

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 7TH APRIL 2009 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 Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis; D. Budd; L. Burns; Mrs. D. Cleaton; Miss M. Cotton; D. Critchley; K. Critchley; Mrs. S. Elmes; K. Green; E. Osmond; Mrs. A. Selby and T. Williams

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

Members of the public 1 – press 0.

122. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Wainwright.

123. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME – an opportunity for members of the public to raise issues of concern or interest e.g. ask a question, make a comment or statement etc. (30 minutes maximum for this item).

None.

124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

125. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH FEBRUARY, 2008

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 25th February, 2009 were confirmed after the following amendments –

Page 46 – Present – add Mrs. D. Cleaton and T. Williams.

Page 46 – minute 106 – line 4 – delete “there was”.

Page 46 – minute 106 – line 13 – delete “rest” insert “next”.

Page 47 – minute 110 – line 4 – delete “absent from the meeting” insert “absent from checking the draft letter”.

Page 48 – minute 106 - line 2 – delete “ education in the county” insert “Purbeck Pyramid of schools”.

Page 48 – minute 106 b) – line 11 – delete “Road” insert “Close”.

Page 49 – Minute 111: delete: ‘4.25%’ and insert ‘a 4.25% increase’ .

Page 53 – minute 119 – insert (a) line 1 - before **RESOLVED**.

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Page 53 – minute 120 – lines 5 and 6 – delete “ Councillor Critchley to.... ‘noted’.

Page 53 – minute 119 -: make 119 (a) – and insert after “regulations” new Minute 119(b) as follows:

‘Councillor Critchley reported on a delay in bill payment owing to an error made by Bournemouth Services relating to Howards Lane Car Park and stated that an emergency payment had been made. It was proposed by Councillor Osmond, seconded by Councillor Green and

RESOLVED that the emergency payment to Bournemouth Services made under Council’s Financial Regulation 5.3b be noted.”

126. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor Budd referred to minute 111 – bullet point 1 – and reported that with regard to the “Place Survey” there had been a delay in this taking place and it was not known when it was now due.

127. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None

128. MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that since the last meeting he had attended the Rex Players Gala Evening, the launch of the Fair Trade Fortnight and visited the Fair Trade outlets.

He had also attended two meetings discussing the Mayor’s Handbook, a School Assembly Presentation at Wareham Middle School and the Wareham Town Trust Annual General Meeting incorporating a presentation on the Town Walls. He had also attended a Red Nose Coffee Morning hosted by Councillor Mrs. Bowyer-Davis and attended the Mayor of Portland’s Civic Evening.

Local events included a litter pick at Wareham Walls, judging Easter Bonnets at Anglebury Court, the opening of Boots the Chemist and the Streche Almshouses Charity meeting.

The Mayor also reported that he had attended the funeral of ex Town/District Councillor and Town Mayor Councillor Mr. Roy Anderson.

On Friday, 27th March, 2009 the opening of the refurbished Mistover Road Play area took place, also attended by Mrs. Annette Brooke MP.

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The historic Beating of the Land Bounds Ceremony with Poole Borough Council was held on 28th March, 2009. Programmes for this event were still available at a cost of £1.00 each, with all proceeds going towards the Mayor's Charity. The Mayor thanked the Wareham Branch of the MS Society for the use of their minibuses and a donation made to this charity.

The Mayor also reported on the Wareham to Swanage Rail Link which had been reintroduced after 37 years. He had met the second London to Swanage train at Wareham Station. He had also attended the Chairman of Purbeck District Council's Spring Reception.

The Mayor had also welcomed town twinning visitors from Conche en Ouches at the Sports Centre. The party was led by the Deputy Mayor of Conches and also included representatives from various organisations

He also updated Members on the proposals for the Junior Leaders Regiment (now the Old Boys Association) to retread their steps and parade through the town on 3rd or 4th April 2010. The installation of the "Guppy" seat at Priory Meadows would hopefully, weather permitting, be completed within the next week and the Town Clerk gave an update on current progress.

Finally, the Mayor advised Members that he would be attending the Purbeck District Council Volunteer of the Year Awards Ceremony on 6th April, 2008.

Councillor Burns thanked the Mayor for attending the Wareham Town Trust Litter Pick which had removed 37 bags of litter. He also advised Members that the start date for the removal of the Scout and Guide Huts was imminent and that a Contractor had been chosen and thanked the Mayor for attending their last Committee meeting.

129. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Museum Committee – 3rd March, 2009

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(b) Amenities Committee – 4th March, 2009

Councillor Budd reported on the official opening of the Mistover Road Play Area on 27th March 2009 and also gave an update on the forthcoming Phase III works to the Town Hall frontages in North and East Street. He also informed Council that Dorset Works had won the new three year contract for grass cutting at the Recreation Ground, Hauses Field and Mistover Road grassed area (rear of Carey Hall). The Farmers Market had also been welcomed back to the Corn Exchange and the Committee had resolved not to increase its charges for all hiring facilities for six months, due to the current economic climate, pending a review at that time.

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RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(c) Wareham in Bloom – 11th March, 2009

Councillor Osmond referred to the Library Garden project which was awaiting a seat to surround a tree donated by the Goldsack family. The Rotary Club was paying for the seat, however any donations were very welcome. He also reported that the Bestwall Allotments Committee had invited him to the next meeting to speak on Wareham in Bloom, that a scarecrow competition was being organised in conjunction with a programme to fill empty shops in the town and gave an update on refurbishing of street furniture in answer to a question from Councillor Selby. Sponsorship currently stood at £1250 but there was a long way to go.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

(d) Planning and Transport Committee – 16th March, 2009

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(e) Policy, Resources and Finances Committee – 23rd March, 2009

Councillor K Critchley reported that all had been resolved items with the exception of Minute 153 which should have read: 'Recommendation' rather than 'Resolved.' A suggested 'Protocol for Standing Committee Chairmen' had been tabled at the meeting for inclusion in the discussion on Item 11 – 'Revised Standing Orders.'

