

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2009 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM AT 7.00 P.M.**

**Present: Councillor Mrs. A. Tighe (Town Mayor); Councillor E. Osmond (Deputy Town Mayor); Councillors Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis; D. Budd; L. Burns; Mrs. D. Cleaton; D. Critchley; K. Critchley; Mrs. S. Elmes; K. Green; M. Russell; Mrs. A. Selby; and Mrs. C. Turner (left 7.55 p.m.)**

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

**Members of the public: 40.**

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor, Councillor Mrs. Audrey Tighe, presented a framed commemorative certificate to Mr. Charles Patterson of Wareham, who had been awarded Honorary Townsman status at the Town Council meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2009. The Town Clerk read the inscription to those present.

Mr. Patterson said that he felt very proud, honoured and privileged to be given the Honorary Townsman's award together with such respected people as former Town Councillor and Mayor Mr Jack Spiller, Sergeant at Mace Mr Nigel Spiller and the Reverend Canon and Mrs. Peter Hardman - all of whom were present in the Chamber that evening. He thanked the Town Council for the award, which he felt very privileged to receive.

Mr. Patterson and his guests left the Council Chamber.

**61. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME** – an opportunity for members of the public to raise issues of concern or interest, ask a question or make a statement. *This item is also an opportunity, in accordance with paragraph 12(2) of the Code of Conduct, for any Member to speak who has a prejudicial interest on a matter to be considered at this meeting.* Public participation time shall not exceed **30 minutes** for full Town Council meetings and any speaker shall not exceed **3 minutes**.

**None.**

**62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs. M. Wainwright and T. Williams.

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**63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**64. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2009**

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 were confirmed after the following amendments –

Page 22 – line 2 – delete - £11?598.71 – insert £11.598.71

Page 22 – Minute 51 – line 1 - delete **ANNOUCEMENTS** and insert **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**65. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Councillor Mrs. Elmes reported that both she and Councillor Mrs. Selby had attended a meeting with Mr. John Scott and Mr Guy Ryder of the Wareham and District Development Trust with regard to the re-formation of the Wareham Community Partnership. It was hoped to attract funding for secretarial/administrative help before the Partnership could be reconstituted with appropriate members of the community, and was therefore in abeyance until this could be achieved.

**66. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS – to receive any petitions from members of the public, or from Councillors on behalf of their local community members, and any delegations from members of the public.**

None

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

None.

**68. MAYOR' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on her Civic Day/ Walkabout held on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 which included visits to The Rex Cinema, the Flower Festival at Lady St. Mary's Church and the Purbeck Sports Centre and reported that an auction for a piece of beef, given by local butcher Mr. D. Curtis, had raised £30.00 for her Mayor's Charity. The lucky bidder was the Mayor of Swanage. She also advised that she had received many complimentary letters about the Civic Day.

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She also reported that she had attended the Chairman of North Dorset District Council's Civic Day, opened St. Edward's Catholic Church Fete and attended the Mayor of Blandford Forum's Civic Walkabout.

The Mayor also reported that, with Annette Brooke MP, she had attended the opening of the inaugural Wareham Music Festival on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

Other events included attending the Junior Leader's Regiment Reunion evening at which the Mayor won a giant bottle of whisky (which would be auctioned for her charities), the Chairman of Purbeck District Council's Civic Day and a celebration lunch at the Ghurka Restaurant in Sandford.

She also reported on her two fundraising events - a Quiz evening and a Coffee Morning which had raised over £700.00.

## **69. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) Planning and Transport Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 and 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2009

Councillor Mrs Elmes referred to Purbeck District Council's Tourism Service Review – Town and Parish Survey - which had been completed by members at the Planning and Transport Committee meeting. She also reported that she would be attending the meeting at Purbeck District Council to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2009, following an invitation to partake in a questionnaire session.

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Mrs Selby requested that an additional comment be added to the 'p.a. 6/2009/0421 Done Bookmakers' planning application – (i) a temptation to the younger element of the town.

**RESOLVED** that the reports be noted and that the additional comment be approved.

(b) Amenities Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(c) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2009

The Chairman, Councillor K Critchley, presented the draft minutes of the meeting and referred to all items having been resolved items and this included approval for an application to the Public Works Loan Board of £25,000 over five years for essential electrical works, replacement car park meters and an upgrade of the Town Hall central heating system.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(d) Museum Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2009

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

(e) Wareham in Bloom Committee - 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2009

Councillor Osmond reported that Wareham was awarded a Gold Award in the South/South East in Bloom regional competition on 2nd September, 2009. This was a record third successive Gold award. Unfortunately, Wareham was just one point away from the overall Small Town category winner (Liphook) by just one point. Many congratulatory emails and letters had been received, stating that the town was very attractive, clean and tidy and that visitors intended to visit again.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Osmond, the Town Clerk and all staff for their hard work in achieving this year's award. Councillor Osmond thanked Councillor Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis, Councillor Mrs. M. Wainwright and the Town Clerk for their hard work and support to the Committee. He advised that a presentation evening would be held on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 in the Corn Exchange for the local Wareham in Bloom Competition and Best Kept Allotment Competition winners.

Councillor Budd requested that the Council's thanks and congratulations be recorded to Councillor Osmond and the Wareham in Bloom Committee for their achievement in winning 3 successive Gold awards.

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

### **District Councillor**

Councillor Osmond reported that the District Council had taken the unusual step of the compulsory purchase of a derelict building in Swanage which was in a state of disrepair to the point of being a danger to the community. Exhaustive inquiries could not reveal the owner and it would now be put in good order and sold at market value.

