

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL ON TUESDAY 22ND JUNE 2010 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillor Mr E L Osmond (Town Mayor) Councillor Mrs D A Cleaton (Deputy Town Mayor) Mrs D Adkins, Mrs P J W Bowyer-Davis, Mr D Critchley, Mr K Critchley, Mrs S D Elmes, Mr K Green, Mrs V Green, Mrs L I Kenyon, Mrs M A Selby, Mrs A Tighe, Mrs C E Turner

Officers present: Mr R M Curtis, Town Clerk

20. **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**.

Mr M Howlett of North Street, Wareham representing Wareham Chamber of Trade referred to the current Purbeck District Council public consultation on the Core Strategy and the settlement strategy options for Wareham. He wished to know when the matter had been discussed by Council, when the Council's policy against a large supermarket in the town had been changed, what caused the change and why the public had not been informed of the change of policy.

Councillor K Critchley responded that a meeting had been held on 25th May 2010 when representatives of the Town Council, Arne Parish Council, Wareham St Martins Parish Council, Wareham Town Trust, Wareham and District Development Trust and the Chamber of Trade had all been consulted on the contents of the forthcoming public consultation leaflets by the District Council's Planning and Policy Manager. At that stage, options A and B were the options and Wareham Town Council representatives at that meeting (which was not a Town Council meeting) had to decide on an option (not a policy), purely for the leaflet and they decided on the option for Worgret Road as a possible site for settlement. A further meeting had been held at the District Council on 11th May purely to look at the presentation of the document at a workshop session and councillors had been asked not to comment on the content.

Councillor Critchley stressed that no decision had yet been made by the Town Council on the public consultation for the Core Strategy settlement options for Wareham. The consultation ended on 30th July 2010 and the Mayor had agreed to a special meeting of Council on 21st July for a decision to be made to meet

that deadline. District Councillors who were also Town Councillors had to be careful not to pre-determine the issue before they considered it at any District Council meetings regarding the official consultation results and would therefore attend the Town Council meeting on 21st July but not speak or vote on the matter.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Critchley and stressed that the Town Council had made no official response to the consultation and would not do so until the special meeting of Council on 21st July.

Further members of the public spoke as follows:

- Mrs H Evans of East Street, Wareham referred to the consultation document as flawed and biased by the District Council, since there was no option given for a 'No' response, people being limited to the 'least worst option'. She also referred to the scrapping of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) since the change of Government following the General Election; the figures of the RSS formed the foundation of the consultation and there was now, she said, no basis for the consultation. Any large supermarket would be damaging to the vitality and viability of the town centre. Once in place, there could be mitigating conditions imposed on it, however and these could be contested after a year and overturned. She also referred to the Retail Impact Assessment which clearly showed a need for a supermarket but she said this was based on the needs of Swanage residents, there was not a need within Wareham itself and there was even less of a need with the RSS having been scrapped.
- Mrs A Salter of Corfe Road, Stoborough referred to the effect of a large supermarket on Wareham's existing retailers and claimed it would be seriously detrimental to their livelihoods.
- Tony Brown, 12 West Street, Corfe Castle: the Town Council supported a particular option in the consultation document – does the consultation document represent the Council's view?
- Mr Howlett spoke again on the possibility that District Council members could comment on the consultation, since it was not a planning application and the spectrum had been broadened. If Wareham Town Council had formulated a policy many years ago then it already had an opinion and that policy had been for no large supermarket in Wareham.

Councillor K Critchley referred to the Retail Impact Assessment as being available on the District Council's website and in the Town Clerk's office for anyone who wished to view it.

The Mayor thanked all participants of Public Question Time. He re-emphasised that District Councillors had to go to Purbeck District Council meetings with an open mind. A

recommendation from Wareham Town Council would go to the District Council on 21st July, who would make the final decision, and that decision must be clear so that an impartial vote could be made.

The Mayor then requested that the item on Members' questions be brought further up the agenda at this stage and Council agreed.

21. TO ANSWER MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

A question had been submitted by Councillor Mrs A. Selby: 'On 11th May, Council Members were invited to a meeting at P.D.C. to discuss 'Where shall we build in Wareham' with Planning Officers; there were three officers and four members of the Council. The meeting started with Options A and B. After input from Members, the Planners brought in Option C. Obviously, having suggested it, Members supported Option C. When the leaflet was printed it stated that Wareham Town Council supported Option A. Could someone please explain to me how this happened?

