



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

Present	
Town Councillors	S Bartlett, J Billington, D Burt, J Hart (Town Mayor), J Morgan, B Richmond, A Roberts and S Wheeler (Deputy Town Mayor).
Dorset	Ward Councillor D Morgan
Officers	L Harrison (Town Clerk) and K Brooks (Deputy Town Clerk).
Members of the public	Twenty two including friends and relatives of Mrs Diann March, supporters against the closure of public access to the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre, and representatives from Wimborne Community Garden, Planet Wimborne, New Wimborne, New Life Community Church and Allendale Community Centre.

FC/2024/046	Town Mayor's welcome The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded, and informed all present that the grant aid items would be moved up the agenda to facilitate some of the members present, and anyone addressing the Council did not have to stand as per the Town Council's Standing Orders.
FC/2024/047	Freewoman Mrs Diann March was appointed Honorary Freewoman in recognition of service to Wimborne Minster Town as per the Town Council's Civic Protocol and section 249 (5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1972. The Town Mayor presented Mrs March with her scroll and badge and Mrs March thanked the Town Council for the honour. Mrs March, her relatives and friends left the meeting.
FC/2024/048	Ward Town Councillor election nomination process The Town Clerk updated councillors on the seven nominations for Wimborne Town Ward and confirmed the election date (8 August).
FC/2024/049	Election of Wimborne East Town Councillor Councillor J Billington was welcomed onto the Town Council and the Town Clerk confirmed the new councillor had signed his declaration of acceptance of office form prior to the meeting.
FC/2024/050	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Councillor W. Chakawhata (non-business). Councillor Wheeler proposed to accept apologies, seconded by Councillor Morgan, all in favour. Resolved: apologies for absence were approved. Apologies were also noted from representatives from Dorset Police, Freewoman P Hymers and Dorset Councillor A Todd.
FC/2024/051	Declarations of interest and dispensations

	Councillor S. Bartlett declared a non-pecuniary interest (members of Dorset Council) and did not vote in relation to minute reference FC/2024/052 (Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre item). The Town Mayor declared an interest in relation to item 10 iv (grant application from Planet Wimborne – steering group member).
FC/2024/052	Public participation It was agreed to move item 10 (iv) (grant applications) and 15 (i) (correspondence regarding the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre) on the agenda to the next item of business to accommodate members of the public present. The Town Clerk reminded councillors of the current budget set for grants, spend to date and Councillor Morgan reminded councillors that grants could be made in full, part or refused. The representative from the Community Garden provided information on their grant application and the application was discussed. Councillor Bartlett proposed to approve the grant application for £1,304.46, seconded by Councillor Wheeler, all in favour. Resolved: the grant application from Wimborne Community Garden for £1,304.46 was approved. The Town Mayor declared an interest in the grant application from Planet Wimborne and left the room. The Deputy Town Mayor took over chairing the meeting for this item. The representative from Planet Wimborne provided information on their application for £500 and the request was discussed. Councillor Wheeler proposed to approve the grant application for £500, seconded by Councillor Bartlett, all in favour. Resolved: the grant application from Planet Wimborne for £500 was approved. The Town Mayor returned to the meeting. The representative from the New Life Community Church provided information on their application and the request was discussed. Councillor Burt proposed to approve the grant application for £1,440, seconded by Councillor Bartlett, three in favour, three against, two abstentions. The Town Mayor used his casting vote and voted against the request. Resolved: the grant application from the New Life Community Church for £1,440 was refused. The representative from the Allendale Community Centre provided information on their application for £900 and the request was discussed. The Town Mayor proposed to approve the grant request, seconded by Councillor Wheeler, six in favour, two against. Resolved: the grant application from the Allendale Community Centre for £900 was approved. Some members of the public left the meeting. The correspondence requesting a joint statement from parish and town councils regarding the sense of loss closing the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre has had on all local communities was discussed. Councillor Richmond proposed to support the request and the Town Council write to Dorset Council direct, seconded by councillor Burt, seven in favour, one no vote.

