



Minutes of **Wimborne Minster Town Council** meeting **30 April 2024 at 7pm**
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 37 West Borough, Wimborne Minster, Dorset BH21 1LT.

Present: Town Councillors: S Bartlett, D Burt, C Chedgy, J Hart, L Hinks, D March (Chairman and Town Mayor), J Morgan, B Richmond, A Roberts and S Wheeler (Deputy Town Mayor)

Officers: L Harrison (Town Clerk), K Brooks (Deputy Town Clerk) and R Hoyland (Cemetery Manager).

Members of the public: one.

Before the start of the meeting the Town Council reviewed and noted Wimborne Business Improvement District's wayfinding signage artwork. Councillor Morgan agreed to coordinate councillor comments.

FC/2023/146 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor M Hopkins (non-business). Cllr Morgan proposed to accept the apologies, seconded by Cllr Chedgy, all in favour.

Resolved apologies for absence from Councillor M Hopkins were accepted.

FC/2023/147 Declarations of interest and dispensations

Cllr Bartlett declared a non-pecuniary interest (member of Dorset Council).

FC/2023/148 Public Participation

None.

FC/2023/149 Updates, announcements and reports

The Town Mayor provided a verbal summary of the ten events recently attended (see appendix 1), thanked Councillor Roberts for attending some of them as her escort and the councillors that had attended her Civic Service.

Dorset Councillor D Morgan reported on the following items:

- a member of the public with a buggy had raised a concern about a gate that did not open properly in Redcotts Recreation Ground (noted by the Deputy Town Clerk),
- a resident had requested he looked into the issue of contractors parking in the Cornmarket and being charged for returning on the same day (to be progressed by Dorset Council),
- meetings had taken place about the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre and a further meeting was to take place.

Cllr Bartlett, as the Dorset Council ward member, reiterated the information provide by Councill Morgan regarding the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre and confirmed the service provider had been asked to review whether the Redwood model at Weymouth would work. He also confirmed that with the imminent local elections Dorset Council were focusing on statutory obligations.

	<p>The Town Clerk confirmed she and Councillor J Morgan had attended the first Police Community Briefing meeting on-line and they would both report back to Council regularly once further meetings had taken place.</p> <p>The Town Clerk read out a report submitted by Police Sergeant S Payne who sent his apologies. This report confirmed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police and Wimborne Business Improvement District were working together to tackle shoplifting and the introduction of new radios had resulted in several offenders being dealt with for a number of thefts locally, • monthly walk rounds were being conducted by the Police and Wimborne Business Improvement District to try to increase confidence in reporting shoplifting incidents, • Police were increasing CCTV volunteers at Wimborne Minster and two new staff were starting in the next few weeks, and • Police had delivered a Special Constable led operation in the town and surrounding areas over the weekends and were planning these as regular events, with the aim of increasing visibility of the police around pub closing times. <p>Councillor Chedgy, as a representative on the recently dissolved Wimborne Cemetery Joint Management Committee, thanked Councillor Hinks for her support and diligence on the Committee over the last five years, Councillor Wheeler for his work in supporting the cemetery service when the office was short staffed last year, and the Cemetery Clerk and Town Clerk for their support and hard work during the last year of the Committee.</p> <p>Councillor Morgan, as the representative on Wimborne Business Improvement District, confirmed the new radios were working well to assist in the apprehension of suspects involved in shoplifting in the town and encouraged councillors to attend the crime themed networking event on 29 May.</p> <p>Cllr Hinks, as the representative on the Valognes Twinning Association, thanked the Town Council for approving the grant for the October event and encouraged councillors to attend. She also thanked the staff for supporting the forthcoming twinning event in May, organising a gift and confirmed the Association was keen to maintain the good relationship with the Town Council, preserve the “entente cordial” and reminded the forthcoming Town Mayor of the invite to the Association dinner at Crane Valley on the Saturday night and visit to Valognes in June for the peace celebrations on the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the town. Councillor Hinks thanked the Association for many enjoyable and memorable events, stated she had registered her membership separately and was going to continue to support the Association going forward.</p> <p>Cllr Hart, as the representative on Planet Wimborne, confirmed he had attended a recent meeting of the Fairtrade Steering Group and passed on the town’s fairtrade certification for the next three years to the office.</p> <p>Cllr Roberts, as the representative on Ochsenfurt Twinning Association, confirmed their annual meeting was taking place on 2 May, membership was low, and representatives from Ochsenfurt would be visiting in June.</p>
FC/2023/150	Minutes of Wimborne Minster Town Council meeting 26 March 2024

