

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010 AT 7.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM BH20 4NS**

**Present:** Councillors Mrs D Adkins, Mr D A Budd, Mrs D A Cleaton (Deputy Town Mayor), Mr D Critchley, Mr K Critchley, Mrs S D Elmes, Mr K Green, Mrs V Green, Mrs L I Kenyon, Mrs A Selby, Mrs A Tighe, Mr E L Osmond (Town Mayor)

**Officers present:** Mr R M Curtis, Town Clerk

**74. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

Nil present

**75. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs P Bowyer-Davis and Mr. T Williams.

**76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**77. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS HELD ON 3RD AUGUST 2010 AND 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010.**

The minutes of the two meetings were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Mayor subject to the following amendments:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> August, page 6 – Minute 48, Public Participation Time para 3 line 6: delete 3.(c) and insert: 3.3 (c).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> August, page 7, Minute 52, line 4: delete 'line 7' and insert 'line 31'.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> August, page 12 – Minute 63 para 2 delete 'the District Council's Policy Development Panel' and insert: 'the District Council'.

**78. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010 Council meeting: Councillor Russell referred to Minute 52 which referred back to the 21<sup>st</sup> August meeting, which he had not attended due to illness. He highlighted the question of pre-determination of District Council Members' views and their entitlement to speak and possibly vote on matters if they wished to at Town Council and Committee meetings, and that there were ways that this could be achieved, for example by prefacing their statements. A discussion arose on this matter during which Councillors Budd and K Critchley responded and gave their views, along with the Mayor.

3<sup>rd</sup> August Council meeting: Page 10, Minute 58: Councillor K Critchley referred to the WDDT report, bullet point no. 5 and queried

the reference to the Town Quay development. Councillor Mrs Elmes explained that WDDT had wanted to become involved in the purchase of the public toilets on the Quay however there had not been enough funding to achieve this. Councillor Critchley responded that consultation was needed in that matter and it had not taken place. The Mayor asked Councillor Elmes to relay to WDDT that correspondence on anything that affected Wareham Town should be sent to both Town and District Councils and Councillor Elmes undertook to pass on these comments.

3<sup>rd</sup> August Council meeting: Page 11, Minute 62 – Re-launch of Parish Maintenance Units. Following a query, the Town Clerk commented that he had obtained a cost for weed-killing in Wareham Town from Dorset Works at the County Council and would be bringing it to the next meeting of the Amenities Committee.

There were no matters arising from the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010 Council meeting.

79. **TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

Nil

80. **TO ANSWER MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (IF ANY)**

Nil

81. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor referred to a number of enjoyable engagements which he had attended.

The Mayor then requested that item 14 on the Agenda (Houses Field – Closure of BMX Area) be considered at this point in the meeting due to the attendance of PCSO Dave Brown representing the Wareham Safer Neighbourhood Team. Council agreed the request.

82. **HAUSES FIELD – CLOSURE OF BMX AREA**

PCSO Dave Brown addressed Council on this matter and reference was made to ways in which anti-social behaviour was being tackled by the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Houses Field There was also a problem with older youths bullying younger people and extra patrols had been brought in.

Regarding the criminal damage to the balustrades in the BMX Area, PC Moira Connolly was dealing with it, a crime reference number had been allocated and it was hoped that the culprit would soon be charged.

Dave Brown then explained the recommended system for dealing with this matter would be lower than a full blown Anti Social Behaviour Order but would be the first steps towards this process i.e. a 'yellow card' before the red card was brought in. This would involve the person

responsible, the Police and the Town Council meeting to consider how 'restorative justice' could be applied and, with Council permission, would be applied if/when the culprit was found.

Leaflet drops had been done for Hauses Field and for local residences and Special Constables had been tasked to visit the area since there were signs that anti social behaviour was on the increase. They were now working between 10 – 12pm in the area since this seemed to be the optimum time for anti-social behaviour to occur. The SNT always covered the town centre and then made visits to Hauses Field and also Bowling Green on the Walls where problems had also been reported.

There followed a question and answer session with Councillors who alerted the PCSO to several incidents and other areas of the town for consideration, including the Recreation Ground sports fields, Mistover Road play area, Lady St Mary's Church, misuse of alcohol, and violence towards other persons.

Councillor K Critchley reported on behalf of the Premises Working Party and stated that a quotation for repairs was awaited and the BMSX Area would be re-opened when thought appropriate. A full report would be given to the next Amenities Committee meeting.

The Mayor thanked PCSO Dave Brown for his attendance and report to the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the decision on the closure of Hauses Field whilst awaiting repairs be noted and that this matter be placed on the next Amenities Committee agenda to receive a report by the Premises Working Party.

### 83. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) **Planning and Transport Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010, 7<sup>TH</sup> September 2010**

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Selby referred to Minute 49 – Decisions/Delegations ? – PDC- – helpful to see whether granted or refused.

