

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WAREHAM TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 2009 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, EAST STREET, WAREHAM AT 7.00 P.M.

Present: Councillor Mrs. A. Tighe (Town Mayor); Councillors D. Budd; Mrs. D. Cleaton; K. Critchley; Mrs. S. Elmes; K. Green; M. Russell; Mrs. A. Selby; Mrs. C. Turner; Mrs. M. Wainwright and T. Williams.

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

Members of the public: Nil

Also in attendance – Inspector C. Weeks and PC M. Connolly, Wareham Police Station and Mr. S. Dring, Planning Policy Manager, Purbeck District Council.

Councillor Mrs. Elmes requested that consideration be given to Agenda items 14 and 15 being discussed at this point of the meeting. The Mayor put this to Council and it was unanimously agreed.

82. WAREHAM PACT – UPDATE

Inspector Chris Weeks, Purbeck Section Commander, and PC Moira Connolly representing the PACT team, attended the meeting to update the Council on recent issues and priorities. Members had been circulated with a copy of the PACT Community Action Plan.

Inspector Weeks reported that Dorset was the safest County, with Purbeck being the safest section. Violent crime was down by 17% compared to last year together with burglaries by 23%. Theft from motor vehicles was on the increase. "Theft other" had increased slightly, the three main areas being mobile phones, pedal cycles and wheelie bins. He reported that 3 Anti Social Behaviour Orders had been served in Purbeck in the past 12 months and was pleased to report that none were in Wareham.

Inspector Weeks reported on Section 27 – alcohol related incidents – and the Licensing reviews for The Antelope Hotel and The Red Lion Hotel. Police Officers now visited the local public houses and could assess alcohol misuse and the presence of drugs on the premises and this was having a very positive effect on Wareham. He also reported on "Operation Paddington" which monitored young people's behaviour in Wareham. It had been noticed that there had been a weekly reduction in letters to parents and warnings, and parents had been invited to the Purbeck School to view the effect this had on the community.

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PC Moira Connolly, Neighbourhood Support Officer for Wareham, gave an update on the PACT Community Action Plan. She advised that there was good engagement with youth and problems relating to Friday nights were declining. The current Houses Field BMX area project was not yet complete but this facility was much appreciated by the young people.

The problems with people milling about the streets on a Friday night at pub closing time had improved and lists of taxi drivers available (the 'Taxi Wheel') had been put up in the public houses; this had proved to be a very simple solution to the problem. Parking outside the banks in North and South Street was still a problem but the Dorset County Council was investigating the installation of combined cycle rack bollards outside both banks.

PC Connolly advised that it was useful to have a 'tool kit' pack to take to local events across Purbeck, this had hopefully been achieved with funding from Purbeck District Council.

She also reported that PACT held 4 surgeries in the town, in the Library, at both of the Thursday and Saturday Markets and at the Thursday coffee morning in the United Reformed Church. They were still working on a possible venue in Northmoor/Carey. The distribution of information had increased and the first public PACT meeting was planned for January 2010.

She reported that intimidation of the Middle School children on the school buses had been resolved by re-routing the school buses. Cycling on the pavements was still an ongoing problem but a planned talk in the schools together with cycle coding and security would hopefully improve matters. A campaign to mark wheelie bins was also planned.

Current issues included the possible closure of the pedestrian rail crossing at Wareham Station.

PC Connolly ended the report by saying that they were working in partnership with Dorset County Council, Purbeck District Council, Wareham Town Council the Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Police and community and were working together on all issues in Wareham, and this team was proving to be very productive.

Various points were raised by councillors and answers given. Councillor K Critchley undertook to chase up a problem regarding street furniture in North and South Streets with Purbeck District Council.

The Mayor thanked Inspector weeks and PC Connolly for their very informative presentation.

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83. CORE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPTIONS PUBLIC CONSULTATION – PLANNING PURBECK’S FUTURE.

Mr. Dring, Planning Policy Manager at Purbeck District Council was in attendance to present the issues involved regarding the current public consultation from the District Council on the Core Strategy, to be followed by a questions and answers session.

