



## Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 24 March 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, M Cotton, A Dallimore, I Davey, 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 188/25-26 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr D Cleaton and Cllr B Dean.

### **TC 189/25-26 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **TC 190/25-26 Public participation time**

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

### **TC 191/25-26 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting**

TC 175/25-26 Clarification of the update regarding the Town Band's energy provider.

The Council noted typographical corrections in elements of the minutes to be corrected.

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 24 March 2026 be **APPROVED** and would be signed by the Mayor following the meeting.

### **TC 192/25-26 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

The Town Clerk noted she was arranging dates for members to visit 2 North Street.

### **TC 193/25-26 Reports by Dorset Councillors and representatives on outside bodies**

Council received the report from Cllr B Dean on the Bestwall Wareham Allotment Holders Association noting that his attendance at its Annual General Meeting and that he would remain as the representative to the Bestwall Wareham Allotment Holders Association but would no longer hold a personal allotment.

Cllr S Dean noted Wareham Carnival was preparing a poppy net to be sited front of St Martin's-on-The-Walls Church during Remembrance week and the community engaging with the project by knitting poppies to support.

Cllr Holloway noted the date of the Dorset Council Cabinet meeting was scheduled for April rather than March. Cllr Holloway also noted the passing of Cllr Dave Bolwell, former Dorset Council and Bridport Town Councillor, and that tributes would be made at Dorset Council's next Full Council meeting.

Cllr Critchley noted the update regarding the Trigon landfill and that the offending smell has been caused by a power failure at the site. Remedial work has been undertaken to resolve the issue. Dorset Council, the Environment Agency and

Environmental Health teams had been made aware and have been monitoring the situation.

The report from Cllr Holloway was NOTED.

**TC 194/25-26    Payments for outstanding creditors**

Council considered the list of payments for approval.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £43,381.09 be approved.

**TC 195/25-26    To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to place before the Council**

There were no communications placed before Council.

**TC 196/25-26    Reports from committees and sub-groups**

The minutes from the following meetings were NOTED:

- a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – 12/02/2026
- b) Planning and Transport Committee – 10/02/2026 & 24/02/2026
- c) Policy, Resources and Finance – 13/01/2026

**TC 197/25-26    Internal Audit Report**

Council noted the prudence of sharing the comments from the internal auditor with Wareham St. Martin and Arne Parish Councils regarding the implications of the Joint Burial Board for Wareham Town Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that Council note the second interim internal audit report.

**TC 198/25-26    Review of Howards Lane Car Park Permit Charges**

Council considered the report regarding the review of the Howards Lane Car Park Permit Charges.

It was **RESOLVED** that car park permits for the Howards Lane Car Park would remain unchanged for the 2026/27 financial year.

**TC 199/25-26    Statement of Reasonable Expectations**

Council considered the Dorset Council Statement of Reasonable Expectations.

It was **RESOLVED** that Council support the Dorset Council Statement of Reasonable Expectations.

**TC 200/25-26    Removal of items from Asset Register**

Council considered the items identified for removal from the Asset Register and their respective reasons for removal.

It was **RESOLVED** that removal of the recommended items from the asset register be approved.

**TC 201/25-26 Annual Risk Management Strategy Scheme**

Councillors considered the Annual Risk Management Strategy Scheme recommended by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Annual Risk Management Strategy Scheme be approved.

**TC 202/25-26 Public Toilet Cleaning Contract**

Council considered the recommendation from the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee, following their consideration of submitted quotes, regarding the appointment of a company to provide public toilet cleaning services.

It was **RESOLVED** that Clean Deep Services Ltd be appointed for a four-year term in the sum of £115,143.08 (excluding VAT) for the contract's total value.

**TC 203/25-26 Asset Transfer Heads of Terms of Lease**

Council considered the received Heads of Terms of Lease for the former middle school playing field.

The Town Clerk noted a meeting had been held with Dorset Council immediately following the previous full Council meeting, whereby a period of 50 years, as opposed to 30 years, had been secured.

Council thanked Dorset Council ward councillors for their assistance with Dorset Council colleagues regarding the lease and its extension.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Heads of Terms of Lease be approved.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to engage a solicitor and complete the process for the asset transfer.

**TC 204/25-26 Town Council Action List**

Council enquired whether there had been progression with Healthmatic in relation to the Howards Lane Public Conveniences Project. The Town Clerk noted that she could not share an update during the meeting, but the matter would be brought to the next Amenities Committee.

The Town Council Action List was NOTED.

**TC 205/25-26 Report of the Museum Co-ordinator**

Council considered the Museum Co-ordinator's report.

Council noted its pleasure at the generous donations towards the museum project of £50,000 and £1,000 respectively, coming both from a member of the T.E. Lawrence Society from Oxford and a local resident.

The Museum Co-ordinator's report was NOTED.

**TC 206/25-26 Town Clerk’s Update**

The Town Clerk noted she was preparing for the Town Council’s external audit. Work was also being undertaken for an expression of interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund which was expected to be submitted soon.

The Town Clerk noted legislative changes as of 1 April 2026 regarding cyber security and human resources which were being prepared for. The Town Clerk also noted that she had received correspondence from Dorset Council regarding the Community Governance Review which would be brought to Council for consideration.

The Town Clerk noted recent social media comments and phone calls to the office regarding developments to 2 North Street and the negative impact this had on staff reading such posts and receiving phone calls from members of the public. The Town Clerk noted the benefit of members proactively engaging with residents regarding the 2 North Street developments to provide members of the public with credible information and to correct misassumptions and misinformation, all of which could be located on the Council website and the meeting minutes and reports which had been discussed at many meetings.

The Town Clerk’s update was NOTED.

**TC 207/25-26 Any other items the Mayor deems urgent**

There were no other items deemed urgent.

**TC 208/25-26 Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 28 April 2026 at 7:30pm.

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