



Minutes of a meeting of the Annual Town Council held on 12 May 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.00pm.

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

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

TC 001/26-27 Election of the Town Mayor/Chair for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year

Cllr Critchley was proposed by Cllr Budd and seconded by Cllr Green. Cllr Critchley accepted the proposal.

Cllr Cotton was proposed by Cllr B Dean and seconded by Cllr Wheatley. Cllr Cotton accepted the proposal.

Cllr Davey joined the meeting at 7:04pm.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Critchley be elected as Town Mayor / Chair for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Following the election of Town Mayor, Cllr Critchley assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

TC 002/26-27 Election of the Deputy Town Mayor/Chair for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year

Cllr S Dean was proposed by Cllr Cotton and seconded by Cllr Gover. Cllr S Dean accepted the proposal.

Cllr Holloway was proposed by Cllr Budd and seconded by Cllr Kirk. Cllr Holloway accepted the proposal.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Holloway be elected as Deputy Town Mayor / Chair for the 2026/27 municipal year.

TC 003/26-27 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr M Hill and Cllr M Tighe.

TC 004/26-27 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 005/26-27 Public Participation Time

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

TC 006/26-27 Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

TC 224/25-26: Correction of date of Howards Lane public toilet closure to "6 May 2026".

TC 226/25-26: Correction of the time of the next meeting to "7:00pm".

It was **RESOLVED** that, subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 28 April 2026 be **APPROVED** and would be signed by the Mayor following the meeting.

TC 007/26-27 Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

TC 008/26-27 Payments for outstanding creditors

Council considered the list of payments for approval.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £5,288.26 be approved.

TC 009/26-27 Reports from committees and sub-groups

The minutes from the following meetings were NOTED:

- a) Planning and Transport Committee – 14/04/2026.

TC 010/26-27 Adoption of Standing Orders

Councillors considered and reviewed the NALC Standing Orders and submitted proposals for amendment for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Councillors held a considered discussion regarding the two additional proposed clauses for adoption in Standing Orders which had been proposed by Cllr Budd.

Councillors noted the desired effect of proposed clause B had been met by the rescheduling of the SLCC Annual Conference to avoid coinciding with budget and precept setting and therefore the proposed clause B did not need to be included within Standing Orders.

It was **RESOLVED** that the NALC Standing Orders, subject to the inclusion of the clause 4. d xi, *“Any member shall be entitled to attend any meeting of a committee or sub-committee of which they are not a member but shall not vote”*. be adopted for the 2026/27 municipal year.

TC 011/26-27 Adoption of Financial Regulations

Councillors reviewed and considered the NALC Financial Regulations for the 2026/27 municipal year.

It was **RESOLVED** that the NALC Financial Regulations be adopted for the 2026/27 municipal year.

TC 012/26-27 Review of Standing Documents set out in Standing Orders

Councillors reviewed and considered the below-listed policies and procedures.

- i. Asset Register Review
- ii. Council and Staff Subscriptions
- iii. Direct Debits
- iv. Publication Scheme

Councillors noted two typographical corrections within the Asset Register. Councillors enquired whether the fifteen three-tier pyramid stands had been disposed of or whether these represented the recently bought planters replacing the previous planter stock. The Town Clerk noted that the type and quantity of these planters would be clarified by officers.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Asset Register Review, subject to the clarification regarding the planter stock, be approved.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council and Staff Subscriptions, Direct Debits and Publication Scheme be approved.

It was **RESOLVED** that all remaining relevant policies, land and assets, insurances, procedures and practices be review at future Council meetings or by its delegated committees.

TC 013/26-27 Calendar of Meetings

The Schedule of Meetings for the 2026/27 municipal year was NOTED.

TC 014/26-27 Appointment of Committees and Other Bodies

Councillors considered the appointment of members to serve on Council's Committees and Steering Groups for the 2026/27 municipal year.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following members be appointed to the committees and steering groups as listed below:

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee: Cllr D Budd, Cllr K Critchley, Cllr B Dean, Cllr S Dean, Cllr Z Gover, Cllr V Green, Cllr R Holloway, Cllr L Kirk, M Tighe and Cllr S Wheatley.