Councillors Budd, Critchley and Green declared a personal interest under the Model Code of Conduct as Purbeck District Councillors and took no part in the discussions.

Mr. Dring reported on the consultation held in the Corn Exchange and the responses so far. First results regarding consultation had revealed a 55% preference for a large supermarket in Wareham, 8% wanted this for Swanage with 19% wanting a split of larger ‘convenience’ type stores in both towns, rather than large supermarkets, with 17% saying a definite no to any change. The process was continuing, however, and the closing date for comments had been extended until 30th November, 2009 due to problems with delivery.

He reported on the key challenges facing the district, which included providing affordable housing, protecting the natural environment, relieving congestion on the A351, improving employment opportunities, helping people access services and community facilities locally. He also reported on a vision for the District and objectives to deliver the vision.

Mr Dring reported on the policies for Wareham, the provision of additional housing, land available for use and policies which would guide the planning applications. He referred to the provision of a new supermarket at Wareham and one for Swanage. The two sites for a large supermarket for Wareham were at Johns Road Industrial Estate and North of Worgret Road, Wareham.

Affordable Housing could be accommodated by a Shared Ownership Scheme in conjunction with Synergy providing part owned and landlord accommodation. It was proposed to lower the threshold down to 3 from 15 in any application for housing developments.

Mr. Dring reported that the Town Council’s comments were very important for the future of Purbeck.

After a discussion it was –

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RESOLVED that this item be referred to the Planning and Transport Committee meeting to be held on 23rd November, 2009 and all Councillors would be welcome to attend.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Dring for attending the meeting.

84. 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.

85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs. P. Bowyer-Davis, L. Burns, D. Critchley and E. Osmond.

86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

87. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2009 AND 2ND OCTOBER, 2009

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16th September, 2009 were confirmed after the following amendments –

Page 31 – line 7 – delete “by just one point”;

Page 31 – line 29 delete “Single Common Room” insert “Single Common Reception”.

Page 34 – line 34 – delete “60” – insert “75a”.

The Minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on 2nd October, 2009 were confirmed after the following amendments –

Page 36 – line 4 – delete “woul” insert “would”;

Page 36 - line 13 – after “scheme would” insert “be”;

Page 36 - line 30 – after Hopefully delete “M.” – insert “Mr”;

Page 38 – line 36 after “would surely insert “not”.

88. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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None.

89. 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

90. TO ANSWER MEMBERS QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

None.

91. MAYOR' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported that she had attended the Civic Walkabout at Wimborne Minster and the Civic Service at Verwood.

She also reported that she had attended the Carnival Committee's Annual General Meeting and was pleased to report that this year the Carnival had made a profit.

The Mayor also reported that she had attended the Short Mat Bowls Competition held at Lytchett Minster and presented the Millennium Trophy to the winners. She had also attended a PACT meeting and attended the opening of a new shop in Wareham - "The Salt Pig" - and wished them every success.

On 16th October, 2009 she had attended the Wareham in Bloom presentation evening and thanked Councillor Mrs. P. Bowyer Davis for the beautiful photographs.

She also reported that she had attended the open morning of the new Scout and Guide Hut. Work was still in progress but it was a very impressive building. She had also attended a presentation lunch at Wareham Golf Club and a Civic Day at Weymouth and Portland.

92. TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (a) Planning and Transport Committee – 21st September, 2009 and 12th October, 2009

RESOLVED that the reports be noted.

- (b) Human Resources Panel – 30th September, 2009

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RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(c) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 5th October, 2009

RESOLVED that the report be noted

(d) Amenities Committee – 7th October, 2009

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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

District Councillor

Councillor Critchley reported that the District Council had debated the Transport Infrastructure interim guidance charged for 2009/10 and resolved that there should be no increase on new buildings and that there should be a review towards the middle of next year.

The District Council formally adopted the Purbeck Heritage Strategy 2009/2014. Amendments had been made following public consultation earlier this year. Full details of the policy were available to view on the District Council's website. A similar report would be taken to Dorset County Council in early November.

