

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 7th MARCH 2011 AT 7.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM BH20 4NS

Present: Councillors Ms D Adkins, Mrs P Bowyer-Davis, Mr D A Budd, Mrs D R Cleaton (Deputy Town Mayor), Mr D Critchley, Mr K Critchley, Mrs S D Elmes, Mr K Green, Mrs V Green, Mrs L Kenyon, Mr E L Osmond (Town Mayor), M Russell, Mrs A Selby, Mrs A Tighe, Mrs C Turner, Mr T Williams

Officers present: Mr R M Curtis, Town Clerk
Mrs D T Cousins, Administration Officer

Also present: Inspector Caroline Naughton, Dorset Police
Mr Ray Storey, ANPR Manager, Dorset Police
Miss Donna Jones, ANPR System Engineering Manager

UNVEILING CEREMONY – HONOURED TOWNSMEN DISPLAY BOARD

Before the meeting commenced, a new 'Honoured Townsman of Wareham' display board was unveiled in the Council Chamber. Honoured Townsman were in attendance with their guests, as follows: The Rev Canon Peter Hardman, Mrs Frances Hardman and Mr Nigel Spiller. Mrs Jane Patterson, widow of the late Charles Patterson (Honoured Townsman) also attended with family members. Mr Patterson had donated £100 towards the cost of the board. Speeches were made by the Mayor, the Rev Canon Hardman and Mrs Patterson and the Mayor thanked all who attended on this very special occasion.

143. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
NIL

144. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
NIL

145. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH JANUARY 2011**
The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

146. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES of the Town Council Meeting held on 25TH JANUARY 2011**

Wareham Town Council

Minute 134(a) - Councillor Mrs Elmes asked the Town Clerk if he had received a reply from Mr Alford regarding the wheelwright's plate in Trinity Lane. The Town Clerk confirmed that he had written to Mr Alford but as yet had not yet received a reply.

Minute 139 - Councillor K Critchley requested that the dates on the calendar of meetings be referred back to the next Policy, Resources and Finance Committee meeting as some of the dates clashed with Purbeck District Council Policy Group meetings.

147. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

Nil present.

148. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

Nil received.

149. TO ANSWER MEMBERS' QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

There were no Members' questions.

150. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that the Mayor's Charity Sale had raised a total of £672.00 and thanked members of the council who had helped at the event for their support. The Mayor also informed the council that Mr Terry Miles, the Council's appointed Clock Winder for Wareham Town Hall, would be retiring at the end of March 2011 after many years service.

151. CCTV PARTNERSHIP GROUP – AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION CAMERAS

The Mayor suggested that Item 12 on the agenda be bought forward to allow the representatives of the CCTV partnership to explain the benefits of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) CCTV cameras, proposed for the A351 in North Wareham, followed by questions from Councillors. Inspector Caroline Naughton and Mr Ray Storey explained the proposed siting, financial aspects and benefits of the cameras to the Wareham community. It was noted that there would be no cost to the Town Council or the Wareham community for installation of the cameras or for maintenance of the system for a total of four years following the installation.

Following discussion and questions from councillors, it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Elmes, seconded by Councillor Russell and unanimously

RESOLVED that in principle the council was in agreement that Automatic Number Plate Recognition CCTV cameras be installed at two locations on the A351 at North Wareham.

152. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS:-**(a) Planning and Transport Committee– 31st January 2011, 21st February 2011**

Councillor Selby presented the minutes of the two meetings and informed the Council that the Planning Application for the 'Wareham and Swanage Rugby Club Ground' would be discussed at the next meeting on 14th March 2011.

Planning and Transport 21st February 2011 – Minute 180: Amendment of Minute 180 - delete 'public' and insert 'plastic'.

(b) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 14th February 2011

Councillor K Critchley presented the minutes. Reference was made to:

Minute 97 Review of Car Park Charges -Howards Lane - on the agenda for Town Council Meeting.

Minute 102 – Councillor Mrs Selby asked what the current situation was regarding Council owned land at the Tantinoby Lane end of Hauses Field. Councillor Budd indicated that a temporary fence had been erected and the purchase of planter boxes was being investigated. Councillor Mrs Elmes suggested that funds for purchase of the planters were available from the Wareham Development Trust; she would raise it at the next meeting and report back.

