



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 12 April 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, M Cotton, K Critchley, B Dean, B Ezzard, H Goodinge, Z Gover, V Green, L Kirk, C Turner

**Officers present:** T Bailey, Committee Clerk

**482. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Cleaton, Humphries, Kemp, Schofield and Dorset Councillor Holloway and Acting Town Clerk K Noble.

**483. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**484. Public participation time**

There were nineteen members of the public present.

- A representative of the Friends of Wareham Hospital (FOWH) expressed the group's devastation when hearing the news that the proposed integrated health hub for Wareham would not be going ahead and were disappointed to receive the Acting Town Clerk's communication that the Town Council did not feel there was any benefit in meeting with the group to discuss the matter further. On the contrary, the FOWH felt the Council could play an important role in advocating for better healthcare for the community and playing a more active role 'not having jurisdiction does not mean not making waves and influencing decisions'. After all, strong and vociferous support from Swanage Council in retaining the Purbeck ambulance car had resulted in a successful outcome. Given that the board of Dorset Healthcare would vote on the recommendation to pull out of the integrated hub at their June meeting, the Friends of Wareham Hospital hoped that Wareham Town Council would write to express their devastation over the recommendation. The FOWH were also disappointed that the Town Council had mentioned nothing to commend the sterling effort being made at the Wareham Vaccine Centre.

It had been suggested that the FOWH were a lone voice and may benefit from political backing and key alliances. Regardless of the outcome, be it hospital or hub, the FOWH wished to extend and strengthen the working relationship with Wareham Town Council to support existing services for the people of Purbeck and make the case for more services locally.

- A trustee of the Youth and Community foundation and Independent Chair of the Purbeck Local Alliance group spoke in relation to the skate park at Hauses Field. They explained that the Purbeck Local Alliance group had been set up for all agencies and councils to ensure that the children's plan was carried out across Purbeck and to see that services that are needed are

identified. They had been approached by a number of people with offers to fundraise and offer any support with the future of the skatepark.

A request was made for a public statement so that the community were aware of what was going to happen and also asked that young people are involved in the decision-making process.

- A member of the public spoke of his and the community's concern at the logic behind the decision-making process to remove the skate park at Hauses Field. He asked if the Wareham and District Development Trust had been informed of the demolition, as they had been heavily involved in the initial development. He requested sight of the risk assessment, completed by a qualified person, that led to the condemning of the site. Proof of the Amenities Committees assertion that it had been a 'living hell' for residents of Northmoor Park was also requested. A copy of the repair costs, that the Council used to qualify their decision on that fact that the facility was beyond economical repair. It was noted that a recent survey carried out by the Town Council had returned a clear majority in favour of retaining the Skate Park on Hauses Field. The question was raised as to why the Council chose to ignore the clear wishes of the residents? It was stated that the Councillors were in office by virtue of a majority vote, similar to the process of the survey.

Councillor Budd confirmed that although it was early days, the Council was looking at other sites that might be suitable for a skate park. A number of other sites had been suggested via the survey that was taken and these were being evaluated.

- Sustainable Wareham introduced themselves as a community group that had formed a year ago, to help the residents of Wareham and visitors to the town to act more sustainably. Their current focus was on helping residents to understand the advantages of installing solar panels on their properties, as well as making them aware of the discounted costs that were available. A meeting with the Council was requested to discuss the schemes that residents could access for discounted installation. It was felt that the support of the Council would help residents cope with the current energy crisis and ensure that they may have an opportunity to reduce their use of fossil fuels, have greater independence and reducing costs in the long term.

The chairman assured the members of public that had spoken, that the Acting Town Clerk would respond to them shortly.

#### **485. Update on the Purbeck Gateway Project**

Adam Fitzgerald, Programme Manager for the Purbeck Gateway Project (which was focused on the redevelopment of former middle school site) attended to give a presentation to the Council. He stated that the social care landscape had totally altered over the past two years and that Dorset Healthcare had taken the decision to not move forward with the integrated health hub. The GP Partnership had, however, recently decided that they will take forward a development of a new GP surgery on the site.

