



Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 26 August 2025 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.00pm.

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

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

TC 065/25-26 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Holloway and Cllr Cleaton.

TC 066/25-26 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 067/25-26 Public participation time

There were five members of the public present, two of whom spoke in relation to item 12, the Dorset Local Plan. They noted concerns regarding the scale of development in the Wareham area and the importance of collaboration with neighbouring Parish Councils in their responses.

TC 068/25-26 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 22 July 2025 be **APPROVED** and were signed by the Mayor.

TC 069/25-26 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Cllr Budd asked for after an update in respect to the Joint Burial Committee item from the previous meeting. The Town Clerk noted that she was awaiting confirmation of a meeting date with the respective Parish Clerks and Chairs of the Councils concerned which was likely to take place in September 2025.

TC 070/25-26 Reports by Dorset Councillors and representatives on outside bodies

Cllr Dean noted that this year was the 20th Anniversary of Wareham's status as a Fairtrade Town, with an event in September being hosted in the parish hall.

Cllr Ezzard noted the passing of former Mid-Dorset and North Poole MP, Dame Annette Brooke, on 20 August 2025. Funeral arrangements would be shared once known.

The report from Cllr Ezzard was NOTED.

Cllr Critchley and Cllr Green joined the meeting.

TC 071/25-26 Payments for outstanding creditors

Council considered the list of payments for approval.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £57,076.37 be approved.

TC 072/25-26 To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to place before the Council

There were no communications placed before Council.

TC 073/25-26 Reports from committees and sub-groups

The minutes from the following meetings were NOTED:

- a) Amenities Committee – 10/06/2025
- b) Personnel Committee – 08/04/2025
- c) Planning and Transport Committee – 08/07/2025

TC 074/25-26 Q1 Budget Monitoring

Councillors noted the Q1 budget position for the 2025/26 financial year.

TC 075/25-26 July Bank Reconciliation

Councillors reviewed the bank reconciliation for July 2025.

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

TC 076/25-26 Dorset Local Plan Consultation

Councillors noted the Dorset Local Plan consultation papers and the Clerk requested that all Councillors familiarised themselves with the consultation documents to enable a comprehensive discussion to take place at the next meeting in order that a coherent response can be made.

Cllr Critchley noted that the Neighbourhood Plan contained policies which some of the proposed development would contravene and that a response to the Dorset Local Plan consultation would be discussed at the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group's next meeting on 11 September 2025, encouraging councillors to attend.

The Dorset Local Plan consultation was noted.

TC 077/25-26 PWLB Loan Application for Town Museum

Councillors considered at length the report in respect to the public consultation for the purchase of 2 North Street for the Town Museum and forecast of the potential financial implications of a Public Works Loan. Substantive consideration was made to the length of the borrowing term, value of the project to the Town and securing value for money for taxpayers in adopting the most suitable borrowing terms.

The Mayor noted the prudence of holding a recorded vote to ensure transparency for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and requested this in line with standing order 3(s).

It was **RESOLVED** to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a Public Works Loan Board loan of £750,000 over the borrowing term of 20 years for the purchase of 2 North Street for the Town Museum and supporting museum infrastructure. The annual loan repayments will come to around £80,085.36, subject to interest rates at the time.

For: Cllr D Budd, Cllr M Cotton, Cllr K Critchley, Cllr A Dallimore, Cllr I Davey, Cllr B Dean, Cllr S Dean, Cllr Z Gover, Cllr V Green, Cllr M Hill, Cllr L Kirk, Cllr D Robinson, Cllr M Tighe and Cllr S Wheatley.

Against: None

Abstentions: None

TC 078/25-26 Town Council Action List

The Town Council action list was noted.

TC 079/25-26 Report of Museum Co-ordinator

Cllr Kirk noted the success and substantial engagement of the object handling event which had taken place after submission of the report.

The Town Clerk noted the contributions of the Museum Co-ordinator's partner who, as a teacher and archaeologist, had kindly volunteered his time to support the object handling event. The Mayor led Council in a vote of thanks to the Museum Mo-Ordinator's partner for the support he provided during the event.

The Museum Co-ordinator's report was noted.

TC 080/25-26 Town Clerk's Update

The Town Clerk thanked Councillors for their support, contributions and consideration in respect to item 13, PWLB Loan Application for Town Museum, noting the weight of the decision that it had on some Councillors, along with their faith in Council Officers to deliver such a prestigious and major project.

The Town Clerk noted that the Dorset Local Transport Plan consultation was running synchronously with the Dorset Local Plan consultation, with both consultations closing on 13 October 2025. The Dorset Local Transport Plan consultation will be brought to the Planning and Transport Committee for its consideration.

Cllr Budd asked whether the Dorset Local Transport Plan was being created jointly with BCP Council. The Town Clerk confirmed this was the case.

TC 081/25-26 Any other items the Mayor deems urgent

There were no other items deemed urgent.

TC 082/25-26 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 23 September 2025 at 19:30.

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