

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 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. 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 – 1 Press – 0.

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

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

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7th August 2007 were confirmed after the following amendments -

Page 16 - Present: add Councillor Turner;
Page 17 -Minute 40 – line 1 delete “police” insert “emergency sirens”;
Page 20 – Minute 46 – line 35 delete “Howeltt” insert “Howlett”;
Page 21 – Minute 48 – line 7 delete “the” insert “they”.

55 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

56. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. R. Anderson, 4 Bonnets Lane, Wareham asked why the Agenda on the North Street notice board had 18 items but the Agenda produced at the meeting contained 20 items. The Town Clerk reported that he would investigate.

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57. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

58. TO ANSWER MEMBERS QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None.

59. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that since the last Council meeting it had been very busy.

The Flower Festival at Lady St. Mary's Church was spectacular and a visit to this was included in the Civic Day when 14 Mayors and Chairmen from throughout Dorset visited Wareham. A visit to St. Martins Church and a demonstration by the Court Leet of their ancient duties was also on the itinerary.

Visits include a Hog Roast at Purbeck Day Centre, a Garden Party hosted by the Masonic Grand Master in aid of his charity, a Civic Day at Lyme Regis, and Purbeck Day Centre for their summer fayre.

The Mayor, together with Councillor Burns, had attended a meeting with the ex Chief Constable of Gwent to discuss whether Wareham's CCTV system could be linked in with all the others in Dorset for the 2012 Olympics. It was possible to do this but there were cost implications. This would make things easier for the local police as they were building a Control Room in Weymouth which would link all compatible CCTV and would be of benefit after the Games since everywhere would be monitored on a 24/7 basis.

The Mayor reported that together with the Mayoress and Mrs. Annette Brooke, MP, she had attended the Wacky Races at the Recreation Ground and had presented the prizes for the Welly Throwing Contest.

The Mayoress, Councillor Mrs. Cleaton, took a message of greeting from the Mayor to Hemsbach.

Visits to Civic Days throughout the County included West Dorset, Poole, Weymouth and Portland, Sturminster Newton, Christchurch, Purbeck District Council and North Dorset District Council.

On 9th September the Mayor and Mayoress attended the farewell service for Rev Bill Blakey, who had been Chaplain to many Mayors and she had expressed her thanks to him for all his services to the Council.

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A fundraising evening – A Thomas Hardy Evening - was held on 14th September, 2007 in aid of the Mayor's Charities, raising £711.50.

On the 15th September, 2007 the Wareham Community Partnership held an open day in the Corn Exchange which was well attended.

On 19th September, 2007 a Civic Service was held at Ferndown.

The Mayor also reported that a meeting had been held together with the Town Clerk, the Mayor's Secretary, Councillors Mrs. Cleaton and Critchley to discuss the compiling of a Mayor's Handbook setting out procedures and protocols for future Mayors.

60. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Planning and Transport Committee – 13th August, 2007 and 10th September, 2007

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

Members requested that One way Traffic Systems and Disabled Access to the Quay be placed on the next Planning and Transport Committee Agenda for further discussion.

(b) Human Resources Panel – 15th August, 2007

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(c) Amenities Committee – 29th August, 2007

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(e) Policy Resources and Finance Committee – 12th September, 2007

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(F) Wareham in Bloom – 12th September, 2007

Councillor Osmond reported that Wareham had achieved three awards this year in the regional South and South East in Bloom competition: a Gold award for Best Small Town, the In Bloom Chairman's award for the Hauses Field project

and was overall category winner in the Small Towns section, as the sole Gold winner in an area stretching from Dorset to the Kent coast.

Councillor Mrs. Webb proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Osmond and his Committee for all their hard work over the last 15 years and this was heartily endorsed by the whole Council.

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

County Councillor

Councillor Budd reported on (a) the major road works taking place at the A351 at Sandford and he had submitted a written report requesting them to give consideration to the installation of temporary traffic signals at Morden Park Corner. This work was essential but would cause traffic chaos; and (b) the Cabinet would discuss the forward plan for the On Street Parking Policy for Market Towns. This - if adopted - could have a detrimental effect on Wareham.