Dorset Council were focused primarily on a housing scheme for people that need adaptive properties or have mobility issues. There would be a minimum of 65 extra

care houses, plus 23-24 affordable houses which would include supported living and could include key worker housing. Concept designs had taken into account what was possible but were not necessarily the final 'design', they were more proof of the concept. The next step would be a market engagement event on 3 May to meet with developers who may be interested in delivering the concept. Tender documents would be published at the end of May with the contract being awarded towards the end of August. Once the contract was awarded, there would be a more detailed design stage. It was anticipated that a planning application would be submitted in the Spring of 2023 with construction starting towards the end of 2023, all being well.

Dorset Council were working closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group and the GP Partnership and hoped that the projects could work alongside each other. Affordable housing would come first, followed by extra care housing.

Councillor Ezzard added to the presentation stating that a community consultation regarding the old middle school playing fields, which would return to the ownership of Dorset Council in May 2022, was expected.

A formal thank you was extended to Adam Fitzgerald for attending and updating the Council.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Town Council held on 1 March 2022 were presented by the Mayor.

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

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

Minute 364. Councillor Ezzard confirmed that it was her understanding that Dorset Council would make contact with residents about the Council tax refunds promised by the government for those in council tax bands A - D.

Dorset Council had offered to pay for the 'Deer Warning' sign in lieu of the Town Council agreeing to do so.

Minute 373. Councillor Ezzard asked that a copy of the letter that had been sent to Michael Tomlinson regarding the Heras fencing be circulated to the Town Council along with any response received.

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

Councillor Ezzard presented her report and invited any questions.

It was confirmed that Dorset Council had been unsuccessful in their bid for a bus service improvement plan as it had been regarded as not being ambitious enough.

Councillor Ezzard was happy to report that the cases of Covid in Dorset had halved since issuing her report.

**489. Payments for outstanding creditors**

The Mayor presented a list of payments for approval.

A Councillor asked for clarification that the payment to the Bovington Military Wives would be coming out of the Mayor's allowance.

**Resolved** that payments in the sum of £46,892.87 (£9,553.21 BACS and £37,339.66 Direct Debits) be approved.

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

The Mayor shared that both himself and Councillor Vera Green had recently suffered with COVID and had been in touch with the NHS helpline. They had been advised that after ten days they would not be contagious but that the virus could remain in the body for up to 90 days.

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

- a) Amenities Committee – 16 March 2022
- b) Personnel Committee – 9 March, 16 March 2022
- c) Planning and Transport Committee – 9 March, 30 March 2022
- d) Policy, Resources and Finance – 22 March 2022

**Resolved that** the minutes be received, with the exception of the Amenities Committee minutes, which were not accepted by Councillor Ezzard.

In relation to the Amenities Committee minutes, it was proposed that a smaller skate park than that which had previously existed, should be investigated for Hauses Field. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Kirk but failed on the vote. Councillor Goodinge abstained from the vote.

A Councillor enquired as to what would be happening with the site at Hauses Field and asked that this be put on the next Amenities Committee Agenda.

Minute 449 – Councillor Ezzard wished it to be noted that if the community speed watch project was not taken up by the Town Council, she would endeavour to take it forward with Dorset Council.

**492. Update on the Corporate Plan**

An update on the corporate plan was presented and accepted. There was a request that the corporate plan be presented to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee on a regular basis.

**Resolved that** the update on the Corporate Plan be noted and that further updates be presented to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee on a regular basis.

**493. Dorset Deserves Better Campaign**

The Council were aware of the Dorset Deserves better Campaign and the positive impact that they hoped to achieve but did not feel it appropriate for the Town Council to write to Dorset Council at this time.

Councillor Ezzard declared an interest, as a Dorset Councillor, and declined to comment.

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

A Councillor raised that when the new car parking tariff signs were installed at Connegar Lane car park, the sign that stated free parking was available during Sunday morning church services, had been removed.

A request was made that this be investigated with the Joint Burial Committee and Dorset Council.

Further to a statement made during Public Participation, Councillor Critchley apologised to the Friends of Wareham Hospital for any confusion that may have been caused by recent communication and confirmed that the Council did wish to engage with local groups and invited them to attend the meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan on Thursday 21 April where the proposed response to Dorset Healthcare in relation to the integrated health hub, ahead of the board meeting in June, would be discussed.

**495. Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Council was scheduled to be held at **7pm on 24 May 2022.**

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

**496. Confidential session**

**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.

**497. Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer**

The confidential report was presented by the Chairman of the Personnel Committee.