He also reported that, following proposals from the Eastern and Western Crime and Disorder Partnership and Safer Communities Group, Purbeck District Council (as a statutory Partner), had agreed to support the formation of a single Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for Dorset. The District Council representative would be the Housing and Social Issues Spokesperson.

Councillor Critchley also reported that the District Council had also confirmed extending the Freedom of the District to the Old Boys Association of the Junior Leaders Regiment of the Royal Armoured Corp and to conferring the Freedom of the District to the Armour Centre which had camps at Bovington and Lulworth. An Acceptance Ceremony would be organised for Spring 2010.

County Councillor

Councillor Budd reported on the pedestrian level crossing at the Railway Station.

On 16th October, 2009 he had attended a meeting with Tim Westwood, Dorset County Council's Traffic Manager together with Councillors Mrs. Selby and Osmond representing the Town Council, Mark Sturgess, Purbeck District

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Council's General Manager, Planning Services, where various questions were asked.

At the meeting it transpired that Dorset County Council had not received an Improvement Notice to close the crossing, but the letter dated 1st September, 2009 from the Office of Rail Regulation to the Chief Executive had been taken as notice that unless action was taken then formal proceedings would follow. It was also revealed that the original 1978 agreement stated that Dorset County Council would provide a footbridge at some point in the future.

Following the meeting he had received an email from Tim Westwood proposing that if CCTV footage over the past 2 weeks did not show any more infringements of the red warning lights then Dorset County Council would formally ask Network Rail and the Office of Rail Regulation to consider accepting the continuation of the security surveillance as a short term measure until a permanent solution could be put in place. Detailed work to identify a public transport solution had proved unlikely to provide a sufficiently robust solution and was less cost effective compared with a continued security presence. This, he stated, probably explained why there had not been any direct communication with residents.

Councillor Budd reported that through the good offices of Annette Brooke, MP, he had had sight of the agreements between British Railways Board and Dorset County Council.

An agreement was made between the British Railways Board (the Board) and Dorset County Council (the Council) dated 1st December, 1978 for the building of a road bridge over the railway. Clause 3 and 24 were of interest with regard to the pedestrian crossing. Clause 3 stated that the "closure and stopping up of the public highway" over the railway was authorised by the "Wareham Bypass Scheme (Side Roads) Order 1973" and that British Railways Board was entitled to abolish the road crossing on completion of the bridge provided that the existing footways were retained. This was subject to a lease dated 17th November, 1975 which terminated on 24th June, 1980. The Lease states "on this date the Board shall either renew the lease or negotiate with the Council the provision of alternative facilities for pedestrians".

Clause 24 stated that "the Council shall in the future provide a pedestrian footbridge over the railway but the date on which the footbridge is provided shall be entirely at the discretion of the Council in agreement with the Board."

Councillor Budd also reported that a further agreement between the British Rail Board and Dorset County Council was made on 25th March, 1988 which in effect permitted the use of the original crossing from the expiry of the previous agreement until the date of the current agreement which permitted the present

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open pedestrian crossing. The lease specifically stated “the Board will permit the general public on foot with perambulators and cycles as may be necessary at all times of day or night to use the crossing”. The only exceptions referred to the passage of trains and for engineering works. Such a permissive use by agreement did not create a public right of way, since this required the consent of the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 41 of the Road and Rail Traffic Act 1933. A number of clauses in the lease made it clear that the Council was responsible for all costs incurred in relation to the crossing, even including delays to trains which have to be stopped due to the failure of the warning lights. He reported that Clause 11 was particularly relevant to the current situation plus Clauses 18 and 19.

Representative Reports

Councillor Mrs. Turner advised that she had attended the Annual General Meeting of the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Purbeck Area

Committee on 19th October, 2009. All original officers and representatives had been re-elected.

Planning issues had been discussed and in particular the 21 day time frame and the difficulties experienced by Parish Councils. Councillor Turner reported on the practices of Wareham Town Council and the fact that they reported back to Purbeck District Council. Councillor Lovell of Purbeck District Council had stated that this was not the case and that the District Council did not receive any feedback from the Town Council on planning applications. It was left that this would be reported back to the Town Council. Dates were then arranged for the next year’s meetings.