	<p>Councillor Hart proposed to approve the minutes of the meeting on 26 March as a correct record to be signed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Wheeler, seven in favour, three abstentions.</p> <p>Resolved: the minutes of the meeting on 26 March 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
FC/2023/151	<p>Actions from previous meetings</p> <p>None.</p>
FC/2023/152	<p>Minutes, notes and recommendations from committees and working groups</p> <p>The draft minutes and notes for the Recreation Leisure and Buildings Working Group 19 March, Finance and Governance Committee 9 April, Planning and Environment 16 April, Recreation Leisure and Buildings Committee 23 April and Town Liaison Group 26 April were noted. The Town Clerk confirmed the meeting of the Recreation Leisure and Buildings Working Group on 23 April did not produce notes and any items discussed were covered in the relevant Committee minutes.</p>
FC/2023/153	<p>Recommendations from Committees and/or Working Groups</p> <p>The recommendation from the Finance and Governance Committee 30 April in relation to the year-end accounts 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 was considered. Councillor Burt proposed to approve the year-end accounts 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, seconded by Councillor Morgan, all in favour.</p> <p>Resolved: the year end accounts 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 were approved.</p>
FC/2023/154	<p>Wimborne Cemetery</p> <p>Councillor Chedgy proposed to approve the bank statements, reconciliations, payments and receipts for the Cemetery accounts March 2024 month end and signed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Hinks, all in favour.</p> <p>Resolved: the bank statements, reconciliations, payments and receipts for the Cemetery accounts March 2024 month end were approved and signed by the Chairman.</p> <p>The Cemetery year-end accounts and activity report 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 were noted.</p> <p>The quotes to widen the driveway along section 23 to accommodate larger vehicles (hearses and grave digging contractor) were discussed. Councillor Chedgy proposed to accept the quote for £2,700, seconded by Councillor A Roberts, all in favour.</p> <p>Resolved: the quote for £2,700 to widen the driveway along section 23 to accommodate larger vehicles was approved.</p> <p>It was agreed additional works that required surface repairs at Redcotts Recreation Grounds were to be referred to the Recreation, Leisure and Building Committee for progressing with the same contractor.</p>
FC/2023/155	<p>Draft Emergency Plan</p> <p>The Town Clerk confirmed the draft plan had been reviewed by Dorset Council and was based on a national template. Councillor Chedgy proposed to approve and adopt the draft Plan, seconded by Councillor Richmond, all in favour.</p> <p>Resolved: the draft Emergency Plan was approved and adopted.</p>