The Mayor responded that the delegation from Wareham Town Council on 11th May had been there to look at the document, the wording, the maps and diagrams; four members did not represent the Council in this matter. Councillor Critchley stated that it was quite clear that the meeting welcomed attendee's views on the questions and language used in the consultation document. The meeting on 25th March had arrived at a clearly preferred option on the content of the leaflet, although it was not a Town Council meeting, and the Town Council group at that meeting had opted for Option A which had been reflected in the leaflet.

Councillor Mrs Selby referred to every councillor having had the chance to attend and also asked what was the point of going to the 11th May meeting? The Mayor replied that attendees were specifically asked not to comment on the content of the leaflet but that the meeting was to ensure that the document had been accurately formulated for presentation to the public.

Following discussion, Council requested that the Town Clerk contact the District Council's Planning and Policy Manager, Mr Steve Dring, to say that large numbers of the public were concerned that there was not a 'No' option in the consultation leaflet and ask if this could be inserted as a further option.

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Budd, M. Russell and T. Williams.

23. **PRESENTATION BY ANCHOR STAYING PUT**

Lyn Kenchington attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the activities of the Anchor Staying Put Home Improvement Agency and their work with older people (over the age of 50 years) plus people of any age with a disability to help them stay in their own homes and maintain their independence.

Details were given of two case studies in Purbeck and it was stressed that Anchor's work was not only about grants but also about peoples' direct needs. If councillors knew of someone who may benefit from a case worker and information was passed on, it could prove very useful. Even if a person could not be helped directly by Anchor Staying Put, it was often possible to refer that person to somebody who could.

Questions were taken from councillors and reference was made to POPPs – the Purbeck Older Peoples Partnership - and it was confirmed that the Anchor organisation worked in partnership with POPPs and many others in the community.

Leaflets were left with councillors and the Mayor thanked Lynn Kenchington for her attendance, saying that it was pleasing to hear that Anchor Staying Put was able to help many people who were unable to help themselves.

24. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

25. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27th APRIL 2010 and the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD on 25th MAY 2010 (enclosed).**

27th April meeting: Attendance: delete Councillor D Critchley, insert: Councillor Mrs D Cleaton. Apologies: delete: Councillor Mrs D Cleaton, insert: Councillor D Critchley.

Note: The Town Clerk confirmed that he had now written the draft policy document regarding early retirement for the Human Resources Panel to consider at a future meeting.

25th May 2010 meeting: attendance: delete Councillor M Russell who had given apologies.

Minute 4 (c) line 5: delete 'out' and insert 'put'.

Minute 6, para 2 line 5 delete 'councilors' and insert 'councillors who had also made telephone calls....'

Minute 10 (a) line 6; delete '35' and insert '5'.

Minute 15 line 2: delete 'Council' and insert 'Council'.

26. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES of the 27th April 2010 meeting and the 25th May 2010 meeting**

27. **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.
Nil

28. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The mayor referred to a number of civic and private engagements. He also reported that he had visited ex-Mayor and Honoured Freeman of Wareham Mr Jack Spiller on the occasion of his 95th birthday with a card and special greetings from Wareham Town Council.

29. **TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:-**

(a) **Amenities Committee – 2nd June 2010**

Councillor K Green (Vice Chairman) referred to all items as being resolved with no recommendations to Council and there were no questions from Members.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(b) **Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 7th June 2010**

Councillor K Critchley (Chairman) referred to all items as being resolved items with the exception of Item 8 on the Agenda (Annual Statement of Accounts) which had been recommended for approval and must be ratified by full Council.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(c) **Museum Committee – 8th June 2010**

Councillor Mrs D Cleaton clarified the need for further work on accreditation for the Museum and the agenda item reflected at Minute 31 below.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(d) **Planning and Transport Committee – 14th June 2010**

Councillor Mrs Selby referred to there being no response from Dorset County Council to a letter and e-mail on the need for re-marking of faded white lines in Sandford Lane/Bere Road. She also reported on the yellow hache markings at The Cross in the town centre. This had been recommended for non-replacement as being too obtrusive and overwhelming in a town centre conservation area by Wareham's County Councillor following discussions some time ago. It was now understood that Dorset County Council were about to re-paint the hache markings. The Town Clerk undertook to inform Traffic Management at Dorset County Council not to pursue this work, as a matter of urgency, and to let the lines fade away.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

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

Purbeck District Council

Councillor E Osmond reported on Purbeck District Council. See report at Annex A to these Minutes.

Dorset County Council

Due to the absence of Councillor D Budd on holiday, there was no Dorset County Council report.

Hemsbach Twinning Association

Councillor Mrs D Cleaton reported that there would be a forthcoming visit to Hemsbach by members of the Twinning Association on 29th June to celebrate 25 years of the Hemsbach Partnerschaft. A special commemorative certificate had been designed by the Town Clerk, signed by the Mayor on behalf of the Mayor and Town Councillors and it had now been framed for presentation. A full report of the visit would be made at a later date.

