



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 28 September 2021 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.00pm.**

**Members Present:** Councillors K Green (Mayor), M Russell (Deputy Mayor), D Budd, D Cleaton, M Cotton, K Critchley, B Dean, H Goodinge, V Green, M Humphries, L Kirk, C Turner

**Officers present:** V Ricketts, Town Clerk; K Noble, Deputy Town Clerk

**163. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors R Schofield, S Kemp, Z Gover and B Ezzard who was expected to arrive late.

**164. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**165. Public participation time**

There were 2 members of the public present.

A member of the public spoke in favour of the Community and Visitor Hub as it would be a good customer service point for the Council and an asset to the town by providing tourist information.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Town Council held on 17 August 2021 were presented by the Mayor.

**Resolved that** the minutes be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

**167. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting**

Item 94 – A query was raised if the meetings had been added to the Members calendars. The Town Clerk confirmed calendars would be updated shortly.

Item 96 – A query was raised regarding the volunteer of the year award. It was confirmed the Mayors PA would arrange a meeting.

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

The written report of Dorset Councillors Ezzard and Holloway was noted.

Councillor Humphries gave a short verbal report from a meeting of the Wareham District Development Trust. The Wareham Bears have been purchased by Wimborne Model Village.

Councillor Turner gave an overview of various meetings she had attended including the Dementia Friendly Group and Wareham Community Growers Awards. The Friends of Wareham Hospital AGM was held on 27 September and a presentation was given on the current health services and the future services including the Hub.

Councillor Turner gave a short update on upcoming events - The Friends of MS Purbeck have started an exercise class on Wednesday mornings in the Parish Hall and a social evening has been scheduled. The Rotary are starting their fundraising events. The Friday Lunch at the Parish Hall is commencing on 22 October and the Church are holding a lunch on 31 October.

Councillor Budd had attended a meeting of the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership Network.

A query was raised regarding the procedure for reports and it was confirmed that reports need to be submitted in writing prior to the agenda being circulated.

**169. Payments for outstanding creditors**

The Town Clerk presented a list of payments for approval.

**Resolved** that payments in the sum of £23,420.08 (£19,867.12 BACS and £3,552.96 Direct Debits) be approved.

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

The Mayor informed Members that he had attended the Beating of the Retreat at Lulworth Camp, the Scouts Awards, Wareham Growers Awards and The Friends of Wareham Hospital AGM.

**171. Reports from committees and sub-groups**

The following draft minutes of the Council's Committees were present by the Committee Chairmen:

- a) Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – 12 August 2021
- b) Planning and Transport Committee – 25 August 2021 (confirmed) and 15 September 2021
- c) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 7 September 2021

The resolution on item 118 was to recommend that the business case is not supported, however, further information has come to light since that meeting and the Town Clerk will report further when the Visitor Hub item is considered.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Council's Committees be received.

At this juncture it was agreed that agenda item 10 could be deferred until later in the meeting when it was hoped Councillor Ezzard would have joined the meeting.

**172. AGAR External Auditor Report**

The Town Clerk was delighted to present the unqualified audited Annual Governance & Accountability Return. Councillors asked for their thanks to the Town Clerk and Finance Officer be recorded.

**173. Annual Risk Management Report**

Members received the annual risk management report and were satisfied that all the risks had been identified and agreed with the mitigating responses.

**Resolved** that the annual risk management report be approved.

## 174. Resolutions Report

Members considered the resolutions report providing updates of the resolutions to date. The Town Clerk gave the following verbal updates;

Council 20 July, item 35 – This related to Carey Road not Bere Road.

Dorset Council confirmed that the criteria is not met for a 30 mph speed limit to be implemented. The Wareham St Martin Parish Clerk has requested a reduction to the current speed limit and this is being considered. Slow and pedestrian in road signs will be erected.

Council 17 August, item 95 – The Platinum Jubilee Group is meeting later this week. The Council has registered as taking part.

Council 17 August, item 97 – Dorset Council has been notified of the Council's decision to propose no changes to the Community Governance Review.

Planning & Transport Committee, 15 August – An email was sent to Dorset Council on 27 August.

A question was raised if there was any update on the speed survey for North Street, it was confirmed there was no further information at the current time.

The report was noted.

## 175. Code of Conduct

Some queries were raised regarding the Register of Interest Forms. The Town Clerk confirmed that the new forms will be made available online shortly and they will still need to be completed even if the Council does not adopt this Code of Conduct. Guidance will be sent out shortly and a link to the online form will be sent to each Councillor. There is no legal deadline date for completion, although Dorset Council are requesting completion by the end of October.

The Town Clerk agreed to recirculate the guidance.

**Resolved** that the Code of Conduct is adopted.

## 176. Honorariums

Members considered the Honorariums for the 2021/2022 financial year.

**Resolved** that the following Honorariums be paid;

Clock Winder	£500.00
Museum Curator	£500.00*
Museum Manager	£500.00*
Photographer	£225.00
Sergeant at Mace	£225.00
Town Crier	£225.00
*(paid in two instalments)	

Members further considered a request from the Mayor's Photographer that the Honorarium is donated to Julia's House Hospice.

**Resolved** that the Photographers Honorarium payment is donated to Julia's House Hospice.

**177. Future Lockdown Measures**

**Resolved** no action required at this time.

**178. Buildings Project Task and Finish Group**

There is an item on the Corporate Plan to maintain the buildings in good order.

**Resolved** that a Task and Finish Group is convened. Councillors Goodinge, Dean, V Green, Critchley, Cotton, Budd and K Green are appointed to group.

Members further considered appointing a Chairman. **Resolved** Councillor Budd was appointed as Chairman of the Buildings Project Task and Finish Group.

**179. Meetings in the Corn Exchange**

Members considered if meetings of the Council and its Committees should be held in the Corn Exchange, in the short term, due to access issues.

There have been issues with the domestic stairlift, which is not fit for purpose. A service contract has been set up at a cost of £700 per year and some repairs have recently been undertaken.

Several concerns were raised regarding using the Corn Exchange including the poor acoustics and having to cancel other bookings.

**Resolved** that meetings will continue to be held in the Chamber and that the Town Clerk obtains quotations for purchasing a suitable commercial stairlift.

**180. Recommendation from Policy, Resources and Finance Committee regarding the Community and Visitor Hub**

The Town Clerk explained that there may be a further option available, which would not encroach on the main area of the Corn Exchange, therefore it could continue to be available for hire.

The recess next to the door by the North Street entrance could be altered and made into an office which could then be used to provide council customer services and tourist information.

Several Councillors spoke in favour of pursuing this further and congratulated the Town Clerk on the proposal.

**Resolved** that the Town Clerk prepares a full business case for consideration by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee and then Council.

**181. Any other items the Mayor deems urgent**

Members were reminded that they were all invited to meet the Moderator of Wareham Massachusetts on 4 October at 11am in the Corn Exchange. There will be an exchange of gifts and a tour of the Chamber.

Afterwards, the Mayoral party will be spending the rest of the day touring of the town.

**182. Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held at **7.00pm on 2 November 2021.**

Mayor.....

Date.....