



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 11 July 2023 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, H Goodinge, Z Gover, M Humphries, S Wheatley, M Russell.

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

**TC 028/23                      Apologies for absence**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr K Green, Cllr V Green, Cllr L Kirk, Cllr D Robinson.

**TC 029/23                      Declarations of interest**

Cllr Critchley declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 10 – Land Purchase Order.

**TC 030/23                      Public participation time**

There were seven members of the public present.

The Council received a presentation regarding Community Speed Watch, from a representative of Dorset Police, who advised that the cost of the equipment would be divided three ways between Wareham Town Council, Wareham St Martin Parish Council and Arne Parish Council, and was expected to be around £300 in total.

A member of the public, objecting to the planning permission granted for a garden office in Ropers Lane, asked how many Councillors had voted in favour of the development. They were informed that individual votes were not recorded unless requested under Standing Orders, it was a majority vote which determined the response to the Planning Authority (Dorset Council).

A member of the public asked what could be done about the unsightly condition of Trinity Lane/Ropers Lane. Cllr Budd explained that residents are leaving wheelie bins out in the street making the area look scruffy and this was a historical problem. Previous attempts at resolving the issue tended to revert back to the current state after a short time.

**TC 031/23                      Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 18 May 2023 were approved would be signed by the Mayor following the meeting.

TC 023/23 should read 'Wareham Burial Joint Committee', and the words 'to the' should be inserted between 'percentage added' and 'Town Council's account' on line four.

Appendix 1, it was noted that some Standing Committee representatives were incorrect. Cllr V Green should be included on

the Policy, Resources & Finance Committee, and Cllr Cleaton to be removed. Cllr Goodinge should be included on the Amenities Committee and Cllr Humphries to be removed.

Appendix 2, Cllr Turner to be added to the Museum Committee.

Appendix 3, Cllr Turner to be added as a representative to the Wareham Town Band.

Wareham Youth & Community Foundation should be listed as Purbeck Youth & Community Foundation.

Dorset Age Partnership, Wareham Area Seniors Forum and Wareham and District Development Trust should be removed from the list of Outside Bodies as it was advised that they were no longer meeting.

Subject to the above amendments, it was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 30 May 2023 were approved would be signed by the Mayor following the meeting.

**TC 032/23                   Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

There were no matters arising.

**TC 033/23                   Reports by Dorset Councillors and representatives on outside bodies**

The tabled report from Dorset Councillor Cllr Holloway was **NOTED**.

The report from Cllr Robinson in respect of the recent DAPTC Purbeck Area Meeting was **NOTED**.

**TC 034/23                   Payments for outstanding creditors**

The Town Clerk presented a list of payments for approval and noted the figure had been adjusted down, due to a duplicate payment entry.

Cllr Budd queried further duplicates – Voucher no. 98 and 207. The Clerk explained that identical payments, rather than duplicate payments, often occurred due to the timing of Council meetings and the schedule of payments, whereby two months' worth of regular payments might appear on the same list. The Clerk said that she would confirm by email if this were the case for these transactions.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £55,210.60 be approved.

**TC 035/23                   To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to place before the Council**

The Mayor confirmed that she had circulated a list of Mayoral activities and upcoming appointments and would use this format to communicate the Mayor's engagements and events to Council in future.

**TC 036/23**

**Reports from committees and sub-groups**

The minutes from the following meetings were **NOTED**:

- a) Amenities Committee – 17 May 2023
- b) Museum Committee – 9 May 2023

**TC 037/23**

**Land Purchase Order**

The Clerk noted that an offer had been received to purchase a small strip of Council owned land in Bestwall Road and the redacted letter had been included in the meeting papers.

Members discussed the costs and benefits of selling or keeping the land, and whether the current tenant should be asked to tidy the area.

It was **RESOLVED** to decline the offer to purchase the land.

It was **RESOLVED** that the current leaseholder would not be approached regarding tidying the land as it was considered a wildlife haven.

**TC 038/23**

**Dorset Dog Order**

The Clerk noted the Consultation received from Dorset Council in respect of the Dog-Related Public Space Protection Order asking Wareham Town Council to respond.

