



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held via Zoom on Tuesday 3 November 2020 at 7.00pm.**

**Members Present:** Councillors L Kirk (Mayor), K Green (Deputy Mayor), D Budd, D Cleaton, K Critchley, B Dean, B Ezzard, H Goodinge, Z Gover, V Green, M Humphries, S Kemp, M Russell, R Schofield, C Turner

**Officers present:** V Ricketts, Town Clerk; T Bailey, Committee Clerk

**263. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Dorset Councillor R Holloway due to personal commitments.

**Resolved** that the apology for absence be accepted.

**264. Declarations of interest**

Councillor B Ezzard wished to declare an interest in Agenda item 10 as she was a trustee of the Purbeck Youth Community Foundation.

**265. Public participation time**

There were 2 members of the public present.

**266. Purbeck Youth and Community Foundation Presentation**

Mrs Joyce Spiller gave an informative presentation on the work of the Purbeck Youth and Community Foundation and how it is funded. A request was made for regular funding.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Spiller for her presentation and applauded the work of the foundation.

**267. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Town Council held on 22 September 2020 and the Extraordinary meeting on 14 October 2020 were presented by the Mayor.

**Resolved that** the minutes of 22 September 2020 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman subject to the removal of an onerous 'h' in Minute 183.

**Resolved that** the minutes of 14 October be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman subject to an amendment to show that Councillor H Goodinge was present at the meeting.

**268. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings of 22 September and 14 October 2020.**

Minute 179 & 180: There was a query regarding the distribution of the social media policy and laptop policy and why it had not been reissued for signature. The Town Clerk confirmed that she had been waiting for confirmation of the minutes before further distribution.

Minute 188: A Councillor enquired if there had been any action regarding a noise diary or noise meter. It was agreed that this should be referred to the Planning and Transport Committee for recommendation to Council.

The Mayor asked the Town Clerk to follow up with James Offer with regard to the outcome of any speed monitoring on Bere Road.

**269. Reports by Dorset Councillors and representatives on outside bodies**

Councillor B Ezzard presented her report and passed on Councillor Holloway's apologies for not being able to attend due to pressure of work but confirmed that he had contributed to the work that had gone into the report.

Councillor B Ezzard provided a number of updates, including the Tourist Information Centre and the volunteer group that had been set up under the umbrella of Dorset Community Action, to assist with the Covid Response.

Thanks was passed to Councillor Schofield for large amount of work he had done on producing a template to assist with the response to the government white paper on 'Planning for the Future'.

**270. Financial statements and payments**

The Town Clerk presented a list of payments for approval.

**Resolved** that payments be made in the sum of £ 12582.05 (£11583.68 BACS and £ 998.37 Direct Debits), be approved.

**271. To receive such communications as the Town Mayor may wish to place before the Council**

The Mayor had no communications that she wished to put forward.

**272. Committee reports and Sub-group reports**

(i) Amenities Committee

Councillor D Budd presented the unconfirmed minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 21 October 2020.

(ii) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor K Critchley presented the confirmed minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting held on 10 September 2020. The minutes of 8 October were not available.

(iii) Personnel Committee

Councillor D Budd presented the unconfirmed minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 20 October 2020.

(iv) Planning and Transport Committee

Councillor K Green presented the confirmed minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee meeting held on 16 September 2020, 7 October 2020 and the unconfirmed minutes of 28 October 2020.

(v) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee

Councillor K Critchley presented the confirmed minutes of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee meeting held on 13 October 2020 and the unconfirmed minutes of 27 October 2020.

**Resolved** that the minutes be noted as received.

**273. Wareham Tower Chimes**

An approach had been made to the Town Council to again endorse an online Art Auction as it had earlier in the year. There were also plans for a virtual Christmas Market.

**Resolved** that the Council support the plans for an online Art Auction as outlined and also the plans for a virtual Christmas Market.

**274. Revised Calendar of Meetings 2021**

Councillor D Budd presented his report to support the revised calendar of meetings for 2021.

It was noted that all invitations to meetings would be sent as outlook invitations so that they are populated in Councillor's calendars.