Minute 104 – Renewal of Leases for the Citizens Advice Bureau/WarehamTown Band Mill Lane premises. The Town Clerk reported that he had been trying to arrange a meeting with the Town Band Chairman to discuss the question of accommodation for the CAB. An update on this matter would be given at the next PR&F Committee meeting.

Minute 106 – Rent Review, Swanage and Wareham Rugby Club - Councillor K Critchley advised Council that this matter would now need to be referred back to the next PR&F meeting following further information received from the Town Clerk.

(c) **Museum Committee – 8th February 2011**

Councillor Mrs D Cleaton presented the minutes. There were no questions from Council.

(d) **Wareham in Bloom Committee – 16th February 2011**

Councillor E Osmond presented the minutes. There were no questions from Council.

Amendment - Minute 48 – title: delete ‘INITITIVES’ insert ‘INITIATIVES’

(e) **Human Resources Panel – 4th February 2011**

Councillor Mrs S Elmes presented the minutes. Regarding Minute 30 - Lengthsman Scheme - Councillor K Critchley commented that the hours previously agreed at the meeting were to be discussed again at a forthcoming meeting of Chairman/Vice Chairman of HR Panel plus the Town Clerk, following new information received from the Town Clerk, and before the job was publicly advertised.

The Mayor thanked Chairmen for their reports.

RESOLVED that the Committee reports be noted and accepted.

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

Purbeck District Council

The Mayor Councillor E Osmond presented his report – **See Annex A**

Dorset County Council

Councillor Mr Budd presented his report of behalf of Dorset County Council – **See Annex B**

Community Café Project

Councillor Mrs S Elmes presented her report – **See Annex C**

Wareham Development Trust

Councillor Mrs S Elmes presented her report – **See Annex D**

The Mayor thanked Councillors for their reports.

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

153. **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 was scrutinised by Council and a number of cheques were presented for signature in payment of current invoices. It was

RESOLVED that the Budget Report be noted and accepted, accounts for payment in the sum of £7,725.05 be approved and signatories instructed to sign cheques in payment of this sum.

154. **RESCISSION NOTICE - CHANGE OF DATE OF COUNCIL MEETING**

The committee considered a Rescission Notice signed by six Members under the terms of Standing Order 3.3 (a) which sought to rescind a decision made under Minute 118 of the Council meeting on 21st December 2010 and to change the date of the 19th April 2011 meeting to Monday 18th April 2011.

Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED that the April 2011 Council meeting date be changed from Tuesday 19th April 2011 to Monday 18th April 2011.

155. **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 'GREAT POPPY PARTY WEEKEND'**

Councillor Russell reported to Council that an initial meeting had taken place with a number of interested people, a Poppy Party Steering Group had been formed with himself nominated as chairman. Any further developments regarding the planned celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Royal British Legion would be reported after the next scheduled Steering Group meeting on Thursday 10th March 2011. It was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Russell's verbal report be noted.

156. **CHAMBER OF TRADE – REPRESENTATIVE/USE OF COUNCIL CHAMBER**

The Council received a note of the meeting with Wareham Chamber of Trade attended by Cllr S Elmes. She reported on discussions regarding local planning policy (green belt) and on the possibility of a new 'Town Centre Co-ordinator' being appointed as a part time post to co-ordinate events in the town, with the Chamber being prepared to help fund it.

(a) Appointing a Town Council representative to attend future meetings.

Following discussion on the appointment of a Town Council representative to represent the Council at future meetings. It was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs S Elmes be appointed as Wareham Town Council representative at future meetings of the Wareham Chamber of Trade.

Councillor Elmes then reported on the lack of facilities for Chamber meetings and the desirability of them not being held in a public setting. Following discussion it was:

RESOLVED that the Council Chamber be made freely available to the Chamber of Trade for future meetings and that bookings be made through the Town Council Offices.

157. **WINTER SELF HELP IN WAREHAM TOWN**

Council noted the current situation and plans for 'Self Help' following any possible heavy snowfall next winter. It was noted that the proposed Lengthsman's job description would include salting of the footways (pavements), although shop and business premises were encouraged to clear their own spaces under the terms of the 'Snow Code', currently being promoted by the Government and also posted on the Town Council's North Street notice board. Dorset County Council would supply grit for bins but the bins would have to be independently funded by individuals, groups or business. Councillor Ms Adkins suggested that 'Self Help' plans be publicised.