Councillor Critchley drew attention to minute 148 – Distribution of Minutes and Agendas by Email – and reported that all Agendas would be sent as a hard copy to Councillors.

Councillor Budd reported on the procedure for handling complaints and suggested two minor amendments to the form, which was noted for action by the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(f) Planning and Transport Committee - 6th April, 2009

Councillor Mrs. Selby, as Chairman of the Planning and Transport Committee, reported that the meeting due to be held on 6th April, 2009 had been postponed and that the next meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee would be held on Tuesday, 14th April, 2009.

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

Dorset County Council

Councillor Bud reported that he had been notified that a formal public notice in the local press would be published shortly in respect of no waiting and loading and unloading at any time on lengths of Bere Road and Sandford Road adjacent the roundabout and the provision of 'disabled persons badge holder' only parking bays in Sandford Road and St. John's Hill. The Town Council had previously supported these proposals.

He also reported that proposed structural repairs between Blackhill and Bakers Arms roundabouts on the A351 at Holton Heath scheduled for April had been deferred until the autumn following a review. Extra funding was being made available and a more comprehensive scheme would be undertaken which would provide a higher standard with at least a 20 year life for the structure of the road and a 15 year gap before the need for resurfacing. It was also proposed to deal with the drainage issues along this section of road.

Purbeck District Council

Councillor Critchley reported that at a meeting of the full District Council on 10th March, 2009 agreement had been made to a joint Memorandum of Understanding between Dorset Waste Authorities bringing a 'working together' approach in order to deliver the objectives of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Dorset 2009.

He also reported that having met on two occasions Mr. Bill Davidson, Head of Environmental Services, Purbeck District Council, with Councillor Budd and the Town Clerk regarding the unsatisfactory state of the public toilets at both Howards Lane and The Quay. Following a site visit, Councillor Critchley reported that work was now in progress at the public toilets on The Quay to provide hot water at this facility and redecoration would commence shortly. The gents toilet block in Howards Lane had been returned to a flush system as the previous chemical system had proved unsatisfactory.

Councillor Critchley reported that on 20th April, 2009 the three District Councillors for Wareham, together with the Chief Executive of Purbeck District Council, would be conducting a walkabout of the town in order to draw attention to matters that require attention. A number of issues would be drawn to his attention that Members were already aware of, however he requested that any Town Councillor who had any further issues to draw them to the District Councillors' attention as soon as possible and they would endeavour to include them in the schedule.

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Representatives Reports.

Councillor Mrs. S. Elmes reported as a Trustee of Wareham and District Development Trust that Mr. M. Popperwell had now taken ownership of Life Wheels.

Councillor Green reported that he had attended the Annual General Meeting of the Northmoor Allotment Holders Association and was pleased to report that they were financially healthy and pleased to take part in the Allotment competition. He was due to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Bestwall Allotment Holders Association the following week.

131. REVISED STANDING ORDERS

Members had been circulated with a copy of suggested minor amendments to Draft revised Standing Orders including a suggested new Protocol for Standing Committee Chairmen.

Councillor Budd suggested several minor amendments to the draft Standing Orders, many made for reasons of consistency, in particular the term "Clerk" to be changed to "Town Clerk" throughout and to correct spacing errors on pages 4, 10, 11 and 13.

After discussion on the Standing Orders and following the tabling of Councillor Budd's suggested new protocol for Standing Committee Chairmen, it was -

RESOLVED that the Town Council adopts with immediate effect :

- (a) revised Standing Orders with suggested amendments and;
- (b) the suggested new Protocol for Standing Committee Chairmen.

132. OVERHANGING HEDGES – DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSALS FOR PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Members had been circulated with copies of correspondence from Mr. R. Turner, Highways Manager, Western Area Highways Office, regarding hedges, overhanging footways and roadways requesting a local and informal approach to remind householders to keep their trees and hedges cut back from the footways and roadways.

Councillor Critchley reported that as far as he was aware this was already taking place. Councillor Selby confirmed this.

RESOLVED that Wareham Town Council adopts this request.

Councillor D. Budd abstained from voting as a member of Dorset County Council.

133. REPORT OF UP TO DATE EXPENDITURE AND INCOME AGAINST BUDGET AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY MEMBERS AND PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

In the absence of the Finance Assistant, the Town Clerk reported to Council a list of payments made (see Appendix A) totalling £3660.41.

RESOLVED that the payments totalling £3660.41 be approved.

134. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

Councillor Selby reported on a meeting that she had attended with Mr. Richard Stubbs, Technical Officer, Traffic Management, Dorset County Council, other Councillors and the Town Clerk regarding Wareham Traffic issues. Items discussed were the possibility of providing bollards on the pavement outside both Natwest and Lloyds Banks, the change in the criteria for pedestrian crossings, various potholes in Wareham, speed restrictions in Wareham and a speed indicator device. A yearly visit to walk around Wareham noting any traffic regulation issues not been done recently and was noted by Members as a very appropriate feature that needed to be reinstated – noted by the Town Clerk who would write to the relevant department at Dorset County Council Traffic management unit to make arrangements for 2009.

The Mayor reminded members of the Annual Town Meeting and advised that appreciation certificates would be presented at the commencement of the meeting to the Mayor's Scout, Guide and Air Training Corp for attending the Beating of the Land Bounds Ceremony.

He also reported that the official Council photograph would be available to view at the end of the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

..... Town Mayor