The proposed "Single Common Room" at Purbeck District Council, commonly known as "One Stop Shop" had now been agreed and work would commence shortly. This would be more customer friendly and improve efficiency and long term savings will eventually cover the cost. This would also prepare the way for the PathFinder and Cluster Working projects with Purbeck, West Dorset and Weymouth and Portland Councils at which two members of Purbeck would have a seat. The outline business case would then consider all the implications, including the feasibility of establishing a joint company limited by guarantee to

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deliver all projects which were in the interests of efficiency and cost savings - this would include shared services.

A Special Meeting was called on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 to discuss the District Council's Core Strategy, this being part of the "Local Development Framework." By a recorded vote this was carried by a 12 to 10 majority. This would now go to public consultation for a 6 week period at various venues in Purbeck. It was important that everyone should make their views known as this would set the scene for the officers to implement over the next ten year period. Adequate notice of meetings would be given in order that no one would miss the opportunity of expressing their particular points of view.

The Licensing Panel recently considered 3 applications, one of which was brought by the Police after a report by the Trading Standard investigation that an establishment had been proved to be selling alcohol twice to under age persons. After serious consideration, the Panel had suspended the licence to trade in alcohol for one month, this was accepted by the applicant and had not been challenged. Businesses trading in goods which need to be challenged by the under 21 rule should be aware that Trading Standards Officers often carried out discreet challenges in Purbeck which could carry heavy fines and possible loss of licences to trade.

### **County Councillor**

Councillor Budd reported that the Library Service was introducing customer self service into all its 34 libraries. Wareham Library would close at 12.20 p.m. on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2009 and would reopen at 9.30 a.m. on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 to enable the new facilities to be installed. The opportunity would also be taken to review the layout and arrangements of the shelving to improve information and stock display. Where installed, self service had exceeded the target of 90% usage.

The County Council had closed St. John's Hill adjacent to the Rempstone Centre car park on safety grounds after the wall, which was a listed structure, was hit by a car. A structural engineer had now inspected the wall and the repairs should soon commence, the cost of which would be paid by the third party insurance,

During the summer months a traffic speed survey was carried out at St. Martins Hill, North Street. The vast majority of drivers were keeping to or very near to the 30 mph limit. As always there was a minority who were breaking the speed limit.

The repairs and resurfacing of the A351 between Holton Heath and Bakers Arms roundabout had been included on the 2010/11 Structural Maintenance Draft List of Schemes, the works were currently programmed for spring 2010 with the note "delays inevitable".

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Councillor Budd also reported on an experimental winter Sunday service on the X53 route between Weymouth and Poole which had operated during the winter of 2008/09. The service attracted insufficient passengers per day - which was insufficient for the service to be operated commercially. As a consequence, there would not be a winter Sunday service on this route between November 2009 and April 2010.

He also reported on the pedestrian crossing point at the Wareham Rail Station and that officers of the County Council were called to a meeting during the last month with the Office of the Rail Regulator, Network Rail, South West Trains and British Transport Police regarding the misuse of the pedestrian crossing point. A statement from the County Council was expected within the next few days.

### **Representatives on outside bodies**

None.

### **71. 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 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 was handed to and acknowledged by each member of the Council together with current payments totalling £10,518.87 for approval.

**RESOLVED** that the report of up to date expenditure and income against budget and accounts dated 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2009 totalling £10,518.87 be approved.

### **72. COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

Members were requested to note that a vacancy notice for one Town Councillor was issued on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2009 and that no election had been called for by 10 or more electors by the due date and that a Co-option Notice had now been publicly displayed with a view to filling the vacancy at the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009 Council meeting. After a discussion it was –

**RESOLVED** that (a) the Town Clerk request that Purbeck District Council display a vacancy notice on their Notice Board; (b) the Town Clerk write a letter to the Swanage and Wareham Advertiser advertising the Casual Vacancy and (c) that Council note the above report.

### **73. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR SCHEME**

Members had been circulated with a copy of the revised Volunteer of the Year Scheme which had been reviewed in May 2009 with a restructured Selection Panel consisting of Town Council - a representative from each political group and

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independent members plus one other nominated Councillor, plus two members of the public, who shall not be Councillors. After a discussion it was –

**RESOLVED** that (a) the Volunteer of the Year Scheme as reviewed in May, 2009 be approved; (b) that nominated Town Council Representatives be as follows – Councillors Mrs. Elmes, M. Russell, Mrs. Tighe, L. Burns and K. Critchley; and (c) applications be invited from 2 members of the public to sit on this panel.

#### **74. PURBECK DISTRICT COUNCIL TOURISM SERVICE REVIEW – TOWN AND PARISH SURVEY**

The Town Council had been requested to provide an input into Purbeck District Council's current Tourism Service Review to ensure the right priorities were being addressed and that limited resources were being used effectively.

Councillors Budd, K. Critchley, K. Green and E. Osmond, as Purbeck District Councillors, took no part in the discussion at this time in order not to pre-determine any views on the matter.

After the ensuing discussion, in which the Town Clerk took details of the Council's collective response to the tourism review questionnaire/survey form it was –

**RESOLVED** that (a) the Town Clerk convey the information in the Town and Parish Council Survey form to Purbeck District Council and that (b) Councillor Mrs. S. Elmes be the Town Council's representative at the Tourism Service Review meeting to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2009, together with the Town Clerk.

#### **75. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT** (for report or for the next agenda only)

As Secretary to the Wareham Music festival Committee, the Town Clerk thanked the Town Council for its support and donations for the first Wareham Music Festival held on 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in various venues around the town. This had proved to be a very successful first event with many compliments received. He reported that it was hoped to hold the Festival again in 2010, possibly earlier in the tourist season to attract even more people to Wareham.

Councillor K. Critchley requested that the Core Strategy be placed on the next Council Agenda for discussion.

#### **60. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 at 7.00 pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.