District Councillor

Councillor Osmond reported on (a) discussions on the Government's Housing Green Paper; (b) a hearing by the Licensing Board after a request from Dorset Police; (c) the submission of the Church Knowle and Steeple Parish Plan; (d) discussions on the Dorset Heathlands Joint Development Plan Document on what makes Purbeck Special; and (e) A presentation by Chief Inspector Rick Dowell, Head of Operations Tactical Group on speed management in Dorset.

Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor Burns referred to a list received of streets and roads in Wareham to be cleared of weeds. Some roads had been cleared twice and some not at all. Councillor Budd advised Council that he would discuss this with Councillor Burns at the end of the meeting.

Councillor Mrs. Cleaton reported on a very successful and enjoyable visit to Hemsbach by the Twinning Association and that she had taken a message from the Mayor with her.

Councillor Mrs. Turner reported on the successful Flower Festival at Lady St. Mary's Church and the Wacky Races event held at the Recreation Ground.

Councillor Mrs. Wainwright reported that the official launch of the Seniors Forum would take place on Friday, 21st September, 3007 at 11.00 a.m, at the United Reformed Church.

62. COOPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR FOR REMAINING VACANCY

Members had received three candidates' submissions to Council and all had been invited to attend the meeting. The candidates were as follows:

Mrs P Bowyer-Davis, 10 East Street, Wareham
Mr R Hoare Flat 2, Clifton House, 54 North Street, Wareham
Mr G Hatch 18, Great Ovens Drive, Wareham

A hidden ballot was held and after the counting of the votes it was –

RESOLVED that Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis be co-opted to Wareham Town Council.

Mrs Bowyer-Davis signed her Declaration of Office at the meeting.

63. NEW MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

Members considered the formal adoption of the Revised Model Code of Conduct which came into effect on 3rd May 2007.

RESOLVED that Wareham Town Council formally adopts the Revised Model Code of Conduct (Model for Parish Councils) which came into effect on 3rd May, 2007, with the following inclusions:

Paragraph 7. 'When reaching decisions on any matter you must have regard to any relevant advice provided to you by the district/borough council monitoring officer where that officer is acting pursuant to his or her statutory duties.'

Paragraph 12.2 'Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.'

The Town Clerk undertook to inform the Standards Board of this decision and to post notices to inform the electorate.

64. AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS – PROXY PROPER OFFICER

Councillors had been circulated with the following – 'During periods of absence of the Town Clerk, the substitute Proxy Proper Officer would be the next most

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senior Administration Officer present. This substitution would only take place with the consent of the Town Mayor'.

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.

65. AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2007

Members had been circulated with a copy of a letter from the Council's External Auditor regarding the Annual Return of Accounts and Notice of Conclusion of Audit. There were no matters which required the issuing of a separate additional 'issues arising' report .

RESOLVED that the letter be noted and that thanks be given to the Finance Assistant and Town Clerk for all their work.

66. DISABLED ACCESS ON QUAY – SATURDAY STREET MARKET

The Town Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Mr. Burt, Dorset County Council regarding problems with disabled access to The Quay when the Saturday Street Market was taking place, in response to a letter from a local disabled resident. After discussion, it was –

RESOLVED that this item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee for further consideration.

67. WAREHAM AND PURBECK BRANCH MS

A letter of thanks had been received from the Wareham and Purbeck Committee of the MS Society.

RESOLVED that the letter be noted.

68. FINANCE - 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 19th September 2007 was handed to and acknowledged by each member of the Council and current payments totalling £12,945.13 be approved.

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RESOLVED that the report of up to date expenditure and income against budget and accounts dated 19th September, 2007 be approved.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Under Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and members of the public will be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 8 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

69. SWANAGE AND WAREHAM RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Councillor Budd declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct as a near neighbour of the Rugby Football Club.

Councillor Burns declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct as a Member of the Swanage and Wareham Rugby Club.

The Town Clerk reported to Members on a matter arising from the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee meeting on 12th September, 2007 regarding the lease extension arrangements. After further discussions with the Swanage and Wareham Rugby Club it was noted no further action by the Town Council was needed.

70. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

None.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Mayor