FC/2023/156	<p>Tree Trail event</p> <p>To increase community knowledge of the tree trail Councillor Richmond requested the Town Council hold an event that publicised the Tree Trail by inviting councillors and members of the public to walk the red route at the end of May. Councillor Wheeler proposed to support and approve the event, seconded by Councillor Bartlett, all in favour.</p> <p>Resolved: an event was approved that publicised the Tree Trail by inviting councillors and members of the public to walk the red route to take place the end of May.</p>
FC/2023/157	<p>Community Infrastructure Levy spend</p> <p>The Town Clerk confirmed the proposed spend had been reviewed and approved by the Community Infrastructure Levy officer at Dorset Council. Councillor Wheeler proposed to approve a spend of £15,000 to purchase a second hand lorry once it had been independently assessed by a qualified mechanic, seconded by Councillor Bartlett, eight in favour, two abstentions.</p> <p>Resolved: a spend of £15,000 to purchase a second hand lorry once it had been independently assessed by a qualified mechanic was approved.</p>
FC/2023/158	<p>Town Hall alarm improvements</p> <p>The Town Clerk explained the reasoning behind the quote and confirmed the quote had been obtained as a result of the health and safety inspection of the site and in line with the Town Council's Lone Working Policy. Councillor Burt proposed to approve the work to instal wireless door contacts and receivers at the two offices, Committee Room and Chamber at a total cost of £245, seconded by Councillor Wheeler, all in favour.</p> <p>Resolved: the work to instal wireless door contacts and receivers at the two offices, Committee Room and Chamber at a total cost of £245 was approved.</p>
FC/2023/159	<p>Draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029</p> <p>The responses to the recent draft Strategic Plan consultation and proposed amendments prepared by the Town Clerk were reviewed. Councillor Hart proposed to approve and adopt the Strategic Plan with amendments, seconded by Councillor Wheeler, all in favour.</p> <p>Resolved: the draft Strategic Plan 2024-2029 with amendments was approved and adopted.</p> <p>Councillor Hart thanked the Town Clerk for her work in producing the Plan.</p>
FC/2023/160	<p>Correspondence, consultations and meetings</p> <p>The Committee on Standards in Public Life review into accountability in public life consultation was discussed. Councillor Bartlett proposed to set up a working group to agree and recommend a response to Full Council by 14 June 2024, seconded by /Councillor Wheeler, five in favour, one against, four abstentions.</p> <p>Resolved: a working group was to be set up to agree and recommend a response to the Committee on Standards in Public Life review into accountability in public life consultation by 14 June.</p> <p>The Town Clerk, Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor provided councillors with information on a collaborative meeting that had taken place on 11 April 2024 at Corfe Mullen Village Hall with the Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Town Clerk of both town councils to discuss the route to both towns via Wimborne</p>

	<p>Road, the A 31 (Lake Gates roundabout) and B3078 with the aim of improving safety and accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians. A joint working group was to be set up after the annual meeting of both town councils and the Town Clerk confirmed she would circulate the notes from the meeting on 11 April to councillors. The Town Mayor also confirmed that it had been agreed that further meetings were to include representatives from Dorset Council and BCP (relevant ward members, portfolio holders and officers), Highways England and surrounding parishes.</p> <p>The forthcoming meetings were noted.</p>
FC/2023/161	<p>Close of meeting</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked all the councillors for their work and support over the last five years, and the work of all the staff and closed the meeting at 20.14pm.</p>
<p><i>After the meeting was closed refreshments were served to all present to celebrate the work of the Town Council over the last five years and thank those councillors who were standing down at the forthcoming election.</i></p>	

Signature of Chairman:

Date:

Appendix 1 – Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor engagements from 28 February to 26 March 2024

- 27 March The Town Mayor and escort, Councillor Ann Roberts, attended the Town Mayor of Weymouth's Civic Day in Weymouth.
- 28 March The Town Mayor and escort, Councillor Ann Roberts, attended St Michael's Middle School's production of the Musical of "Peter Pan Jr" in Canford School's Layard Theatre.
- 29 March The Town Mayor, accompanied by the Town Crier Chris Brown and Wimborne Militia, attended and opened Wimborne Model Town and Gardens 2024 season.
- 5 April 2024 The Town Mayor and escort, Mrs Carol Butter, attended the Town Mayor of Ferndown's Civic Day in Ferndown.
- 17 April 2024 The Town Mayor and escort, Councillor Ann Roberts, attended the Town Mayor of Blandford's Thanksgiving Service in Blandford.
- 18 April 2024 The Town Mayor and escort, Mrs Carol Butter, attended the Town Mayor of Dorchester's Civic Day in Dorchester.
- 20 April 2024 The Town Mayor attended and opened Wimborne Country Park, with the Town Mayor of Corfe Mullen, in Corfe Mullen.
- 21 April 2024 The Town Mayor attended the Town Mayor of Corfe Mullen's Civic Celebration of Service in Corfe Mullen.
- 23 April 2024 The Town Mayor attended the Wimborne Business Awards 2024 in Wimborne.
- 28 April 2024 The Town Mayor and escort, Miss Sally March, held her Civic Service in the Minster.