	Resolved: the Town Council was to write to Dorset Council regarding the sense of loss closing the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre has had on all local communities. Two members of the public left the meeting.
FC/2024/053	Updates, announcements and reports The Town Mayor reported on eight events he and the Deputy Town Mayor had attended 25 June and 30 July (appendix 1). The Town Clerk read out reports from Dorset Ward Councillors W Chakawhata and A Todd: • Councillor W Chakawhata supported the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre petition and confirmed the matter had been debated at Dorset Council, a review was taking place, he understood the financial challenges and hoped a sustainable way forward could be agreed for the growing community • A Todd confirmed he was researching a safer spaces initiative, progressing residents' concerns regarding buildings work at Quarter Jack Park and Leigh Farm, the proposed Aldi at Canford Bottom (to date a planning application had not submitted), the removal of a bike rack at Wimborne Town Football Club which had been resolved, and safety and traffic management concerns at Hayes Lane Dorset Ward Councillor D Morgan reported work was being progressed with Allenbourne Middle School to address safety and traffic management concerns and Councillor Wheeler requested Dorset Council not remove any trees as part of the proposed work, ongoing discussions were taking place to address speeding concerns and pedestrian safety at Cranbourne Road and Blubell Crescent, the placing of additional signage in the Hanham Road underpass to deter speeding cyclists, and reminded everyone of the forthcoming Dorset Council "Big Conversation" event on 16 August Dorset Ward Councillor S Bartlett reported Dorset Council had approved the 34th Neighbourhood Plan for the county, the Purbeck Local Plan continued to be reviewed, Dorset Council had declared a nature emergency, and he had undertaking a site visit with residents and Ward Councillor A Todd at Quarter Jack Park. The Town Mayor, as the representative for Planet Wimborne, confirmed plans were being made for the Green Festival in October, the annual general meeting was taking place tomorrow, and as the Fair Trade representative, confirmed a Fair Trade fortnight was planned for September. Councillor Roberts as the representative for Ochsenfurt Twinning Association confirmed a two more residents from Ochsenfurt were due to visit the town, as the representative for the Valognes Twinning Association confirmed a picnic was due to take place on 11 August, and as the representative for Wimborne in Bloom confirmed the summer plants looked excellent throughout the town and the group were interested in volunteering work in the Jubilee Garden. The Town Clerk reported the Town Council was required to produce a plan that addressed a town market strategy to meet the requirements of Dorset Council's Place-Based Strategies for Dorset Market Towns and would refer this to the Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee to progress.

FC/2024/054	Minutes of Wimborne Minster Town Council meeting 25 June 2024 Councillor Richmond proposed to approve the minutes of the meeting on 25 June as a correct record to be signed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Wheeler, all in favour. Resolved: the minutes of the meeting on 25 June 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
FC/2024/055	Committee minutes and working group notes The minutes and notes of the School Council 11 June, Town Liaison Group 28 June, Planning and Environment Committee 16 July and Joint Working Group 19 July were noted. There were no recommendations to Full Council.
FC/2024/056	Finance and Governance Councillor Morgan proposed to approve the bank statements, reconciliations, payments and receipts for month end June 2024 and signed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Wheeler, all in favour. Resolved: the bank statements, reconciliations, payments and receipts for month end June 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman. The income and expenditure report from 1 April to 30 June 2024 was noted including the higher than expected income from weddings. It was agreed the Town Mayor would write to the Office Manager and thank her for her work in promoting the wedding service. The Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) report was noted. The request to apply for a Unity Trust Bank Corporate Multipay Card was considered. The Town Mayor proposed to apply for the card, seconded by councillor Richmond, all in favour. Resolved: the Town Council was to apply for a Unity Trust Bank Corporate Multipay Card. The draft Service Level Agreement was considered. Councillor Morgan proposed to approve and adopt the Agreement and it was to be reviewed once an organisation had been identified to take part in the agreement, seconded by Councillor Wheeler, all in favour. Resolved: the Agreement was approved and adopted and was to be reviewed once an organisation had been identified to take part in the agreement. It was agreed to defer the Sponsorship Protocol. The request from the Town Clerk to authorise a previous agreed purchase of a noticeboard expenditure (minute reference FC/2024/039) from Community Infrastructure Levy reserves was considered. Councillor Bartlett proposed to approve and authorise the purchase of the notice board using Community Infrastructure Levy reserves, seconded by Councillor Billington, all in favour. Resolved: a previously agreed purchase of a noticeboard (minute reference FC/2024/039) from Community Infrastructure Levy reserves was authorised and approved. The card payments from 1 April to 30 June 2024 were noted.
FC/2024/057	Recreation, Leisure and Buildings The signage report for Redcotts Recreation Ground was considered.

