



Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 27 January 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.30pm.

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

Officers present: S Dickins, Deputy Town Clerk, K Babbs, Administration Officer

TC 154/25-26 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs B Dean, M Hill and S Wheatley.

TC 155/25-26 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 156/25-26 Public participation time

There were three members of the public present, none of whom wished to speak.

TC 157/25-26 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 16 December 2025 be **APPROVED** and were signed by the Mayor.

TC 158/25-26 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

TC 159/25-26 Reports by Dorset Councillors and representatives on outside bodies

The report from Cllr Holloway was NOTED.

Cllr S Dean noted that Wareham Carnival Committee held its Awards Evening on 17 January 2026 where £7500 in donations to local youth groups within Wareham had been distributed. Cllr Critchley noted his attendance at an assembly at Wareham St Mary CE VE Primary School who were thrilled to have received a £500 donation.

The Mayor noted her thanks to the Wareham Carnival Committee for the wonderful work it does for the town.

Cllr Robinson noted that Wareham Town Band would be holding its Annual General Meeting on 29 January 2026. The Mayor requested that her thanks be passed to the band for its contribution to the Remembrance Parade and wished the band luck for its coffee morning on 31 January 2026.

TC 160/25-26 Payments for outstanding creditors

Council considered the list of payments for approval.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £38,576.76 be approved.

TC 161/25-26 To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to place before the Council

There were no communications placed before Council.

TC 162/25-26 Reports from committees and sub-groups

The minutes from the following meetings were NOTED:

- a) Amenities Committee – 14/10/2025
- b) Personnel Committee – 14/10/2025
- c) Planning and Transport Committee – 25/11/2025 & 16/12/2025
- d) Policy, Resources and Finance – 11/11/2025

TC 163/25-26 Budget and Precept setting 2026/27 Financial Year

Councillors considered the recommendation from the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee and a considered discussion regarding the budget and precept setting for the 2026/27 financial year ensued.

Cllr Holloway proposed an amendment of the recommendation from the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee to adopt a deficit budget, using £50,000 of the Town Council's general fund. Cllr Budd seconded the motion.

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

For: Cllr D Budd, Cllr D Cleaton, Cllr V Green, Cllr R Holloway, Cllr D Robinson and Cllr M Tighe.

Against: Cllr M Cotton, Cllr A Dallimore, Cllr I Davey, Cllr S Dean, Cllr Z Gover and Cllr L Kirk.

Abstentions: Cllr K Critchley.

Casting Vote: In the equality of votes, Cllr Z Gover held the casting vote and voted against the motion.

The motion was not passed.

Cllr S Dean proposed that Council accept the recommendation of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee contained within Appendix A. Cllr Cotton seconded the motion.

For: Cllr M Cotton, Cllr A Dallimore, Cllr I Davey, Cllr S Dean, Cllr Z Gover and Cllr L Kirk.

Against: Cllr D Budd, Cllr D Cleaton, Cllr V Green, Cllr R Holloway, Cllr D Robinson and Cllr M Tighe.

Abstentions: Cllr K Critchley.

Casting Vote: In the equality of votes, Cllr Z Gover held the casting vote and voted for the motion.

It was **RESOLVED** to APPROVE the 2026/27 balancing budget of £690,430.00.

It was **RESOLVED** to APPROVE an increase to the precept of 21.18% to £690,430.00.

Councillors noted the increase equated to £52.43 per annum on a Band D property, or £1 per week, or 14p per day, taking a Band D property from £247.55 to £299.98.

TC 164/25-26 Town Council Action List

The Town Council Action List was NOTED.

TC 165/25-26 Report of the Museum Co-Ordinator

The Mayor drew Councillors' attention to a Charity Vinyl Night being hosted by the Town Museum on Friday 27 February 2026 to raise funds for the new museum project.

The report of the Museum Co-Ordinator was NOTED.

TC 166/25-26 Town Clerk's Update

The Town Clerk's Update was NOTED.

TC 167/25-26 Any other items the Mayor deems urgent

There were no other items deemed urgent.

TC 168/25-26 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 24 February 2026 at 7:30 pm.

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