

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 30TH OCTOBER, 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 Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis; 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. C. Turner; Mrs. M. Wainwright.

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

Members of the public – 1 Press – 0.

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs. Webb.

72. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

73. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2007

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th September, 2007 were confirmed

74 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

75. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. R. Anderson, 4 Bonnets Lane, Wareham referred to Minute 56 of the 19th September 2007 meeting and stated that the minutes were misleading. He asked for clarification from Standing Orders with regard to the placing of agendas on notice boards. The Mayor confirmed that 5 clear days notice was required. The Town Clerk confirmed that two correctly revised agendas had been placed on notice boards in Carey within this timeframe before the last meeting but not at the North Street notice board. Due notice had been given, however, to the public that a Council meeting would take place. The Mayor apologised on behalf of the Council for the administrative oversight and assured Mr. Anderson that procedures would be reviewed and that this would not happen again.

76. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

77. TO ANSWER MEMBERS QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None.

78. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that she launched the Seniors Forum in Wareham on 21st September, 2007 accompanied by Mr. John Cleaton since the Mayoress was attending the funeral of the Deputy Mayor of Wimborne, Councillor John Perry.

Visits in September also included the Blandford and Chickerell Civic Days.

She had attended, together with the Town Clerk, a meeting at Purbeck District Council as part of the new 'Pathfinder' initiative favoured by Dorset local authorities in consultation with DAPTC under the Local Government and Communities Bill. The District Council was carrying out an exercise in communicating with the Parish and Town Councils in Purbeck which was an essential part of the Pathfinder partnership. Two items discussed at the meeting were on the Agenda.

A visit was made to Cerne Abbas for the Annual General Meeting of Dorset Community Action, also attended by a representative from the Youth and Community Information, Advice and Guidance Service. Several interesting issues were raised. A presentation was made about 'Connecting Dorset' and several computers were now in use in village halls under this scheme to increase 'e-government' to parish councils and bring internet services to the community.

In October the Mayor and Mayoress attended the Wareham Lunch Club, the opening of the new Ragamuffins Playgroup at Bere Regis and the premiere of the Purbeck Film Festival. They also attended the Annual General Meeting of the League of Friends of Wareham Hospital who were desperate for members. They also presented Certificates to some more Learning Champions at the Purbeck Day Centre.

ON 19th October they attended the official reception at Verwood for the presentation of the European Flag of Honour for their excellent links with Europe through their Twinning Associations.

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The Mayor reported that she had also presented the Trophies to the winners of the Wareham Millennium County Short Mat Bowls Competition and to the winners of the Wareham in Bloom competition.

The Mayor reported that Mr. Jones, the Town Council's Finance Assistant, presented a training session on how to read the budget sheets. This was a very useful exercise but unfortunately only half the Council were able to attend so it is proposed to hold a further session in the evening.

The Mayor also reported to Council that she had been approached by a number of people expressing concern that the Conches en Ouche/Wareham Twinning Association was folding. After further discussion with other organisations in the town it was agreed that a letter be sent by the Mayor expressing regret and to suggest that different sporting and leisure organisation, plus schools should continue to pursue the twinning principle. A letter was dispatched this month and it is hoped that various people plus the Mayor will visit Conches en Ouches to discuss the situation.

The Mayor, Councillors Mrs. Cleaton and Mrs. Selby attended a Conference of the Dorset Youth and Community, Information and Advice Service. This was a very useful and interesting meeting and Wareham has been asked to be the local champions for Wareham to get this off the ground.

The Mayor also reported to Council that money raised at her Charity Evening - "An evening of Bloody Rubbish" on 26th October, 2007 raised £940.00.

79. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Museum Committee – 18th September, 2007

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

(b) Amenities Committee – 26th September, 2007

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(c) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 8th October, 2007

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(d) Planning and Transport Committee – 15th October, 2007

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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Councillor Selby drew attention to minute no. 32 – Disabled Access to The Quay. She reported that action had been taken immediately by the Toby when the initial complaint had been made and therefore no further action was necessary.

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

County Councillor

Councillor Budd reported on (a) the repairs to the A351 which are now well advanced and the problems experienced; (b) the resurfacing of the footway in Monmouth Road, Wareham and requested Councillors to advise the Town Clerk if they were aware of any other footways in a similar condition; (c) that Lyme Regis Town Council has been consulted with regard to the On Street Parking Policy for Market Towns; (d) a panel has been set up to discuss the mobile library service. It is proposed to introduce charging for the use of computers in libraries with students having up to 2 hours free; and (e) the County Council's "Fit for the Future Programme which is designed to eliminate the Council's £20 million budget deficit.