It was **RESOVLED** that Councillors email the Clerk with their responses and that a response to the consultation be given by the Clerk from those responses.

**TC 039/23**

**Portable BBQs – Dorset Council Byelaws**

The Clerk noted the request from Wareham St Martin Parish Council to join with other Purbeck Councils to request that Dorset Council adopt a byelaw prohibiting the use of portable BBQs in Wareham Forest and surrounding Heathland.

It was **RESOLVED** that Wareham Town Council support the request to Dorset Council for a new byelaw in respect of portable BBQ use prevention.

**TC 040/23**

**West Street Petition in respect of Anti-Social Behaviour**

The Clerk noted the signed petition received from residents requesting CCTV cameras in West Street to help prevent anti-social behaviour.

Members discussed the matter at length and expressed sympathy to those experiencing the anti-social behaviour. Unfortunately, as much as the Council wished to support the request, the existing

budget had been allocated and there were no further funds available in this financial year.

It was **RESOLVED** that the installation of CCTV camera in West Street be considered as part of the budget setting for 2024/25.

#### **TC 041/23      Community Speed Watch**

Cllr Ezzard noted the presentation given during the public participation section of the meeting in respect of the volunteer Community Speed Watch Group for Wareham.

It was **RESOLVED** to support a volunteer Community Speed Watch Group.

It was **RESOLVED** that the cost of the equipment for the volunteer Community Speed Watch Group be shared equally with Wareham St. Martin Parish Council and Arne Parish Council.

#### **TC 042/23      Youth Council Proposal**

The Clerk noted the proposal had been received from Cllr Cotton who was keen to better engage with the younger members of the community, and for them to be better represented by Council. Cllr Cotton would like to investigate the introduction of a Youth Council for Wareham that could feed into the Town Council with recommendations and suggestions for projects. It would also enable younger people to understand the democratic process of local government and raise the profile of Town and Parish Councils.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council supported Cllr Cotton in investigating the possibility of a Youth Council in Wareham and bring back any proposals for approval.

#### **TC 043/23      Formal Thanks to be Given**

The Clerk noted the Wareham Gateway Stones had finally been put in place and asked that the Council express its gratitude to Mr Pete Andrews of Andrews Plant Hire, who had kept the stones safe for several years, cleaned them, and installed them at his own expense.

It was **RESOLVED** the Clerk write an official letter on behalf of the Council to thank Mr Andrews and pass on the enormous appreciation the Council has for his help and input.

#### **TC 044/23      Clerk's Update**

The Clerk provided an update on information and work currently being undertaken, which included:

- The Britian in Bloom judging had been delayed for a week due to a judge suffering ill health.

- The Clerk had met with the Chair of the Friends of Wareham Hospital and rekindled a working relationship, which should help with information sharing in respect of the future plans for the health hub, of which nothing had been heard.
- The Clerk had attended a planning summit for Clerk's regarding the potential changes to national planning policy.
- A successful Town Criers competition had been held the previous Saturday.
- The CCTV had been fully installed and was up and running. As a result, some of the minor anti-social behaviour issue had stopped.
- The large van was due to be collected by the insurance company's repairers.
- The Recreation Ground play park was being repaired by HAGs, the company which has installed it, and was being dealt with under insurance.
- A basic till has been purchased for the Museum and would be set up once the electrician had installed additional sockets.
- The Groundsman who had broken his foot was still off, but it was hoped he would return soon. Councillors asked for their best wishes to be passed on to him.
- The Clerk confirmed the Finance Officer's last working day would be Friday 21 July 2023. The Council requested that thanks to the Finance Officer be minuted for her hard work and dedication over the last 6 years.

**TC 045/23**

**Any other items the Mayor deems urgent**

The Mayor noted the position of Cllr K Green and wished him a speedy recovery after his recent incident.

Cllr Ezzard noted the access issues to the Town Hall for those who were unable to walk unaided. The Mayor confirmed that should anyone wish to attend who found themselves in this position, the Council would be asked to adjourn downstairs to enable the member of the public to hear the meeting and make representations in the public participation section of the meeting.

**TC 046/23**

**Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 22 August 2023 at 7.00pm.

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