(b) **Policy, Resources and Finance Committee 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

The Chairman, Cllr K Critchley referred to all items as being resolved. It was confirmed that Cllr K Green would be sending a copy of the Finance Committee (PDC) minutes to the Town Clerk and not the minutes of Wareham St Martins Parish Council.

Councillor Budd spoke on 'matters arising' from this meeting and updated Council on the District Council Conservation Officer's views regarding a plan by the Citizens Advice Bureau to extend their accommodation at the 2 Mill Lane site. A preference for a small building with a link to the main building had been expressed by the

Conservation Officer. He referred to a need for the Premises Working Party to re-visit the site and assess the situation.

Reference was also made to the ownership of the driveway at the Mill Lane site which appeared to be owned by Barclays Bank. The Town Clerk undertook to check the ownership and clarify the responsibility of its maintenance.

**(c) Wareham in Bloom – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

The Chairman, Cllr E Osmond, referred to the recent award of a Silver Gilt for the 2010 South and South East in Bloom Competition and that it was a tremendous record of achievement for Wareham, following on from three Gold awards in succession. Reference was made to the need to remove all baskets and stands in the town in the near future, and the resources available to do it.

**(d) Human Resources Panel - 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Elmes, referred to two resolved items and one deferred item (Equality Act 2010).

**RESOLVED** that the reports be noted.

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

**Purbeck District Council**

Councillor E Osmond presented his report – **see Annex A**

**Dorset County Council**

Councillor D Budd presented his report – **see Annex B**

**Wareham and District Development Trust**

Councillor Mrs Elmes gave details of her attendance at the WDDT meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2010 as follows:

- It was reported that the Wareham Community Partnership could not be revived until the Chairman of WDDT had resolved chairmanship issues with the Town Clerk.
- Environment Agency Shoreline Management Plan - John Scott had registered WDDT as an interested party in respect of Priory Meadow, the possible Quay development and Wareham in Bloom but no response had yet been received.
- Referring to the land at the entrance to the town near St. Martin Church, Lara  
Manningham-Buller told the meeting that, following extensive research, the Estate had reached the conclusion that the land on either side of the road belonged to nobody and, in view of the retaining wall needing repair, it was agreed that WDDT would discontinue any efforts to improve the site.

- John Scott said he was actively trying to promote use of the Performance area on the south bank of the Frome.
- Purbeck Core Strategy - it was decided that this was not an issue for WDDT involvement at the present time.
- Louise Robinson had found new funding to erect wicker structures on Priory Meadow. Work would be done by the end of the year.
- The Library, in partnership with WDDT, may be a possible site for the return of the Wareham Bears.
- The Purbeck School Art Department is in discussion with John Scott with a view to placing life size farm animals made of papier mache in the Town Pound by the spring of 2011.
- There was a presentation by Peter Jones, South West Regional Manager of the Development Trust Association.

Regarding the Wareham Community Partnership, the Town Clerk commented that he was not aware of any current chairmanship issues; he had resigned from the Partnership as its Secretary early in 2008 and was prevented under a Town Council resolution from giving secretarial or any office support to this body. The Chairmanship was not an issue involving him personally, although he had made efforts to revive the Partnership in 2009. Councillor Mrs Elmes confirmed that the Partnership was still currently in abeyance and a paid secretary was needed, as a minimum, for it to be revived

### **Youth Drop-In Centre**

Councillor Elmes also gave a report on her attendance at a meeting held at the Rectory on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 with several interested parties including local Youth Officer Kevin Vasey, PC Moira Connolly of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, Richard Holman, Head Teacher of The Purbeck School, and the Rector, the Rev Andy Bowerman. The meeting discussed ways of providing facilities for young people in Wareham. There was the possibility of some funding, however there was a need to find suitable premises. Councillor Elmes had been delegated to contact owners of empty premises.

### **Hemsbach Twinning Association**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mrs Cleaton, referred to a visit by the Hemsbach Twinning Association to Wareham on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September. Due to a cancelled flight and late arrival, the German party had missed one day of their visit but it had still been enjoyed by all. Details of the visit itinerary were given and the visitors returned to Hemsbach very satisfied.

The Mayor thanked all Councillors for their reports.

85. **REPORT OF UP TO DATE EXPENDITURE AND INCOME AGAINST BUDGET, PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY MEMBERS AND INSTRUCTION TO SIGNATORIES TO SIGN CHEQUES**

Council members scrutinised a Budget Report dated 10<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Payments totalling £759.80 were accounted for by Councillor Elmes, Chairman of the Human Resources Panel, who explained that it was for various recruitment advertisements for the post of Administration Officer, which had now been filled.

**RESOLVED** that the Budget Report be noted and accepted.

There were no cheques for payment presented to the meeting.

