



You are invited to attend
Wimborne Minster School Council Meeting
at the Town Hall, 37 West Borough, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1LT
on Tuesday 4 February 2025 from 3.45pm.

The School Council notes Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights legislative obligations.

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend this meeting; however please note this is not a formal Town Council meeting as per Local Government Act 1972 and photographs, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of this meeting by any means must be agreed at the time of the meeting with parents, teachers and the Town Clerk in line with personal data legislation.

Any person who may find difficulty in access to the meeting through disability is asked to advise the Town Clerk as detailed above at least 24 hours before the meeting so that every effort may be made to provide access.

Refreshments will be made available for participants.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'L. Harrison'.

L. Harrison (Town Clerk/RFO), Wimborne Minster Town Council, 24 January 2025

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. Apologies for absence - please can any school representatives let the Town Clerk know if they cannot attend the meeting preferably before 1pm on the day of the meeting.
3. To agree the minutes of the previous School Council meeting 12 November 2024 (appendix 1 below).
4. Update from the Town Council in relation to the Town Council's current priorities/work, youth service consultation process (see below), Town of Culture 2026 application (see below) and safer spaces initiative.
5. Items for discussion:
 - ideas for Planet Wimborne's Earth Day event 22 April 2025 – “Our Power Our Planet” theme. More information is available at <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2025/>
 - safety in Wimborne in terms of walking to / from schools, parking and fire safety

- Town of Culture 2026 - what do children / young people want to see in terms of events and activities if we were successful (linked to our last meeting, minute reference WMSC/2024/28 - more events / celebrations, and places for children to play music)
 - youth service consultation process – how can the Town Council engage with children to assess the level of support for a youth service in the town?
6. Update on the School Council Steering Group and ideas for discussing at the next School Council meeting (20 May 2025).
 7. Close of meeting.

Appendix 1 – DRAFT School Council Minutes 12 November 2024.

Present:

School representatives: Corfe Hills – C Wainwright

Dumpton – F Jervispring and I Newell

Hayeswood First – R Jackson, O Merritt and R Titterington

Pamphill First – Z Chione and J Gough

Queen Elizabeth – L Hubbard

St Johns First – M Hanley

Witchampton First – J Ambrose, L Fazey and I Porretta

Wimborne First – J Addlington and C Hazel.

Town Councillors: J Billington, C Brown, J Hart (Town Mayor), A Roberts and S Wheeler (Chairman of meeting and Deputy Town Mayor)

Officers: L Harrison (Town Clerk) and K Brooks (Deputy Town Clerk), 14 members of the public including parents, siblings and teachers, a representative from Planet Wimborne (Linda Bunting) and Dorset Youth Service (Mike Bennett).

WMSC/2024/23 Welcome

Councillor Hart thanked everyone for attending the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. All the students shared examples of what they liked about their school. Councillors Brown and Billington introduced themselves.

WMSC/2024/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were noted from students from Castle Court School.

WMSC/2024/25 Minutes from the previous School Council meeting 12 June 2024

The minutes were approved.

WMSC/2024/26 Update from the Town Council

The Town Clerk confirmed the Council was now up to its full number of councillors (16) and current priorities included: draft budget for 2025/2026; resurrection of the Climate Action Working Group and the importance of feedback of School Council on the work of this Group; option of adopting the two phone boxes in the Square and any project ideas for their use from the School Council going forward, and expression of interest submission for Dorset's Town of Culture 2026.

The Town Mayor provided information on his fundraising activities for his charities (Planet Wimborne and Wimborne Hospital).

The representative from Planet Wimborne asked the School Council for event ideas for Earth Day in 2025 and it was agreed this would be discussed at the next School Council meeting (4 February).

A discussion took place facilitated by the representative from Dorset Youth Service about places students currently met to socialise and ideas about what a youth service should look like in terms of a fun and safe space. Students replied with a variety of ideas: climbing wall, outside area for physical activities including trampolining and running track, mud kitchen, indoor activities like bowling, football, basketball, art area, wood work, and café for kids.

Students were then asked what retail businesses they would like to see in the town. Students replied with a variety of ideas including cafés specifically for children, sports / sweet / kids clothing / toy / Christmas shops, Smiggle, local business like Lush, pharmacy, make up and football shop.

Councillor Wheeler proposed Wimborne was a safe place in terms of traffic, seconded by Councillor Hart. Students debated this motion. There was general disagreement, consensus over a number of locations identified as difficult to cross as pedestrians (Julians Bridge, in the Square), and there were no safe pedestrian links between the new housing developments to the town. All this was made worse by traffic jams, road works and narrow pavements especially towards Queen Elizabeth School. There was agreement that cycle routes needed to be joined up, the new 20mph limit in the town was a good thing and local bus services were well used. Comment was also made that drivers did not give wheelchair users enough time to navigate narrow pavements and cross at junctions. Twelve students voted against the motion, two in favour and one abstention. The motion was not carried.

WMSC/2024/27 Steering Group

The Corfe Hill student and Town Mayor provided feedback on the Steering Group meeting on 4 February.

WMSC/2024/28 Ideas for the next School Council meeting included: fundraising / charity events, how to make Wimborne a better place in terms of safety including walking routes to school, parking in Wimborne, litter, fire safety, planting more trees and more sustainable activity, more events / celebrations, and places for children to play music (a stage).

WMSC/2024/28 Close of meeting

The Deputy Town Mayor thanked everyone for coming and taking part in the meeting and closed the meeting at 16.55pm.

[end]