**Resolved** to accept the calendar of meetings for 2021.

**275. Request from the Northmoor Allotment Holders Association regarding a change to the Council's nominated representative.**

A request had been received from Northmoor Allotment Holders Association to appoint Councillor Cotton as the Council's representative, instead of Councillor K Green.

A Councillor enquired as to whether Standing Orders allowed for such a change mid-term and the Town Clerk confirmed that this was at the discretion of the Town Council.

Councillor K Green stated that he was happy to resign from this position and Councillor M Cotton confirmed that she was happy to take on the role.

**Resolved** to agree to the request by the Northmoor Allotment Holders Association.

## 276. Volunteer of the Year Award

The Council considered whether the Council wished to proceed with a Volunteer of the Year Award for 2020.

It was suggested that this could be held in 2021 at the Annual Town Meeting.

A Councillor raised that it would be good to dovetail into any scheme that Dorset Council may be running for the Purbecks in the same way that Purbeck District Council used to.

The consensus was one of support for the Award Scheme and the proposal to defer it until 2021 was supported.

**Resolved** to bring the item to the next meeting of full Council so that a working party may be formed at this time.

## 277. Code of Conduct

To agree to adopt the Code of Conduct attached, in line with Dorset Council.

**Resolved** that the proposed Code of Conduct be adopted.

## 278. Motions to Council

Councillors were asked to consider the following motions received from Councillor Ezzard in accordance with the Council's adopted Standing Orders:

### 1) Fireworks

"I have been approached by several residents regarding Fireworks and the effect on animals of inappropriate/indiscriminate use. Especially this year when large, organised bonfires will not take place; therefore small garden gatherings etc will cause animals, especially dogs, a lot of anxiety and stress and owners too.

Please may I present to the Council for consideration the following motion, taken from the attached RSPCA information.

The Council resolves to:

- a) Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people.
- b) to encourage local suppliers, ie retailers of fireworks to stock "quieter" fireworks for public display and WTC issue a flyer for distribution.
- c) To request all public firework displays within the Town Council boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions.
- d) Write to the Dorset Council/UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level"

**The motion was not carried.**

## **2) Zoom**

"In these difficult times of Virtual Meetings, which I know will continue for a long time to come, it has come to my notice that if any group, need to have separate meetings from the authorised TC Committee's etc. to discuss topics, such as Climate Change and "Friends of" this involves the "Group" in having to set up their own Zoom mtgs which are limited to 40 mins. unless incurring charges for these groups. I would like to suggest that the Town Council support these "meetings", using a blanket registration by the Town Council with Zoom. I believe an arrangement of up to 10 authorised persons can achieve this under the umbrella of the Council.

May I present the following Motion to Council for consideration:

"The Wareham Town Council resolves to authorise Zoom Meetings to be organised, with vetting, of topics pertaining to and for the common good of the local community of Wareham, to further its aims and objectives; The authority for the Zoom Meetings would be authorised and vetted by the Wareham Town Clerk."

The Town Clerk explained the current position on zoom and the costs. It was noted that Microsoft Teams could be used to set up meetings that would have no time limit and would be completely free. As all Councillors had been provided with Microsoft 365 accounts, they could set up their own meetings and invite members of the public, if required.

The Town Clerk was thanked for researching this item.

**The motion was withdrawn by Councillor B Ezzard.**

### **279. Any other items the Mayor deems urgent**

The Mayor reminded Councillors that Remembrance Sunday celebrations would be cancelled in light of the lockdown. The Mayor would, however, lay a wreath on behalf of the Town Council.

### **280. Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held at 7.00pm on 15 December 2020.

### **281. Confidential item**

**Resolved:** *That under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the nature of the business to be transacted.*

### **282. Staff Review**

Members considered a confidential staff review report which had been produced by an appointed consultant to an agreed Terms of Reference. Members noted that the report

had been considered by Personnel Committee and Policy, Resources and Finance Committee, and that a number of recommendations from those Committees had been appended to the report.

Members wished to record their thanks to the consultant for a well evidenced and informative report.

**Resolved** that the recommendations of Personnel Committee and Policy, Resources and Finance Committee, as appended to the confidential staff review report, be approved and implemented.

Mayor.....

Date.....

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