

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2008 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM AT 7.00 P.M.**

**Present: Councillor M. Russell (Town Mayor); Councillor Mrs. A. Tighe: (Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors D. Budd; L. Burns; Mrs. D. Cleaton; M. Cotton; D. Critchley; K. Critchley; E. Osmond (to 8.33pm); Mrs. A. Selby; Mrs. M. Wainwright and T. Williams.**

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

**Members of the public 2 – Press 0.**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs. P. Bowyer-Davis and Mr K. Green.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2008**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 were confirmed after the following amendments –

Page 59 – line 2 – delete “That” insert “that”.

Page 59 – line 2 – delete “and Councillor Budd responded.”.

Page 60 – line 1 – delete “48” insert 148.

Page 62 – line 23 – delete “3rd” insert 10th.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Minute 145 - Councillor Mrs. Elmes asked whether the building work being carried out at the Town Hall had been completed. The Town Clerk responded that the Stonemason had finished and was awaiting confirmation from the Council's Surveyor that all work had been completed.

Members requested a progress report on a proposed further CCTV camera for Sandford Lane. The Town Clerk responded that this item would be placed on the next Policy, Resources and Finance Committee Agenda for 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 and that quotations were being gathered.

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**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

Mr. R. Anderson, 4 Bonnets Lane. Wareham stated that he had received correspondence from BDO Stoy Hayward regarding the question raised relating to the legality of the Agenda for the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2008. He had been advised that this meeting was unlawfully held and all decisions made at that meeting would have to be reaffirmed at a future meeting, together with amendments to the Town Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Mr. K. Randall, 39 Worgret Road, Wareham stated that having heard the comments made by Mr. Anderson would the Council be issuing a public statement to the electorate.

The Mayor responded that since this matter was still ongoing, no statement would be made at the present time.

**6. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

None.

**7. TO ANSWER MEMBERS QUESTIONS (IF ANY)**

None.

**8. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he and his wife had attended the Mayor Making Ceremony at Dorchester Town Council.

**9. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) Amenities Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 and 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2008

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(b) Planning and Transport Committee – 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 and 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2008

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(c) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

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(d) Human Resources Panel – 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(e) Wareham in Bloom – 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2008

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

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

**County Councillor**

Councillor Budd reported that the planning application for the environmental park at Binnegar had been approved, despite objections from Purbeck District Council and most of the surrounding Parish Councils. The permission was subject to 31 conditions and a Section 106 Agreement. Land filling had been completed at Tatchells Pit and the capping of the waste is due for completion by July. The new Trigon landfill site had commenced operation.

Dorset County Council was completely overhauling the way it supported bus services in a nationally important innovation. This would improve the way passenger transport was provided and address issues like the non-connection with train services. Following the “Great Education Debate” the long awaited major review of the school system in Purbeck was being launched to reduce surplus places and ensure continued high quality education in the area. There were currently 10000 surplus school places across Purbeck, and Dorset County Council would be working with all 18 schools in the area to create a more efficient system that provided all pupils with the best possible learning opportunities. Local County Councillors were appraised of the process, which would not be implemented until 2010. From 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2008 charges would be introduced for public use of computers in Dorset libraries. The first 30 minutes would be free with any additional use costing £1.00 per half hour.

**District Councillor**

Councillor Osmond reported that the Conservatives had lost overall control of the District Council, having retained 11 seats. The Liberal Democrats having gained 2 seats, also had 11 seats and there were 2 Independents. Councillor Suttle had been elected Leader and Councillor Mrs. Marsh the Chairman, both Conservatives, whilst Councillor Osmond, Liberal Democrat, was the Vice Chairman and Councillor Budd was Leader of the Opposition.

### **Representatives on Outside Bodies**

Councillor Mrs. Elmes reported that she had visited Conches en Ouches during the weekend 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 together with members of the former French Twinning Association to try and maintain links with the town through organisations like the Football and Fishing Clubs. Lists of leisure organisations were exchanged in the hope that communications could be opened. An enjoyable weekend was had by all.

Councillor Elmes also reported on the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Council's meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 the main discussion being the new bus services and the concerns of the villages, particularly Harmans Cross.

Councillor Mrs. Tighe reported that she had attended a meeting of the Wareham Seniors Forum and the main topic of discussion was the new logo.

Councillor Osmond gave an update on the progress of the floral displays for the Britain in Bloom Competition. He thanked the Council's Caretaker for all his help. He reported that the trees planted at the Recreation Ground were growing well.

### **11. SELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 2008/2009**

The Town Clerk's report and recommendation (as attached to these minutes) was considered by Council. Councillor Budd referred to a problem regarding membership of Standing Committees under Standing Order 44(b) that membership shall be allocated in proportion to the number of seats held by each political party or grouping – which clashed with the requirements of Standing Order 45 – and that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be an ex officio voting member of every Standing Committee. With the Mayor and Deputy Mayor both members of a party with just one seat on the Council they were only entitled under the proportionality rule to half a seat on each committee.

Setting aside the fact that the Councillors were Mayor and Deputy Mayor, in the normal course of events the seats would be rounded up and down as appropriate to maintain, as closely as possible, overall proportionality. Whilst the Council was not subject to the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 it had followed the general principles of the Act regarding proportionality.