Amenities Committee: Cllr M Cotton, Cllr K Critchley, Cllr S Dean, Cllr V Green, Cllr M Hill, Cllr L Kirk, Cllr D Robinson and Cllr S Wheatley.

Planning and Transport Committee: Cllr B Dean, Cllr M Cotton, Cllr D Cleaton, Cllr A Dallimore, Cllr B Dean, Cllr M Hill, Cllr D Robinson and Cllr M Tighe.

Personnel Committee: Cllr K Critchley, Cllr I Davey, Cllr B Dean, Cllr Z Gover, Cllr V Green and Cllr L Kirk.

Buildings Project Steering Group: Cllr D Budd, Cllr K Critchley, Cllr B Dean, Cllr V Green, Cllr M Tighe and Cllr S Wheatley.

Wareham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: All Councillors were members.

TC 015/26-27 Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillors considered its member representation for outside bodies for the 2026/27 municipal year.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following members be appointed to serve as Council representatives for the following outside bodies for the 2026/27 municipal year.

2185 (Wareham) Air Cadets Squadron – Cllr M Cotton.

Bestwall Allotment Association – Cllr B Dean.

Carey Hut Charitable Trust – Cllr S Dean.

Christmas Lights Committee – Cllr M Cotton.

DAPTC Larger Parishes & Towns – Cllr B Dean and Cllr D Robinson.

DAPTC Purbeck Area – Cllr I Davey.

Dementia Friendly Purbeck – Cllr M Hill.

Friends of Wareham Hospital – Cllr M Cotton.

Harbin & Pitts Charity – Cllr Z Gover.

Litter Free Purbeck – Cllr M Tighe.

Northmoor Allotment Association – Cllr M Cotton.

Purbeck Citizens Advice – Cllr S Wheatley.

Purbeck Community Rail Partnership – Cllr D Budd.

Purbeck Heritage Network (Forum) – Cllr B Dean.

Purbeck Shuttle 200 – Cllr V Green.

Purbeck Transport Action Group – Cllr B Dean.

Purbeck Youth & Community Foundation – Cllr R Holloway and Cllr M Tighe.

Streche Almshouses – Cllr S Wheatley.

Swanage & Wareham Rugby Club – Cllr M Cotton.

Twinning Association – Cllr D Cleaton and Cllr S Dean.

Wareham Burial Joint Committee – Cllr D Cleaton, Cllr K Critchley, Cllr S Dean, Cllr Z Gover and Cllr L Kirk.

Wareham Carnival Committee – Cllr B Dean and Cllr S Dean.

Wareham Community Growers – Cllr B Dean.

Wareham Disabled Club – Cllr D Robinson.

Wareham Relief in Need and Sickness – Cllr K Critchley and Cllr Z Gover.

Wareham Town Band – Cllr D Robinson.

Wareham Zone Fairtrade Foundation – Cllr S Dean.

TC 016/26-27 Review of Terms of Reference for Committees

Councillors reviewed and considered the Terms of Reference for the following Committees.

- Policy, Resources and Finance Committee

- Amenities Committee
- Planning and Transport Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillors noted the numbers of members on each committee was not correct and required updating.

It was **RESOLVED** that the terms of reference for the committees listed above be approved, subject to the amendment of the Policy Resources and Finance Committee’s constitution reflecting “plus eight members” and the Amenities Committee’s constitution reflecting “plus six members”.

TC 017/26-27 To Re-Appoint the Internal Auditor for the 2026/27 Municipal Year

Councillors considered the appointment of the internal auditor for the 2026/27 municipal Year and the independence, qualifications and effectiveness of the current internal auditor.

It was **RESOLVED** that Darkin Miller Ltd be appointed as the internal auditor 2026/27 municipal year.

TC 018/26-27 To Re-Affirm the Civility and Respect Pledge

Councillors considered the report in regarding Council’s reaffirmation of the Civility and Respect Pledge.

It was **RESOLVED** that Wareham Town Council reaffirm its commitment to the Civility and Respect Pledge.

TC 019/26-27 Any other items the Mayor deems urgent

The Town Clerk noted the Town Council had received confirmation that its Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund had been successful and the Town Council had been invited to submit a full development bid, to be submitted in August 2026 with an expected outcome in December 2026. Councillors noted the importance and benefit of communicating this positive news with the community.

TC 020/26-27 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 at 7:30pm.

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