



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 29 April 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.30pm.**

*Before the meeting commenced, Councillors received a presentation by S. Dallimore of Wareham ARC Landscape in respect of a project they are hoping to undertake with partners and landowners within the region to promote sustainable land management.*

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

**Officers present:** N Gray, Town Clerk & RFO, S Dickens, Deputy Clerk

**TC 209/25      Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**TC 210/25      Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**TC 211/25      Public participation time**

There were three members of the public present, one of whom wished to speak.

The Wareham Town Crier thanked the Town Council for its support of the Wareham Town Criers' competition and South of England Championship and noted the upcoming iteration of the competition would mark the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the competition.

She asked members for their support judging the competition and extended an invitation to the Mayor for the 2025/26 mayoral year to assist with the proceedings of the competition.

**TC 212/25      Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 25 March 2025 be **APPROVED** and were signed by the Mayor.

**TC 213/25      Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

Cllr Budd enquired whether it was still expected for the Chartered Surveyor and Building Consultant to attend the Annual Town Council meeting. The Town Clerk confirmed they would be attending.

**TC 214/25      Reports by Dorset Councillors and representatives on outside bodies**

The report from Cllr Ezzard was considered with Cllr Holloway adding the unanimous confirmation to appoint Dr Catherine Howe as Dorset Council's incoming Chief Executive Officer and her expected start date being August. Cllr Holloway further noted the Rail Crossing would be considered as part of Dorset Council's forward plan at the upcoming Dorset Cabinet Meeting.

Cllr Robinson enquired whether any information clarifying the duration of the agreement for Wareham's level-crossing to be continue operating. The

Town Clerk noted that she had received correspondence from Vikki Slade MP, Mid Dorset and North Poole, which she would cover in the Town Clerk's update.

The report from Cllr Ezzard was NOTED.

Cllr Budd noted that during a recent meeting of the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership thanks had been conveyed to the Town Council for the grant it had received.

**TC 215/25      Payments for outstanding creditors**

Council considered the list of payments for approval.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £80,043.04 be approved.

**TC 216/25      To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to place before the Council**

The Mayor noted the success, good attendance and engagement with members of the public of the Easter egg hunt which had been held on 19 April 2025. She further noted that she had completed her sky dive in support of the Air Cadets and had raised around £1600 to date with more donations pledged.

**TC 217/25      Reports from committees and sub-groups**

The minutes from the following meetings were NOTED:

- a) Amenities Committee – 11/02/2025
- b) Personnel Committee – 21/01/2025
- c) Planning and Transport Committee – 11/03/2025 and 25/03/2025

**TC 218/25      Internal Audit Report – Visit 2**

The Clerk reported the discovery that the Town Band did not currently have a lease with the Council and this would be rectified as soon as possible.

Council noted the report of the internal audit.

**TC 219/25      Bank Reconciliation – March 2025**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation for March 2025.

**TC 220/25      To consider recommendations from Amenities Committee for Approval**

Council considered three reports containing recommendations from the Amenities Committee for approvals of expenditure for the council chamber's curtains, replacement of the artificial cricket wicket and replacement of the town hall's flag poles.

Cllr Green noted the significant favourable, underbudget cost for the replacement of the curtains. She further noted that, though slightly overbudget, the procurement of the replacement artificial cricket wicket and flag poles would be prudent at this point in time.

Cllr Green suggested that it may be timely for the Town Council to investigate repainting the Council Chamber given the chamber would soon be receiving new curtains. Cllr Robinson noted it may also be prudent for the Town Council to investigate the installing additional insulation. The Town Clerk noted that the future feasibility of these would be investigated.

Cllr Robinson suggested the current council chamber curtains may be donatable as stage curtains to community or acting groups, or schools.

**TC 221/25      Support for Men's Shed Planning Application**

The Town Clerk reported a telephone conversation which had taken place with a representative of the men's shed in which he had requested the support of the Town Council for the Men's Shed's planning application. The Clerk noted she had advised that she would request the Council's support, however, it would be dependent upon the planning application not containing any material planning matters or breaches, which would render the Council unable to support.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council support the Men's Shed planning application in principle.

**TC 222/25      Healthmatic Ltd Charity Suggestions**

Council noted the report regarding Healthmatic's Social Value deliverable to support a local charitable organisation addressing the cost-of-living to the value of £1000 as part of the Howards' Lane Public Convenience's refurbishment.

It was considered that the Wareham Family Hub delivered a considerable amount of work for families through the cost-of-living crisis and appeared less well supported than other organisations and schemes within Wareham.

It was **RESOLVED** to request Healthmatic Ltd consider supporting The Family Hub to the value of £1000 as part of its social value deliverable for the Howard's Lane Public Convenience's refurbishment project.

**TC 223/25      Dorset Council Street Lighting and Illuminated Signs Policy Review Consultation**

Council considered the report outlining the Dorset Council street lighting and illuminated signs policy review consultation. An attempt was made to respond to the questions around the table, but it was considered too cumbersome to deal with the policy's priorities question. It was agreed to score their considerations for the policy's priorities question and email to officers who would compile a response identified from individual scores.

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the response to the Dorset Council Street Lighting and Illuminated Signs Policy Review Consultation to the Deputy Clerk, who would compile this according to members agreed responses.

**TC 224/25      Town Council Action List**

The Town Council's action list was NOTED.

It was **RESOLVED** to retrospectively approve the letter which had been circulated and agreed by email to Vikki Slade MP, Mid Dorset and North Poole.

**TC 225/25      Report of the Museum Co-Ordinator**

The report of the museum co-ordinator was NOTED.

**TC 226/25      Town Clerk’s Update**

The Town Clerk noted she was liaising with the Chair of the youth football and assisting with their set up at the recreation ground. In particular, the marking up of three youth pitches and the joint purchase and grant bid to Sports England for freestanding wheeled goal posts, which, if successful, would return to Amenities.

The Town Clerk reported a letter received from Vikki Slade MP, Mid Dorset and North Poole, following the Town Council’s letter to her regarding the ground-level rail crossing.

**TC 227/25      Any other items the Mayor deems urgent**

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor led Council in wishing The Wareham Rangers Football Club every success for their intermediate cup final match.

**TC 228/25      Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council, which would be the Annual Town Council meeting, was scheduled to be held at 19:00 on 13 May 2025.

Mayor.....      Date.....