



Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council held on 18 April 2023 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, East Street, Wareham at 7.00pm.

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

Officers present: N Gray, Town Clerk & RFO, G Pettifer, Deputy Clerk

714. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

715. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

716. Public participation time

There were four members of the public present.

One member of the public spoke regarding the skate park in Hauses Field and asked for information regarding the decision to remove the amenity. The Chairman agreed to report at the next meeting.

717. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting

The following amendments were made to the minutes.

- The minute numbering order was not sequential and needed correction
- Cllr Schofield was still showing as a member of the Council and needed to be removed
- Minutes. 627 – was amended to read 'Cllr Budd drew attention to'
- Cllr Cleaton had given her apologies but was also shown as being present

It was **RESOLVED** the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 7 March 2023 were approved, subject to the above amendments, and would be signed by the Chairman following the meeting.

718. Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising.

719. Reports by Dorset Councillors and representatives on outside bodies

A report from Cllr Holloway was tabled and presented by Cllr Ezzard, given on behalf of Cllr Holloway.

Cllr Ezzard drew attention to the article in the Gazette from Michael Tomlinson MP, regarding the railway crossing.

Cllr Budd reported that he had attended a meeting regarding Network Rail's Strategic Station Plan for Wareham, to discuss the modal shift away from cars, where the connection between rail transport and bus service had been discussed.

Cllr Ezzard was asked about the repairs to the damaged bus shelter in North Street and reported that the replacement was in hand but there was no timescale as yet.

The reports from Dorset Councillors and representatives from outside bodies were NOTED.

720. Payments for outstanding creditors

The Clerk presented a list of payments for approval noting items 10, 17, 18 & 10, were transactions relating to 3 purchases and 1 refund of masonry paint.

It was **RESOLVED** that payments in the sum of £27,464.02 be approved.

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

There were no communications placed before Council.

722. Clerks Update

The Clerk gave a verbal update regarding the projects currently underway at the Town Council. These were:

- New staffing update.
- Vandalism at the recreation ground play area.
- Roof repairs to the Town Hall
- Year-end processes progress.
- Quay toilets wall.
- Street Cleaning.
- New accounts and booking system progress.
- Museum opening.
- Trolley restoration and return to the roundabout.
- EV charging points progress.
- Praise for Grounds Team member Keith Burt from a Corn Exchange Hirer was read out.

723. Reports from committees and sub-groups

The minutes from the following meetings were **NOTED**:

- a) Amenities Committee – 5 April 2023 (DRAFT)
- b) Museum Committee – 15 March 2023 (DRAFT)
- c) Personnel Committee – 21 March 2023 (DRAFT)
- d) Planning and Transport Committee – 1 March 2023 and 22 March 2023 (DRAFT)
- e) Policy, Resources and Finance – 28 March 2023 (DRAFT)

Cllr Goodinge requested an update from the Amenities Committee regarding the plans for a Christmas Street Market. Cllr V Green noted that a meeting with community organisations to discuss options had been arranged.

Referring to the minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee, Cllr Goodinge asked what a 'Sitting Out Licence' was. It was explained that it is a licence granted to allow

hospitality businesses to place furniture on the street outside their premises for customers.

724. Co-option

The Mayor noted there two candidates for co-option onto Council and both would be invited to speak, after which Councillors would have the opportunity to ask questions and then a vote would be cast.

Mr Malcolm Lewis-Fry introduced himself and gave information regarding his background and reasons for wanting to be a Councillor.

Mr David Robinson introduced himself and gave information regarding his background and reasons for wanting to be a Councillor.

Members were invited to ask the candidates questions, which were duly answered.

Mr Lewis-Fry was proposed by Cllr Goodinge and seconded by Cllr Humphries.

Mr Robinson was proposed by Cllr Critchley and seconded by Cllr Kirk.

Mr Lewis Fry received 4 votes, Mr Robinson received 8 votes and there were 3 abstentions.

It was **RESOLVED** that Mr Robinson be co-opted to Wareham Town Council.

Mr Robinson duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in front of members, along with the Clerk as Proper Officer. He then joined Council for the remainder of the meeting.

725. DAPTC Correspondence

The correspondence of the Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils (DAPTC) was **NOTED**.

726. Coronation Update

Cllr Turner gave a verbal update on the arrangements for the coronation celebrations to be held on Sunday 7 May, with the closure of North Street from 2.00pm until 5.00pm for a street party. The party itself would be held between 2.30pm and 4.30pm. Bunting would be put up by the Carnival Committee and the tables from the Corn Exchange would be arranged along the road outside of the Town Hall up to the Post Office. The stage would also be erected outside for the live entertainment. Residents were being asked to come along and bring their own picnic.

Cllr Goodinge said that the poster advertising the event had not been specific about residents bringing their own chairs and tables and a discussion ensued about communicating this. Cllr Gover suggested that members talk to local residents and tell them of the arrangements to ensure that people were kept informed.

Cllr Cotton reported that a Coronation celebration event would be taking place in Cary Hall on Sunday 7 May, 2.00pm-6.00pm, and that all would be welcome.

727. ID Badges

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the policy for Councillors ID badges.

728. CCTV

The Clerk presented the report regarding the of the town’s CCTV cameras which had been recommended for approval from the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee. The Clerk advised members that a communication had been received earlier in the day from Dorset Constabulary notifying the Council that their annual contribution of (£600.00) towards the funding of the CCTV cameras and monitoring station was to be withdrawn.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recommendation for Option A to be carried out by Unique Fire and Security Ltd, at a cost of £12,976.30 to be taken from the Wareham Wednesday CCTV donation, Car Park Maintenance, and the remaining amount from Property Maintenance earmarked reserves.

729. Public Toilets Cleaning Contract

The Clerk presented the report which had been recommended for approval by the Policy, Resources and Finance in respect of the Public Toilets Cleaning Contract.

It was **RESOLVED** to APPROVE the recommendation from the Policy, Resources, and Finance Committee for approval of the Cleaning Contract with Clean Deep at a fixed 2-year cost of £72 + VAT per visit, which would consist of a clean and lock up of each toilet block, 362 days per annum.

730. Any other items the Mayor deems urgent

There were no other items.

731. Date of next meeting

It was **RESOLVED** the next meeting would be the Mayor Making to be held on Thursday 18 May at 7pm, with the reconvened meeting to be held on Tuesday 30 May at 7pm for the conclusion of the Annual Town Council Business.

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders 3.11 and 3.12 to enable the sub-committees to remain in place in order that Committees may continue between the 18 and 30 May, with Councillors then being appointed to Committees on 30 May 2023.

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