



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 5 March 2024 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.00pm.**

**Members Present:** Councillors C Turner (Mayor), M Cotton (Deputy Mayor), D Budd, D Cleaton, K Critchley, B Dean, B Ezzard, Z Gover, M Humphries, L Kirk, D Robinson.

**Officers present:** N Gray, Town Clerk & RFO, Gale Pettifer, Deputy Clerk

The meeting commenced with a short presentation from Rachel Martin, Hyde's Heath Project Officer, RSPB, regarding the 2RN Shuttlebus.

**TC 131/24 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Goodinge, Cllr K Green, Cllr V Green, Cllr Wheatley, and Cllr Russell.

**TC 132/24 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**TC 133/24 Public participation time**

There were three members of the public present, one of whom spoke on behalf of the Town Trust in respect of the streetlighting replacement issue in Wareham.

**TC 134/24 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 23 January 2024 be **APPROVED** and would be signed by the Mayor following the meeting.

**TC 135/24 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

There were no matters arising.

**TC 136/24 Reports by Dorset Councillors and representatives on outside bodies**

Cllr Ezzard presented the report from the Dorset Councillors.

It was noted that the Wareham Area Community Speed Watch Team were to commence training with Dorset Police, on Friday 22 March. The venue would be confirmed.

**TC 137/24 Payments for outstanding creditors**

Members considered the list of required payments for approval.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £33,334.26 be approved.

**TC 138/24      To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to place before the Council**

The Mayor reported eight events had been attended since the last Full Council meeting, and she would be representing the Town Council at the funeral of the late June Spooner, former Councillor, at Harbour View Lytchett Minster, on Friday 8 March 2024.

**TC 139/24      Reports from committees and sub-groups**

The approved minutes from the following meetings were noted:

- a) Amenities Committee – 10 January 2024
- b) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – 19 February 2024. Cllr Critchley extended his thanks, on behalf of the Committee, to Adam Fitzgerald, Building Better Lives Programme Manager, Dorset Council, for his participation in the meeting.
- c) Planning and Transport Committee – 17 January 2024.
- d) Policy, Resources and Finance – 9 January 2024.

**TC 140/24      Wareham Town Council Action List**

The members reviewed and noted the actions, updates, and work in-progress on the list.

Cllr Ezzard asked if the letter to residents regarding not parking on the Wareham Walls had been sent to the Senior Ranger, Dorset Council; the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England; and to Rempstone Estate. The Deputy Clerk was unsure and would confirm with Cllr Ezzard.

Cllr Critchley reported that the asset transfer from Dorset Council of the Conniger Lane car park had been placed on-hold due to ongoing negotiations regarding the parking meter and condition of the parking surface.

**TC 141/24      2RN Bus Service**

Cllr Ezzard recapped the presentation, given by Rachel Martin, RSPB, and repeated that the project funding for 2024 was short by £1,650.00. Cllr Ezzard asked Council to support the service in 2024 with a contribution to costs of £600.00 and attendance of a Steering Group to maintain the project in the future.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve £600.00 towards the project from the General Reserves budget.

It was **RESOLVED** to participate in a Steering Group.

**TC 142/24      New street lighting in the town**

Members considered the recommendation from Wareham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee, requesting that Matthew Piles and Roderick Mainstone be invited to a meeting with representatives of Wareham Town Council and Wareham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to consider the concerns regarding the street lighting scheme in the Conservation Area and discuss possible options, including whether there are suitable alternative bulkhead lights which could be used.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the resolution from Wareham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee.

**TC 143/24      Any other items the Mayor deems urgent**

There were no items deemed urgent.

**TC 144/24      Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 23 April 2024 at 7.00pm.

Mayor..... Date.....