**Resolved that** the report be accepted, and the salary scale adjusted.

**Payments List - Meeting Date 12.04.22**

Inv. Date	Ref No.	Payee	Amount	Details
03.03.22	227760	Manutan	1317.55	Storage shelves for depot
10.03.22	211865359/0017	SSE Scottish Hydro	57.84	Depot electric 10.02.22 to 09.03.22
11.03.22	1801154519	Dorset Council	5876.80	Mill Lane roof surveyor fees
11.03.22	707	Darkin Miller Ltd	760.22	Internal audit 1 of 2 visits
15.03.22	477115	Loomis	283.13	Monthly service contract - April 2022
15.03.22	1246857979	Trade UK	16.98	Screwfix - paint brush, primer & undercoat
21.03.22	139Y-4QVG-FQHH	Amazon	19.99	CD DVD for museum
20.03.22	GB21TD59KAEUI	Amazon	28.80	Rotary trimmer 2020
23.03.22	1801157824	Dorset Council	238.80	Town Clerk job advert
23.03.22	502187	Dorset Electrical	177.45	Optical smoke detector head
24.03.22	2022-197	Amazon	44.99	Media player for Museum
24.03.22	23587	Morden Estates	196.13	Allotment rent 29.09.21 to 24.03.22
25.03.22	3661660	K Green	23.11	Soft drinks for Mayor's Charity function
29.03.22	65084	Aston Rose	262.42	Depot Service charge 25.12.21 to 23.06.22
		Bovington Military		
30.03.22	MilW	Wives	100.00	Mayor's Charity concert
31.03.22	GB221DKY7AEUI	Amazon	149.00	Android tablet for Museum
	<b>Total BACS</b>		<b>9553.21</b>	

**Direct Debits & Card payments**

08.03.22	62684	Supplies for Industry	-4.80	Credit invoice re logo for staff clothing
08.03.22	63685	Supplies for Industry	2.40	Printed front logo
08.03.22	63686	Supplies for Industry	6.00	Set up charge for embroidered logo
08.03.22	357900490	JB Sports	128.00	2 x walking boots
				Mobiles & carpark ticket machine rentals March
10.03.22	1967177606	EE	118.06	2022
		Specialised Canvas		
11.03.22	1133240	Services	30.83	Ukrainian flag - returned incorrect size
16.03.22	6870323	Waterlogic	50.39	Water cooler rental March 2022
17.03.22		Barclaycard	27.81	January/February 2022 payments
19.03.22	12761770	O2	28.80	Mobile phone April 2022
		Specialised Canvas		
21.03.22	1133647	Services	50.80	Ukrainian flag
22.03.22	906178	Bonline	46.97	CCTV - Town Hall & Museum April 2022
22.03.22	163836/2022	Grenke Leasing	173.77	Photocopier lease 01.04.22 to 30.06.22
28.03.22	1411	Adobe	15.17	Acrobat Pro
28.03.22	9002926558	Fuelcard Services	92.44	Van diesel
31.03.22	259827	Post Office	46.32	Stamps
31.03.22		Salaries	17308.42	March 2022 salaries
31.03.22	Mar-22	DC Pension Fund	6942.60	March 2022 pension contributions
31.03.22	Mar-22	HMRC	7953.36	March 2022 PAYE & NIC payments
01.04.22	961510801	Water2Business	26.50	Pavilion water usage April 2022
01.04.22	2697290001	Water2Business	55.00	Howards Lane toilets water usage April 2022
01.04.22	0962000001	Water2Business	63.00	Town Hall water usage April 2022
01.04.22	2688769801	Water2Business	425.00	Quay toilets water usage April 2022
01.04.22	840002567	Dorset Council	147.00	Museum rates April 2022
01.04.22	840002647	Dorset Council	932.25	Town Hall rates April 2022
01.04.22	840002576	Dorset Council	949.00	Howards Lane car park rates April 2022
08.04.22	22897 20415	SSE SWALEC	1416.08	Town Hall electric 24.12.21 to 21.03.22

15.04.22	231803240	SSE Southern Electric	233.98	Unmetered streetlight supply 24.12.21 to 28.03.22
15.04.22	941802204	SSE Southern Electric	74.51	Unmetered streetlight supply 24.12.21 to 28.03.22
	<b>Total DDRs Payable</b>		<b>37339.66</b>	
		<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>46892.87</b>	

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