Councillor Budd then proposed under Standing Order 76, that the part of Standing Order 45 relating to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor having voting rights on every Standing Committee be suspended for the Civic Year 2008/2009. He explained that the effect of the proposal would be that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor could still be members of all three Standing Committees under Standing Order 45 but only one of them would have a vote on each Committee. He then

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suggested that the Mayor should have the vote on the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee since he was the senior member and Policy, Resources and Finance was the premier committee and that they agreed between them who had the vote on the other two Standing Committees. This proposal, he suggested, would maintain the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's involvement in the work of the Council without skewing the proportionality to the extent that the majority became a minority - which would not accord with the principles of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Following further discussion by Council, the proposal was seconded by Councillor Mrs Selby and it was then:

**RESOLVED** under Standing Order 76 to suspend that part of Standing Order 45 relating to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor having voting rights on every Standing Committee for the Civic Year 2008/2009 and that the membership of Standing Committees be as follows:-

- Amenities Committee** Councillors Mrs. P. Bowyer-Davis, Budd, Mrs. Cleaton, Miss Cotton, D. Critchley, K. Critchley and Mrs. Tighe (Deputy Town Mayor).
- Planning and Transport Committee** Councillors Mrs. Cleaton, Mrs. Elmes, Mrs. Selby, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Wainwright, T. Williams and Mrs. Tighe (Deputy Town Mayor)
- Policy, Resources and Finances** Councillors Budd, Mrs. P. Bowyer-Davis, Burns, Green, Osmond, Mrs. Turner, M. Russell (Town Mayor).
- Human Resources Panel** Councillors K. Critchley, Mrs. Elmes, Osmond, Mrs. Selby, T. Williams

## 12. MEMBERSHIP OF MUSEUM COMMITTEE AND WAREHAM IN BLOOM COMMITTEE

**RESOLVED** that the membership of the Wareham Town Museum Committee and the Wareham in Bloom Committee be as follows –

**Wareham Town Museum:** Councillors Mrs. Elmes and Mrs. Tighe.

**Wareham in Bloom:** Councillors Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis, Osmond and Mrs. Wainwright.

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**13. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2008/2009**

After a discussion it was –

**RESOLVED** that (a) a letter be sent to Streche Almshouses Trust requesting clarification of the membership of the Trust and the response to be referred to the Policy Resources and Finance Committee for further discussion; (b) the attached list of Representatives on Outside Bodies for the Civic Year 2008/2009 at Appendix A be approved.

**14. DAY CARE SERVICES FOR THE FUTURE**

Members had been circulated with correspondence from the Director for Adult and Community Services.

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the letter be noted.

**15. DORSET BROADCASTING ACTION GROUP – MEETING ON 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2008 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Members had been circulated with a copy of correspondence requesting an attendee from Wareham Town Council. The Town Clerk volunteered to attend on behalf of the Council.

**RESOLVED** that (a) the Town Clerk attend the first meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 and report back to Council and if members then considered it necessary, Councillor Mrs. S. Elmes be nominated to this position.

**16. PUBLIC TRANSPORT – WILTS AND DORSET BUS COMPANY CHANGES**

Members had been circulated with correspondence relating to changes to the Wilts and Dorset bus services commencing on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2008. After a discussion it was –

**RESOLVED** that a letter be sent to The Manager, Wilts and Dorset expressing the Town Council's disappointment in the change to be implemented, with a copy being sent to Dorset County Council.

**17. TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING ISSUES**

Councillor K. Critchley reported that during the recent canvassing for the District

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Council Elections electors had raised various concerns relating to transportation and parking issues. He requested that this information be discussed by the Town Council's Planning and Transport Committee under a general review of these matters.

**RESOLVED** that the points raised by electors be discussed and reviewed by the Planning and Transport Committee at a forthcoming meeting.

### **17. ANNUAL RETURN OF ACCOUNTS – YEAR END 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2008**

Members had been circulated with the Annual return of Accounts for 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008. Councillors were requested to give their acceptance of (a) the Statement of Accounts and (b) the answers given in the Annual Governance Statement.

Following discussion, it was

#### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that the Council accepts the Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement and;
- (b) that the Annual Return of Accounts for 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008 be also referred to the next meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee for clarification of certain points during the attendance of the Finance Assistant at that meeting.

### **18. 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 20<sup>th</sup> May 2008 was handed to and acknowledged by each member of the Council and current payments totalling £16,632.98 be approved.

**RESOLVED** that the report of up to date expenditure and income against budget and accounts dated 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2008,. be approved.

### **19. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT**

The Mayor thanked staff for all their work with regard to the Mayor Making Ceremony.

He also reported that a plaque had been received from Viridor for display at Hauses Field.

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The Mayor also reported that he would be holding a coffee morning on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 in the Corn Exchange in aid of his charities and that the Civic Service would be held on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 at the Parish Church of Lady St. Mary at 11.30 a.m.

Councillor Mrs. Selby offered congratulations to Councillor K. Critchley on his election to Purbeck District Council.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

.....Town Mayor