



**Minutes of a meeting of the Wareham in Bloom Committee held on Wednesday 22 July 2020 via Zoom at 7.00pm.**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors C Turner (Chairman), P Bowyer-Davies, R Curtis, S Dean, Councillor B Ezzard, J Hall, R Hooper, Councillor L Kirk, B Rogers, W Wheeler.

**Officers present:** V Ricketts, Town Clerk

3 members of the public

**53. Election of Chairman**

**Resolved** that Councillor C Turner be elected to the office of Committee Chairman for the 2020/2021 municipal year.

**54. Election of Vice-Chairman**

**Resolved** that Councillor L Kirk be elected to the office of Committee Vice Chairman for the 2020/2021 municipal year.

**55. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from M Wainwright and R Longstaff.

**56. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**57. Public participation time**

R Longstaff, whilst being absent, had asked the Chairman to read a letter stating concerns regarding the governance report and role of the volunteers going forward.

**58. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 26 February 2020 were presented by the Chairman.

**Resolved** that the minutes be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**59. Consider matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

It was noted that Gabrielle Lloyd had taken over the West Gate trough.

**60. Wareham in Bloom report and proposed SLA**

The Town Clerk presented a report on the future governance of Wareham in Bloom, together with a proposed SLA for recommendation to Council.

It was noted that currently the Council's Wareham in Bloom Committee was acting unlawfully in fund raising to support its activities and augment the precept. This was contrary to the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Local Government Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1993 and the Local Government Act 2003. The WIB Committee is a Committee of the Council and must abide by the Council's adopted Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and other policies of the Council.

The Town Clerk outlined two possible options for the future governance of Wareham in Bloom: either the Council could take the planting in house, coming under Amenities Committee, and funded in whole by the Council with volunteers being utilized to assist where required; or WIB could become an autonomous body whereby it is separated out from the Council, set up as its own entity with its own bank account and fund-raises for itself, and would be self-governing. A grant from the Council supported by a Service Level Agreement (SLA), could also be made available but would require a detailed level of service provision from the voluntary group. Such an SLA was also detailed within the report.

The Committee discussed the options at length. Members were generally in favour of the second option but were concerned about the amount of work and commitment involved. If, however, the first option was agreed the Committee were similarly concerned that the volunteers should be able to assist the Council in its planting and care for the displays.

It was noted that the volunteers could continue to fund raise, as a separate group, to support their awards and local competitions.

**Resolved** that it be recommended to Council that the flower planting/displays etc are all taken inhouse, coming under Amenities Committee, and funded in whole by the Council, with support from Volunteers to assist with planting, dead-heading and watering.

**61. Any other items the Chairman deems urgent**

The Committee agreed the need to set up a separate group, likely to be called Friends of Wareham in Bloom. The Chairman agreed to contact the members of the Committee after Council on 11 August to advise them of the decision and arrange an informal meeting. It was agreed that Mr R Curtis would enquire with the South and South East in Bloom organisation (SSEIB) if the volunteers would be permitted to enter the annual SSEIB regional Britain in Bloom Competition, and, if so, the applicable costs, and report back to the Chairman/members of the committee and the Town Clerk in due course.

**62. Date of next meeting**

It was noted that, pending the decision of Council, there would be no further meetings of this Committee.

Chairman..... Date.....