



Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 28 January 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.30pm.

Members Present: Councillors M Cotton (Mayor), Z Gover (Deputy Mayor), D Budd, D Cleaton, K Critchley, I Davey, B Dean, S Dean, V Green, M Hill, R Holloway, L Kirk, D Robinson, M Tighe and S Wheatley.

Officers present: S Dickins, Deputy Clerk, K Babbs, Admin Officer

TC 152/25 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Dallimore.

TC 153/25 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 154/25 Public participation time

There was one member of the public present who did not wish to speak.

TC 155/25 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 10 December 2024 be **APPROVED** and would be signed by the Mayor following the meeting.

TC 156/25 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

TC 157/25 Reports by Dorset Councillors and representatives on outside bodies

The report from Dorset Council Cllr Ezzard was NOTED.

Cllr Green noted she had attended a meeting regarding the Purbeck Shuttle 200 Bus. They wished to have their thanks noted for the £500 grant received from Wareham Town Council, and to advise that they were in the process of applying for grants in the region of £28,000.

Cllr Holloway reported that there would be a demonstration at the Railway Crossing on Saturday 1 February 2025. Vikki Slade, MP Mid Dorset and North Poole would be attending.

TC 158/25 Payments for outstanding creditors

Members considered the list of payments for approval.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £75,130.87 be approved.

TC 159/25 To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to place before the Council

There were no communications placed before Council.

TC 160/25 Reports from committees and sub-groups

The minutes from the following meetings were NOTED:

- a) Personnel Committee – 12/11/2024
- b) Planning and Transport Committee – 12/11/2024 and 26/11/2024
- c) Policy, Resources and Finance – 12/11/2024

TC 161/25 Annual Risk Assessment

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendation to approve the Town Council's Annual Risk Assessment from the Policy Resources and Finance Committee be APPROVED.

TC 162/25 Traffic Regulation Order SLA signing and sealing

Members considered the report in respect of the Service Level Agreement for parking enforcement for Howards Lane Car Park.

Cllr Budd asked whether clause 4.1 brought any additional financial risks and liabilities should Wareham Town Council terminate the Service Level Agreement. The Deputy Clerk noted Dorset Council enforcement officers were already operating within Wareham at Dorset Council's car parks and the risks identified and mitigated in the clause were negligible to the Council.

It was noted that paragraph 3.1 would be amended with the agreement of Dorset Council to replace "County Council" with "the Council" prior to the signing and sealing of the SLA.

It was **RESOLVED** to sign and seal the Service Level Agreement in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, for car parking enforcement in Howards Lane Car park.

TC 163/25 Town Council Action List

Cllr Robinson asked for an update in respect of the Youth Council Proposal. The Deputy Town Clerk noted that contact had been made with the Deputy Head of Purbeck school prior to the end of 2024, and work was ongoing.

Members noted the update regarding the Sitting Out Licence in respect of The Italian Kitchen.

Members noted the work being undertaken in respect of the Civic Procedures and the Mayor's Handbook was ongoing.

TC 164/25 Report of the Museum Manager

The report of the Museum Manager was NOTED.

TC 165/25 Town Clerk's Update

The Town Clerk's Update was NOTED.

TC 166/25 Budget and Precept setting 2025/26 Financial Year

Members considered the recommendation from the Policy Resources and Finance Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to APPROVE the 2025/26 budget of £686,330.

It was **RESOLVED** to APPROVE an increase to the precept of 6.97% to £562,880.

Members noted the increase equated to £16.13 per annum on a Band D property or 31p per week, or 4p per day, which would take a Band D property from £231.41 to £247.54.

Cllr Gover thanked the Town Clerk for her hard work on the Budget and Precept setting.

TC 167/25 Any other items the Mayor deems urgent

The Mayor requested the Council's thanks be given to Dr Paul Willis, who would be leaving the Council at the end of February, for his hard work and contribution to the Museum during his tenure.

TC 168/25 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 25 February 2025 at 7.30pm or on the rising of the Planning and Transport Committee.

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