Wareham Carnival

Councillor Mrs Tighe referred to the forthcoming Wareham Carnival Week and the need to place an advertising banner on the Town Hall, which was noted by the Town Clerk for the week leading up to Carnival.

31. **APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO WAREHAM TOWN MUSEUM ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL POLICY**

Following clarification by the Chairman of the Museum Committee, Councillor Mrs D Cleaton, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs S Elmes, seconded by Councillor Mrs A Tighe and unanimously:

RESOLVED to approve the addition of the following sentence to the Wareham Town Museum Acquisition and Disposal Policy: “*The disposal of human remains from museums in England, Northern Ireland and Wales will follow the procedures in the “Guidance for the case of human remains in museums”.*”

32. **VACANCY – PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE:**

Council considered a current vacancy on the Planning and Transport Committee. Councillor Mrs L Kenyon volunteered to fill the vacancy.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs L Kenyon fill the current vacancy on the Planning and Transport Committee with immediate effect.

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

A Budget report dated 22nd June had been submitted to Members at the meeting.

It was noted that there was a large variance in income under PR and F Leases and rents, however the rent from the Safe Partnership was not reflected, which was due in at the end of June.

Councillor Mrs Elmes queried an item for two chairs and the Town Clerk confirmed that they were office chairs and not high leg chairs for the elderly in the Corn Exchange that she had requested – this was being dealt with as a separate item.

Reference was made to a donation of £100 from the Junior Leaders Regiment Old Boys Association for the restoration of the Junior Leaders commemorative plaque at Church Green - which had been actioned in time for the forthcoming Freedom of Purbeck Military Parade on 11th July.

RESOLVED that the report of up to date expenditure and income against budget and accounts for payment dated 22nd June 2010 totalling £10,160.27 be approved and signatories be authorised and instructed to sign cheques in payment of this total sum.

34. **ANNUAL STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE 2009/2010**

Council had received the Annual Statement of Governance 2009/2010 for approval by 30th June 2010 in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations as amended in 2006. Councillor K Critchley, Chairman of Policy, Resources and Finance Committee, recommended that the Statement be accepted. He also referred to the fact that there was no comment for a second

time in a year by the Internal Auditor following his last audit visit and Council requested that congratulations be passed to the Finance Administrator and all staff for this achievement.

It was proposed by Councillor K Green, seconded by Councillor Mrs A Selby and

RESOLVED that the Annual Statement of Governance 2009/2010 be accepted and approved.

35. **ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Council had received the Annual Statement of Accounts for Financial Year 2009/2010 as at 31st March 2010. It was

RESOLVED that the Annual Statement of Accounts be accepted and approved

36. **ASSET REGISTER**

Council had received the Town Council's Asset register for 2009/2010.

RESOLVED that the Asset Register for 2009/2010 be accepted and approved.

37. **AUTHORISED SIGNATURES – NATIONAL SAVINGS INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**

Council was requested to authorise named persons as signatories of the National Savings Investment Account in accordance with banking regulations.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs S Elmes, seconded by Councillor Mrs C Turner and

RESOLVED that Councillors E Osmond, Mrs D Cleaton, K. Critchley, D. Budd and Mrs A Selby (Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairmen of Standing Committees) be approved as signatories of the Town Council's National Savings Investment Account.

38. **DORSET FINGERPOST SPOTTING PROJECT**

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that correspondence received from the Dorset AONB Partnership regarding Dorset's first Fingerpost Spotting Project be noted.

Note: Any Councillor who wishes to take part and pass information on to Dorset County Council Highways is requested to contact the Town Clerk for an audit form or download from www.dorsetaonb.org.uk.

39. **HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE 2010/2011- FUNDING CONSTRAINTS**

Council had received a letter from Dorset County Council's Head of Highways and Transportation which notified funding of highway maintenance activities in Wareham in Financial Year 2010/2011, together with areas where activities would need to be curtailed. Reference was made to the cutting back of weed-killing services and the Town Clerk was requested to ascertain if Wareham Town Council could be involved if a financial contribution was made to this service.

The Mayor referred to the need to tidy up and weed the War Memorial in time for the Freedom of Purbeck ceremony and parade.

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

- The Mayor referred to the Freedom of Purbeck Parade on Sunday 11th July 2010.
- Reference was made to an invitation to view the Museum at the end of the meeting, issued by the Curator who would be in attendance.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.35 pm.

..... Mayor