	Councillor Bartlett proposed to approve all the signage report recommendations and spend, seconded by Councillor Morgan, all in favour. Resolved: the recommendations and spend in the signage report for Redcotts Recreation Ground was approved. The updated Town Hall Risk Assessment was considered. The Town Mayor proposed to accept and approve the risk assessment, seconded by Councillor Bartlett, seven in favour, one abstention. Resolved: the updated Town Hall Risk Assessment was accepted and approved. The result of the Shared Prosperity Fund Community Grant application was noted. It was agreed to obtain quotes to replace the boiler at Redcotts Pavilion and bring back to Council.
FC/2024/058	Community events and liaison The request to purchase a portable PA system for outside events was considered. Councillor Bartlett proposed to delegate the purchase of a PA system to the Community Events and Liaison Officer, seconded by Councillor Billington, seven in favour and one abstention. Resolved: the purchase of a PA system was delegated to the Community Events and Liaison Officer.
FC/2024/059	Wimborne Cemetery The activity report from 1 April to 30 June 2024 was noted. The Town Mayor proposed to approve the request to access approximately 40 original burial registers currently held with Dorset Council archives at Dorchester, seconded by Councillor Wheeler, all in favour. Resolved: the request to access approximately 40 original burial registers currently held with Dorset Council archives at Dorchester was approved.
FC/2024/060	Councillor vacancies and election process The motion from Councillor Richmond was discussed and it was agreed no further action was required.
FC/2024/061	Correspondence The correspondence from Dorset Council regarding the nomination from Friends of Wimborne Library to register Wimborne Library as an Asset of Community Value was noted. The letter of thanks from Citizens Advice East Dorset and Purbeck was noted.
FC/2024/062	Motions for future meetings and close of meeting Councillor Wheeler requested a motion for a future meeting – to review road closures and their economic impact on the town. The Town Mayor proposed an additional Full Council meeting on 20 August which was agreed, thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:30pm.

Signature of Chairman: Date: 

Appendix 1 – Town Mayor engagements 25 June to 30 July 2024

26 June 2024	The Town Mayor attended the Wimborne BID annual levy payer meeting at Allendale House.
29 June 2024	The Town Mayor and Mayoress, Mrs Barbara Hart, attended The Armed Forces Day event at the Museum of East Dorset.
30 June 2024	The Town Mayor attended a charity event at Wimborne Tennis Club.
6 July 2024	The Town Mayor and Mayoress, Mrs Barbara Hart, accompanied by the Town Crier, Chris Brown, attended and opened the Museum of East Dorset fete.
7 July 2024	The Town Mayor and Mayoress, Mrs Barbara Hart, attended the Friends of Wimborne Minster annual general meeting and Festival Evensong at the Minster.
7 July 2024	The Deputy Town Mayor and escort Mrs Victoria Wheeler attended the Christchurch Civic service at Christchurch Priory.
21 July 2024	The Town Mayor and Mayoress, Mrs Barbara Hart, attended the first Mayoral walk and raise raising funds for the Mayoral charities.
25 July 2024	The Deputy Town Mayor and escort Mrs Victoria Wheeler attended an open-air cinema "Civic and Community " event on Castle Hill in Shaftesbury.