



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 1 March 2022 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, B Ezzard, Z Gover, H Goodinge, V Green, M Humphries, S Kemp, L Kirk, C Turner

**Officers present:** K Noble, Deputy Town Clerk

Before the start of the meeting a 2-minute silence was held in respect of the situation in Ukraine.

**359. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Schofield and Dorset Councillor Holloway.

**360. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**361. Public participation time**

There were three members of the public present. One of the Church Wardens from Lady St Mary's Church advised Members of the proposed plans to build a new Parish Hall to the north of the Church and to sell the existing Parish Hall site. The proposals were in the very early stages of consideration and many processes would have to be completed for it to move forward. Two consultations had taken place and further consultations would be held. It was confirmed the existing Parish Hall site would not be sold if the proposal did not go ahead. The Wareham Burial Joint Committee were meeting the next evening, and this was an agenda item.

Members were also advised that the Churches were open daily and special prayer meetings for Ukraine were taking place at noon and 5pm, all welcome.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the disturbance caused by the accordion player and also about the sharp increase in car parking charges in Connegar Lane Car Park. Dorset Council details were passed onto the resident.

(2 members of the public left the meeting at this juncture)

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Town Council held on 18 January 2022 were presented by the Mayor.

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

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

There were no matters arising.

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

Dorset Councillor Ezzard presented the report and gave a number of updates. £150 Council Tax refunds for bands A-D would automatically be paid to those who pay by Direct Debit. Residents who pay using other methods would have to apply for the refund.

Dorset Council had approved the housing for the former Middle School site. The nursery was secure and there would be space for a GP Surgery and Chemist. The proposals no longer included provision for a care home or ambulance station.

The community speed watch request for Sandford Lane was rejected by the Planning and Transport Committee but needed the support and funding from the Town Council to be able to go ahead. Further details were to be supplied for the Planning and Transport Committee to review. A deer warning sign would have to be paid for by the Town Council.

**365. Payments for outstanding creditors**

The list of payments for approval were presented.

A query was raised regarding the wedding advertisement costs which was clarified.

**Resolved** that payments in the sum of £17,162.43 (£13,880.11 BACS and £3,282.32 Direct Debits) be approved.

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

Members were advised that the Mayor's Concert would now be taking place in the Corn Exchange on 26 March at 7 pm. Tickets cost £15 for adults, £10 for children and included refreshments.

The Mayor informed Members that the Town Clerk had tendered her resignation and read out the letter. Members were saddened by the news and requested that their sincere thanks were passed on to the Town Clerk for all she had done in bringing the governance of the Council to such a high standard and for the numerous successfully completed projects.

Dorset Councillor Ezzard also expressed her thanks for all the support received and stated how much the Town Clerk would be missed and wished the Town Clerk well.

**367. Mayor/Deputy Mayor Elect nominations for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year**

**Town Mayor Elect 2022/2023**

It was proposed by Councillor Goodinge and seconded by Councillor Humphries that Councillor Russell be Town Mayor Elect for the Civic Year 2022/2023.

**Deputy Town Mayor Elect 202/2023**

It was proposed by Councillor Gover and seconded by Councillor Cotton that Councillor Turner be Deputy Town Mayor Elect for the Civic Year 2022/23.

**Resolved** that Councillor Russell be confirmed as Town Mayor Elect and Councillor Turner be confirmed as the Deputy Town Mayor Elect for the Civic Year 2022/23.

**368. Notes of the informal meetings of Committees under the adopted scheme of delegation:**

The following draft notes of the Committees informal meetings were presented by the Committee Chairmen:

a) Amenities Committee – 2 February 2022

b) Planning and Transport Committee – 26 January 2022, 16 February 2022

As requested, a copy of the response to the blue badge consultation would be sent to the Dorset Councillors.

The Deputy Clerk confirmed an amendment had been made to the notes of 16 February to clarify that the speed survey request had been considered.

c) Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 8 February 2022

A query was raised with regards to the Town Hall Keeper which was clarified.

**Resolved** that the notes from the informal meetings were received.

**Resolved** the minded to decisions within the informal meetings notes of the committees be agreed.

**369. Delegated Decisions**

**Resolved** that the list of delegated decisions made during 26 January and 16 February be received.

**370. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Arrangements – 2 June 2022**

Councillor Turner presented the report and notes from the meetings of the Task and Finish Group.

An application had been made for lottery funding for the event.

The Court Leet had suggested the event should take place in North Street. There were several reasons why Howards Lane Car Park was being used which were explained.

It was suggested that a scroll was sent to the Queen.

**Resolved** that £2,500 was allocated to fund the event.

**371. Annual Town Meeting and Awards Evening – 6 April 2022**

It was noted that the Annual Town Meeting, including the presentation of the Awards held over from Christmas 2021, would take place on 6 April 2022 at 7.30pm.

**372. Swanage and Wareham Hockey Club Sports Development Grant Support**

**Resolved** that a letter of support from the Town Council was sent in regard to the sports development grant application.

**373. Request for an update on the removal of Heras fencing at the railway station**

Councillor Cotton had asked for an update on when the Heras fencing would be removed, as it had been some time since the request had been made.

Councillor Ezzard, as a member of the Friends of Wareham Railway Station, gave some background information and would raise this at the Purbeck Rail Partnership meeting.

**Resolved** that a letter was sent to Network Rail and Dorset Council and copied to Michael Tomlinson MP to request the removal of the Heras fencing.

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

There were no matters of urgency.

**375. Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held on 12 April 2022 at 7pm.

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