RESOLVED that 'Self Help' plans and the Snow Code be further publicised in Wareham in preparation for possible heavy snowfall during the next winter.

158. **COMMEMORATION OF GREAT FIRE OF WAREHAM & QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

The Council considered a request by the Wareham Chamber of Trade as to whether there were (a) Any plans to commemorate the Great Fire of Wareham 1762. The year 2012 will mark the 250th anniversary of the fire which started on the site of Lloyds TSB bank on 25th July 1762, destroying two thirds of the town.

The Deputy Mayor Mrs D Cleaton announced that the Town Museum was organising an exhibition and an event to commemorate the Great Fire. Councillor Ms D Adkins suggested involving the Wareham Middle School and Purbeck School in a 'Festival of Fire' procession and would liaise with the Purbeck School.

(b) Any plans to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, marking 60 years of the Queen's reign. The focal point of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations will take place over an extended weekend on Saturday 2 June to Tuesday 5 June 2012. An extra bank holiday has been added throughout the UK on Tuesday 5 June 2012. It was:

RESOLVED that Councillors Mrs D Cleaton and Ms D Adkins contact the Wareham Middle School and The Purbeck School to see if either would be interested in becoming involved with a 'Festival of Fire' in 2012.

The councillors noted the date of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012

159. CAR PARK ORDER

The Council considered a recommendation from the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee for a proposed increase in car parking charges for Howards Lane car park, in line with Purbeck District Council, which is due to take effect on 1st April 2011. After discussion it was proposed by Councillor K Critchley, seconded by Councillor K Green and:

RESOLVED that the parking charges be increased to 60 pence per hour at the Howards Lane Car Park from 1st April 2011.

160. PURBECK OLYMPICS NETWORKING GROUP

The council considered a request from Bill Davidson, General Manager Environmental Services at Purbeck District Council, for possible Council representation on this networking group. After discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk represent Wareham Town Council at future Purbeck Olympics Networking Group meetings.

161. CONFIRMATION OF TOWN MAYOR-ELECT

Councillor Mr K Critchley proposed Councillor Mrs Cleaton as the Mayor elect and this was seconded by Councillor Mrs S Elmes. It was then unanimously

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs D Cleaton be confirmed as Town Mayor-Elect for Civic Year 2011/2012.

162. NOMINATION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR-ELECT

After discussion it was suggested that the nomination for a Deputy Town Mayor-Elect for Civic Year 2011/2012 be deferred until the next Town Council meeting. Proposed by Councillor Mr K Green, seconded by Councillor Mr K Critchley

RESOLVED that the nomination for Deputy Town Mayor-Elect be deferred until the next Town Council meeting on 18th April 2011.

163. CIVIC SERVICE 2011 – CHANGE OF DATE

The Council was notified of the change of date for the Annual Civic Service from Sunday 5th June 2011 to Sunday **26th June 2011 at 3pm.**

RESOLVED that the change of date for the Annual Civic Service be noted.

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

Nil

165. CONSULTATION ON CHANGE OF MAXIMUM STAY HOURS AT ST JOHNS HILL CAR PARK

Council considered a supplementary agenda item: a consultation by Dorset County Council on proposals to extend the maximum stay at St Johns Hill, Wareham from 2 hours to 4 hours, the reason given for this change being an aim for consistency in adjacent car parks.

Councillor Budd made reference to St John's Hill being primarily perceived in Wareham as an overflow car park for the nearby supermarket, which had been set at a 2 hour maximum stay in order to encourage rapid turnover of vehicles. He had written to the County Council's Director of Environmental Services to request a re-consideration of the proposals for a 4 hour maximum stay and commented that Wareham Town Council had not been consulted in this matter. In discussion, Council was in agreement with this view.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk respond to the proposals with the Council's view that the maximum stay time should remain at 2 hours at St Johns Hill - in order to encourage rapid turnover of vehicles as part of a shoppers' overflow car park for the nearby supermarket.

166. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next scheduled meeting was noted as **Monday 18th April 2011 at 7.00pm**

**ANNEX A
WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL**

PURBECK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT 7TH MARCH 2011

Councillor E Osmond reported as follows:

Licensing officer Trevor Heritage retired on Friday 25th Feb. He takes with him a vast knowledge on a vast range of Licensing, and a successor has been appointed. Peter Aston of Legal and Democratic Services is due to retire but has agreed to stay on until after the May elections; he will leave after 40 years' experience with local government. Both officers will be missed due to their vast knowledge.

Cllr. Colvey has stepped down as the Built Environment Spokesperson due to ill health. Cllr Holmes will take his place.

Purbeck District Council - after much 'number crunching' and considerable savings to offset the Central Government grant reduction of £930,000 has managed to agree on a nil increase in Council Tax. There have been no compulsory redundancies and no cut back in front line services. Job vacancies over the past year have not been filled, the workload having been shared amongst existing departmental staff.

A suggested change to the public speaking time at Planning Board meetings has met with considerable debate from the general public followed by debate by members. This resulted in little change except there should be no debate on planning applications not yet before the Board.

The Chairman hosted a Spring Reception for Members, General Managers, Stakeholders Neighbouring Mayors/Chairmen and Dignitaries on Friday 4th March. This was an opportunity to meet in a relaxed social atmosphere. The Deputy Mayor of Wareham was invited to represent the Mayor.

Cllr E L Osmond

**ANNEX B
WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL
COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT 7 MARCH 2011**

Councillor D Budd reported as follows:

County Council Budget

The only significant issue to report is the setting of the County Council's budget at its meeting held on Thursday 17th February 2011. The Leader made his customary budget speech lasting 28 minutes and the Leader of the Opposition made a somewhat shorter reply. There was a lot of debate and a series of amendments put by the opposition which were defeated. This was the longest County Council Meeting I have ever attended and the budget was finally approved just before 4.00 p.m.

The main points of the budget are as follows:

- The County Council needs to save £55 million over three years with £31 million in the first year. Two-thirds of the savings will come from the back-office functions, leaving a third to come from front-line services.
- Reductions in the Library Service and the School Crossing Patrol Service are the two issues which have hit the headlines and the Council discussed at length a number of petitions on these two subjects submitted to the Council Meeting by members of the public. Wareham's Library is not directly affected by the proposal to hand over 20 branch libraries to be run by the community or otherwise to be closed; nor will the town be affected by the withdrawal of funding for School Crossing Patrol staff wages from March 2012, although two patrols in Sandford will lose County funding in the order of £1,000 per term per crossing.
- The Council is also proposing to reduce staff by around 500, but this needs to be put in the context of an increase of 2,900 full time equivalent staff between 2001 and 2010.
- The County Council set a 0% increase in Council Tax for 2011/12 which is probably the only bit of good news. It won't be until the detailed budget book is available will the extent of the cuts in Adult Care, Youth Services, Highways etc. become clearer.

This harsh budget is, of course, not of the Council's making and is local government's contribution to dealing with the national deficit left by the previous government.

Cllr D A Budd

ANNEX C

Report on Wareham and District Development Trust AGM held on Friday 25th February 2011 at the Wareham Parish Hall.

Councillor Mrs Sue Elmes reported as follows:

The WDDT held their AGM and all the Trustees were voted back onto the Board. Three new Trustees were signed up to the board.

Lilian Ladle gave a very interesting talk on Wareham Walls.

At an informal meeting of the Trustees on Thursday 3rd March, Philip Daubeny volunteered to be the Chairman for a year and a meeting is being organised within the next three weeks to agree on a priority action plan. I will press for the payment of agreed funding for Hauses Field to be urgently signed over to the Council at that meeting.

S Elmes

ANNEX D**Report on Purbeck Community Café Salt Pig Project. Sue Elmes.**

A pilot scheme has been running at the Salt Pig cafe every Friday night since the beginning of February. The young people seem to like what has been provided and the numbers attending have averaged out at about 50 a night. There are a few health and safety issues still to be resolved but it is hoped to continue the project to the end of the year with a break during July and August. The bank account is now open and the Committee is going to be affiliating with the Dorset Youth Association. They are also going to register as a Youth Project with Dorset County Council.

S Elmes