Councillor Mrs. Selby reported that Councillor Mrs. Turner had contacted her regarding the comments made by Councillor Lovell relating to the Town Council’s Planning comments. She had investigated the comment and found that the District Council was in fact receiving comments and the Town Clerk had agreed to write a letter regarding this matter to Mr. Lovell. Wareham Town Councillors serving on the District Council’s Planning Board confirmed that the Town Council’s comments were being received.

Councillor Mrs. Wainwright reported on the meeting of the Dorset Age Partnership held on 21st October, 2009. Topics discussed were ‘Self Directed Support Pilots’, the new initiative called ‘Total Place’ and ‘Purbeck Leisure Centre Activities for the over 50’s’.

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She had also attended the Age Concern meeting incorporating Helping Hands on 21st October, 2009 and Wareham Area Seniors Forum discussing community matters on 12th November, 2009. This had covered national, Purbeck and District and Town Council concerns, bus and rail transport, community transport, churches, bereavement services, care organisations, library, museum and much more.

94. 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 16th September, 2009 was handed to and acknowledged by each member of the Council and current payments totalling £50,997.88 for approval.

RESOLVED that the report of up to date expenditure and income against budget and accounts dated 16th September, 2009 totalling £50,997.88 be approved.

95. EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2008/2009

Members had been circulated with copies of a report from the Council's external auditors for Financial Year 2008/2009 accounts.

After a discussion it was –

RESOLVED that (a) the report be noted; and (b) thanks be given to the Financial Administrator for all his hard work on this report.

96. TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET LINES 2010/2011

Members were requested to consider the Town Council's budget lines for 2010/2011 which will be included in discussions at forthcoming budget meetings, prior to setting the Council's overall budget/precept in January 2010.

RESOLVED that the proposed budget lines be accepted.

97. CO-OPTION OF TOWN COUNCILLOR

Members were requested to consider any candidates for one current Town Councillor vacancy.

The Town Clerk reported that he had received one application for this position and advised that the candidate was unable to attend the meeting due to a recent family bereavement necessitating attendance at a funeral in Scotland.

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After a discussion it was –

RESOLVED that (a) the Town Clerk write to seek confirmation that the candidate had lived at her current address for a period of more than one year and if this was the case invite her to the next Town Council Meeting; (b) to keep the existing advertisement open; and (c) defer this item to the next Town Council Meeting.

98. FORMATION OF TOWN GUIDE WORKING GROUP

Members had been requested to consider the nomination of two Councillors to a new Town Guide Working Group to work with the Town Clerk and representatives of the Tourist and Heritage Information Centre and Chamber of Trade to produce a draft for the 2010/2011 Guide. The first monthly meeting would be held in the new year.

RESOLVED that (a) the Town Guide Working Group consist of Councillors Mrs. P.Bowyer-Davis and Mrs. A. Selby plus the Town Clerk; (b) to request a representative from the Chamber of Trade; and (c) to request a representative from the Tourist Information Centre.

99. TOURISM SURVEY – PURBECK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members had received a Highlight Report from Purbeck District Council following the attendance of Councillor Mrs. S. Elmes and the Town Clerk at a Parish/Town Council Workshop on 22nd September, 2009 at Westport House.

Councillor Elmes reported on the meeting and that, during discussions, the Town Council was requested to consider the possibility that the Council might take over the Tourist Information Centre at some future stage, however this request had been declined due to perceived financial constraints.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

100. DATE OF ANNUAL CIVIC SERVICE 2010

Members had been requested to note that, following a meeting with the Mayor, Town Clerk and the Rector of Lady St. Mary's Church, the date of the next Annual Civic Service had been agreed as **Sunday, 6th June, 2010 at 3.00 p.m.**

RESOLVED that (a) subject to consultation with the Deputy Mayor, the date and time of the Annual Civic Service be noted; and (b) this be reviewed after a period of one year.

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

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None.

102. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the date of the next meeting was scheduled for **Wednesday, 16th December 2009.**

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.