District councillor

Councillor Osmond reported on (a) a presentation by Darran Gunter, Chief Fire Officer for Dorset on the current roles and responsibilities of the Fire and Rescue Service in Dorset; (b) a motion was submitted to the District Council regarding planning applications which are governed by present legislation which makes it impossible to meet with the wishes of local people. The motion was accepted in its entirety and a letter has been sent to the Secretary of State and the Government office of the South West expressing concern that the operation of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 was hindering the ability of the District Council to do this. The District Council also supported the arrangements for a meeting with local Members of Parliament, the GOSW and Councillors so that these issues can be highlighted and addressed by Government.

Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Mrs. Wainwright reported that she had attended the launch of the Wareham Area Seniors Forum. The next meeting will be held on 2nd November, 2007 at 10.30 a.m. at the United Reformed Church. She also attended the Age Concern Meeting on 24th October, 2007. Again, recruiting volunteers was raised as this is a very important factor in providing an effective service.

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She also reported that she was attending a meeting of the Community Networking event highlighting needs in Purbeck on 31st October, 2007.

Councillor Mrs. Tighe apologised to members for reporting the wrong figures with regard to the profit made by the Carnival, but she had been given the incorrect information. She was sorry to report that the Carnival had made a loss of £800.00.

The Mayor reported that she had attended a meeting of the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils in Dorchester on 17th October, 2007. This was a very informative meeting with a presentation by Mr. Alan Davies of Purbeck District Council.

Councillor Russell reported that the Annual General Meeting of the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils would be held on Saturday, 3rd November, 2007 at Dorchester.

81. AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS – PROXY PROPER OFFICER

Having been adjourned without discussion under Standing Order no 77 at the last Council Meeting, members were requested to consider the incorporation of the following in the Council's Standing Orders. "During periods of absence of the Town Clerk, the substitute Proxy Proper Officer would be the next most senior Administration Officer present. This substitution would only take place with the consent of the Town Mayor."

RESOLVED that the above amendment be approved and inserted in current Standing Order no. 5.

82. DISCUSSIONS OF LOCAL ISSUES WITH PURBECK DISTRICT COUNCIL – 'VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR' AND 'EAT WISE AND ENERGISE'

Members had been requested to discuss the proposals by Purbeck District Council to implement the 'Volunteer of the Year' scheme and had also been circulated with a leaflet promoting 'Eat wise and Energise'

RESOLVED that (A) the Town Council supports the scheme to recognise volunteers in the Purbeck area at a special event to be organised in the spring of 2008 by the District Council and (B) supports the 'Eat Wise and Energise' scheme in the form of joint sponsorship, this funding to be allocated from the Donations budget by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee.

83. STANDING COMMITTEE – UPDATING OF MEMBERSHIP

Members had been requested to consider the remaining places on the Council's Standing Committees.

RESOLVED that under Standing Order no. 44, Councillors Mrs. Selby and Mrs. Turner be appointed to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee, Councillor Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis be appointed to the Amenities Committee and Councillor Miss M. Cotton be appointed to the Planning and Transport Committee,

84. SIGNAGE FOR 'SIKA TRAIL' CYCLE ROUTE THROUGH WAREHAM

Councillor Burns declared a person interest in this item as a member of the Dorset Cyclists Network.

Members had been circulated with correspondence from the local Sustrans Liaison Representative for consideration.

After consideration it was –

RESOLVED that the Town Council supports route a – a north/south route through the town.

85. INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Internal Auditor's report following his audit on 9th October, 2007.

RESOLVED (a) that the report be noted; and (b) that item 7.1 be referred to the Human Resources Panel for further consideration.

86. 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 30th October, 2007 was handed to and acknowledged by each member of the Council and current payments totalling £15,289.92 were approved.

RESOLVED that the report of up to date expenditure and income against budget and accounts dated 30th October, and current payments totalling £15,289.92 be approved.

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87. TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET LINES – FINANCIAL YEAR 2008/2009

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Town Council's suggested budget lines for Financial Year 2008/2009.

RESOLVED that the suggested budget lines be accepted by Council.

70. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

The Mayor reported on correspondence that had been received that morning from the Communities Aggregates Fund regarding an application made for grant funding towards the Mistover Road Play area refurbishment. She was disappointed to report that the application for funding had been turned down.

RESOLVED that the contents of the letter be noted..

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The meeting closed at 8.07 p.m.