



Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 22 July 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.30pm.

Members Present: Councillors Z Gover (Mayor), D Budd, 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 Dickins, Deputy Town Clerk

TC 047/25-26 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Cleaton, Cllr Cotton and Cllr Critchley.

TC 048/25-26 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 049/25-26 Public participation time

There were four members of the public present, one of whom wished to speak in favour of the Council supporting the recommendations from Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils in respect of the withdrawal of neighbourhood plan funding, noting the importance and benefits of neighbourhood plans.

TC 050/25-26 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 24 June 2025 be **APPROVED** and were signed by the Mayor.

TC 051/25-26 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

TC 052/25-26 Reports by Dorset Councillors and representatives on outside bodies

The report from Cllr Holloway was NOTED.

Cllr S Dean noted the success of the Wareham Carnival the weekend prior, its strong attendance from the community and over 30 participating floats. The Mayor led the Council in a vote of thanks to the Wareham Carnival Committee for their efforts and noted that the Town Council would share this with the committee in writing. Cllr Hill noted it was positive to see officers from the Town Council also participating in the carnival procession.

TC 053/25-26 Payments for outstanding creditors

Council considered the list of payments for approval.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £45,864.61 be approved.

TC 054/25-26 To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to place before the Council

There were no communications placed before Council.

TC 055/25-26 Reports from committees and sub-groups

The minutes from the following meetings were NOTED:

- a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – 13/03/2025
- b) Planning and Transport Committee – 10/06/2025 – 24/06/2025
- c) Policy, Resources and Finance – 20/05/2025

TC 056/25-26 Neighbourhood Plan Funding

Councillors considered the report outlining the recommendations from the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils in respect of the withdrawal of neighbourhood plan funding.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendations in the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Neighbourhood Plans Campaign Pack and to use the provided templates.

TC 057/25-26 Council Chamber Clock

Councillors considered the report and email vote for the repair of the Council Chamber Clock because of the equality of votes received via email.

The balance of preserving the Council Chamber Clock as a part of Wareham's heritage, the potential monetary value of the clock and the need to ensure value for money were all carefully considered. The Town Clerk noted the difficulty in securing availability of clock repairers within the Dorset area.

It was **RESOLVED** to not accept the quote for repair and for Cllr Davey to pass the Clock to a trusted individual, who may be able to repair the clock. Cllr Davey would report back to Council on progress.

TC 058/25-26 Town Council Draft Strategic Plan 2025-2029

The Town Clerk introduced the Town Council Draft Strategic Plan 2025-2029 noting its relevance for long-term priority setting and that it had been more gradually drafted to allow for the development of the Town Museum and to allow the newly elected administration to settle into post.

Cllr Holloway enquired whether the Town Council Strategic Plan would be passed down to the committees of the Council and whether the Strategic Plan would be subject to annual review and monitoring. The Town Clerk noted that the Strategic Plan was an institution-wide document owned by the Town Council as a corporate body rather than committees and that it would be reviewed as to progress six-monthly.

Members noted minor typographical, cartographical and stylistic inclusions to enhance the Town Council Draft Strategic Plan 2025-2029.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council adopt the Town Council Draft Strategic Plan 2025-2029 subject to minor typographical, cartographical and stylistic amendments.

TC 059/25-26 Wareham Joint Burial Committee

Councillors considered the report and recommendations from the internal auditor in respect to the Wareham Joint Burial Committee with the Town Clerk noting that guidance had been attained for how the Town Council could proceed with respect to ongoing management of the cemeteries. The Clerk further noted that a formal

resolution was required from Council as to whether it wished to continue the Joint Burial Committee arrangement or withdraw as per the Internal Auditor's notes.

Cllr Budd requested a recorded vote in line with standing order 3, S.

For: Cllr Gover, Cllr Budd, Cllr Dallimore, Cllr Davey, Cllr B Dean, Cllr S Dean, Cllr Green, Cllr Hill, Cllr Holloway, Cllr Kirk, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Tighe and Cllr Wheatley.

Against: None

Abstentions: None

It was **RESOLVED** that Wareham Town Council accept the recommendations from the Internal Auditor and the Town Clerk contact the Arne and Wareham St Martin Parish Clerks initially to advise of Wareham Town Council's withdrawal from, and dissolution of, the Wareham Joint Burial Committee. A meeting would then be held with Clerk's and Chairs of the respective Councils to consider the future management arrangements of the cemeteries.

TC 060/25-26 Town Council Action List

Cllr Green updated Council in respect to the Hauses Field Facilities item. It was noted that an initial site visit had taken place following the 11 June 2025 Amenities Committee and subsequent meetings with resident stakeholders had also taken place, with a report returning to the next Amenities Committee meeting on 12 August 2025.

Cllr Holloway enquired regarding the update in respect to the Youth Council. The Town Clerk noted that following a presentation to a group of students at Purbeck School, a link to a teacher eager to support the initiative had been established and liaison between the teacher and Deputy Town Clerk would be ongoing.

The Town Council action list was noted.

TC 061/25-26 Report of Museum Co-ordinator

The Mayor noted the report's indication of further positive developments in the near future and beneficial activities recently carried out.

Cllr Robinson noted it was positive to see connections being made between the museum and schools.

The museum co-ordinator's report was noted.

TC 062/25-26 Town Clerk's Update

The Town Clerk noted the successful installations of the replacement Council Chamber curtains, additional Council Chamber seating and replacement flag poles for the Town Hall. The Howards Lane toilet renovation project had progressed with Healthmatic soon to be submitting the proposed design to the planning authority.

The Clerk noted the Town Council's frustration at slow progress of the Old Middle School Playing Field's asset transfer to Dorset Council at a meeting she had recently attended. Following this the Town Council had subsequently been

contacted by a new Dorset Council officer with a view to progressing the asset transfer.

The Clerk advised that Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils would be approaching all Town and Parish Councils in due course to gain an understanding of their positions regarding the adoption of services which may be devolved from Dorset Council. The Clerk noted that this would be brought to Council for its consideration once any viable opportunities or offers were made.

TC 063/25-26 Any other items the Mayor deems urgent

The Mayor reminded Councillors that the 2 North Street consultation was still ongoing and encouraged them to respond themselves as well as to share it within their communities.

TC 064/25-26 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held at on Tuesday 26 August 2025 at 19:30.

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