short listed under the best civic newsletter/magazine in the Local Government

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“Excellence in Communication” awards. The award winner to be announced at the end of September.

Representative’s Reports

Councillor Mrs. Cleaton reported that the Hemsbach Society would be visiting Germany at the end of August.

Councillor Mrs. Tighe reported on the success of the Carnival and thanked the Town Council for the use of the Recreation Ground. She also reported that the Carnival Committee Annual General Meeting would be held on 16th August, 2007 at 7.00 p.m. at Harry’s Sports Bar and a future fund raising event, a “Punkie Night”, an ancient West Country theme based on Halloween, was planned for 27th October, 2007.

Councillor Mrs. Selby reported that she had attended with the Town Crier a competition in Frome and the Crier had come 16th out of 24 entrants. Council requested that the Town Clerk send a letter of congratulations to the Town Crier.

Councillor Mrs. Webb reported that the Wareham and District Twinning Association – Conches en Ouches - held their last meeting on 27th July, 2007. All artefacts had been donated to the Museum, the wine glasses donated to the Hemsbach Society and surplus funds donated to Wareham Hospital. Two sets of boules had also been donated to the Town Council.

Councillor Mrs. Turner reported that the MS Funday on the Quay raised £6,027.00. The Flower Festival at Lady St. Mary Church would be held from 8th – 13th August, 2007, and the MS Society Wacky Races would be held on Sunday, 26th August, 2007 at the Recreation Ground.

Councillor Russell reported on the DAPTC Towns and Larger Parishes Meeting at Blandford Forum held on 27th July, 2007. Many items were discussed including the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer for Dorset Community Action. Other topics included Waste Management, Connecting Dorset, and the Dorset Spatial Partnership Conference. The next meeting would be held on 19th October, 2007 in Gillingham.

Councillor Jaeger invited Members to a Charity Garden Party on Sunday 12th August, 2007 at 23 Stowell Crescent, Wareham.

Councillor Mrs. Elmes reported that Mr Kevin Randall was standing down as Project Manager for Wareham and District Development Trust and also resigning as a Member of the Board together with Mr. M. Howlett. Councillor Osmond requested that a letter of thanks be sent to both Mr. Randall and Mr Howlett for all their help with the Development Trust and hoped that the Trust would

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continue. Council asked that the letter sent to Mr. Randall should also include thanks for all his work on the Houses Field Project.

Councillor Burns reported that the new building at the Swanage and Wareham Rugby Club would be opened on 13th October, 2007 and an official invitation will follow.

47. TEMPORARY PROPER OFFICER

Members were requested to consider the appointment of a member of the Council's Administration staff as a temporary Proper Officer during the Town Clerk's absence, to perform any statutory functions.

After a discussion it was –

RESOLVED (a) that the Town Clerk be given authority to appoint a temporary Proper Officer from the administrative staff to act as Proper Officer during his absence due to annual leave; and (b) that this item be referred to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee at a future meeting to amend Standing Orders accordingly.

48. DORSET LIBRARY SERVICE

Members had been circulated with correspondence received from the County Council's Head of Cultural Services regarding the proposed cuts to the Library Service.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk write a letter to the Dorset County Council Cabinet expressing their concern at the changes to the Library Service, particularly with regard to the reduction in services to the public and stating that they do not support the purchasing of additional opening hours.

49. FINANCE

(A) 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 showing transactions dated 7th August 2007 was handed to and acknowledged by each member of the Council and current payments totalling £4888.65 be noted..

RESOLVED that the report of up to date expenditure and income against budget and accounts dated 7th August, 2007 be noted.

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(B) SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF BUDGET REPORT

Members had been circulated with a simplified version of the above budget report for future Town Council meetings which focused on Committee income and expenditure only.

RESOLVED that the simplified version of the budget report be put in place for a trial period of six months.

50. CURATORIAL ADVISOR TO WAREHAM TOWN MUSEUM

RESOLVED that Mr. D. Tucker be adopted as Curatorial Advisor to Wareham Town Museum.

51. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

None.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.