86. **STREET LIGHTING CONSULTATION ISSUES – WAREHAM**

Members considered a concern that there had been a lack of consultation with local residents by Scottish and Southern Energy Contracting since the consultation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> August Council meeting. There were also other associated issues, discussed by Council. In particular, there was public confusion regarding the programme of works, the large amount of safety barriers being left around the town at various sites and lack of information since leaflets had not been delivered to many affected areas. The website 'Lightsonindorset.com' did not appear to be working. It was then:

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be requested to write to SSE Contracting and raise the following points:

- (a) Work on the street lighting upgrade commenced the next day after the consultation with the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2010, however it had been stated that work would commence in mid-September.
- (b) No public consultation with affected households i.e. street lights shining through bedroom windows – leaflets had been delivered in some cases as work commenced outside local residences.
- (c) Placing of modern type street lights and not 'heritage' style lights on the Town Walls including drilling into the Walls, despite a consultation promise to retain heritage style lighting in that area.
- (d) Once complete, would SSE contracting be consulting local residents on their level of satisfaction with the new street lighting and be willing to attend site meetings if necessary?

87. **ANY OTHER ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE MAYOR (for report or for the next agenda)**

- Councillor K Critchley reported on the Burials Joint Committee meeting which was taking place that evening in the Corn Exchange and which would be discussing the Council's contribution to the Burials Committee (the 'precept' figure) for the forthcoming Financial year. Wareham Town Council was the major contributor to this meeting and

he considered that Town Council representation at that meeting should have been possible however there appeared to have been an unfortunate clash of meetings. The Town Clerk had contacted the Clerk to the Burials Committee on this matter and her reply was read to Members.

- Councillor K Critchley also referred to new Government financial restrictions which had been announced that day by e-mail and which would no doubt be affecting all local government bodies in the next Financial Year. There would undoubtedly be an impact on Wareham Town Council's budget deliberations and a possible need for an extra meeting to be called.
- Councillor Critchley had attended a meeting that day on the Cross Traffic Lights Scheme proposed by Dorset County Council's traffic Management Unit, following a trial that had recently taken place. He gave details of the report to that meeting and stated that it was hoped to have the new scheme installed by Christmas. Much had been learned from the trial and it would be installed without further consultation.

Councillor D Budd supported the proposed scheme and had given apologies for his attendance at the meeting that day. He considered that the scheme would work very well and keep traffic moving and make it safer for all - drivers and pedestrians alike. There had been long queues of traffic but pedestrians had little opportunity to cross on green lights and this, he considered, had been satisfactorily resolved.

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

.....Mayor

## ANNEX A - Purbeck District Councillor's Report

Councillor E Osmond reported as follows:

- **Core Strategy Residential Development Viability Study:** Consideration was given to a report which explained the need to update this study. It was recommended that a supplementary estimate of £7,500 to be funded from reserves be approved to commission an update.
- **Decentralisation and Localism Bill:** it was prefaced in the Queen's Speech that it was intended to abolish the Standards Board for England, however it was felt that locally there should be something in place to oversee any local problems that may arise.
- **Affordable Homes to rent or buy:** This was a somewhat lengthy document which could be viewed on the District Council's website.
- **Dorset Housing Trust, proposed rule changes:** The Trust had over a period of time gradually reduced the PDC representation on the board which had caused concern and which had prompted the Council to write to the Secretary of State suggesting a rule change to overcome such problems.
- **Swanage Household Recycling Centre:** Since this report was written a delegation of PDC Members had lobbied the Dorset County Council Cabinet not to delay or close this project. The County Council had since changed their views and had now decided to complete the project. This now meant that in the future Swanage residents would not have to bring their household waste to Wareham.

## **ANNEX B - County Councillor's Report**

Councillor D Budd reported as follows:

- **Purbeck Schools Review**

I have received the following information from the Director for Children's Services regarding the Purbeck Schools Review:

As expected, the Council's decision to proceed with the closure of four middle schools in Purbeck is to go to adjudication. Mr. Alan Parker, who is very experienced in these matters, has been appointed to undertake the review. The process will involve a full review of the papers and in all likelihood a visit to Purbeck by Mr. Parker. We should know the outcome by early November.

- **Pedestrian Crossing of the Railway**

As reported to Members by the Town Clerk, the gates became operational yesterday and will be closed approximately two minutes before the scheduled arrival of a train. The operation will be reviewed after two weeks use. I am told the delay has come about due to the Office of Rail Regulation highlighting various legal issues, indemnity insurance and other risk elements which the County Council needed to ensure were fully covered.

- **North Causeway Roundabout**

Resurfacing of the roundabout is scheduled to take place between the 4th and 8<sup>th</sup> October. This will involve closing the road between the roundabout and Mount Pleasant between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. to facilitate traffic movements and resurfacing of the roundabout. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

Following the abortive signalization of the junction some years back, I note the proposal for minor realignment of kerbs at the roundabout appears to have been dropped from the programme of minor works.

- **Swanage Household Recycling Centre**

Members may be aware that construction of the new £2.9 million Swanage HRC was put on hold to allow the Cabinet to reappraise the scheme. I am pleased to report that at last Wednesday's Cabinet meeting it was unanimously reaffirmed to continue with the project. If Swanage lost its HRC the nearest site was Wareham, which would have seen an increase in its current 130,000 visits per year leading to the potential for the site to become seriously congested at peak times.

