



DRAFT Minutes of Wimborne Minster School Council meeting 21 November 2023 3.30pm,
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 37 West Borough, Wimborne Minster, Dorset BH21 1LT.

Present:

School representatives: Dumpton – K McGowan, S Steele-Velazques and H Haskins.
Hayeswood First – E Knott, J Craik and M Dawson.
Queen Elizabeth's - G Aldworth, M Bignell, LR Hubbard and E Trussler.
St John's First – T Houghton.
St Michale's Middle – M Coper, R Moran and S Sewell
Wimborne First – E Hay and A Young.

Town Councillors (Cllrs): Cllr C Chedgy, J Hart (Chairman of meeting), B Richmond, and S Wheeler (Town Council Vice Chairman and Deputy Town Mayor).

Officers: L Harrison (Town Clerk) and K Brooks (Deputy Town Clerk)

Members of the public: eight (parents and teachers).

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| WMSC/2023/01 | <p>Introduction</p> <p>Cllrs Hart and Wheeler thanked everyone for attending the meeting, provided information on meeting protocol and formally opened the first meeting of Wimborne Minster School Council. Participants were encouraged to report back to their respective schools.</p> |
| WMSC/2023/02 | <p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Cllr D March, the Town Mayor.</p> |
| WMSC/2023/03 | <p>Introduction to Wimborne Minster Town Council and School Council</p> <p>The Town Clerk and Cllr Hart provide information on the role and responsibilities of the Town Council in terms of councillors, staff, amenities and budget. Cllr Hart provided information on the idea behind the School Council and asked those present to give their thoughts on the role of the Town Council and School Council.</p> <p>Questions raised by participants in relation to the role of the Town Council -</p> <p>(i) Why is the Town Mayor elected annually when councillors are elected every four years?</p> <p>Response - the role of the Town Mayor is both to represent the Town Council at events and civic functions and to manage Town Council meetings. It is usual for one person to do that every year so councillors have the opportunity to try the role and bring new ideas and perspectives to Council.</p> <p>(ii) What is the process to become a councillor?</p> <p>Response - a councillor is a volunteer so anyone interested would need be able to commit to regular evening meetings and events, want to represent residents and then put themselves forward at an election.</p> |

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| | <p>(iii) If you only meet once a month how do you carry out work? Response - we have committees that meet once a month as well as our Full Council to manage how the Town Council undertakes and completes works in terms of planning and the environment, governance and finance, buildings and open spaces, and events. We also have councillors who have specific roles like Cllr Richmond who is our tree specialist.</p> <p>(iv) What do you spend your money on? Response - we have a budget of just over £500,000 which covers a variety of expenditure such as staff wages, building and open spaces maintenance, buildings, staff, grants to local groups, contractors, events and civic functions. Every year our finances are checked by auditors.</p> <p>(v) What motivates you to be a councillor? Cllr Hart - after working full time in education I wanted to do something different, I wanted to give something back to the community and do work that brought the community together. Cllr Wheeler - I have lived in Wimborne all my life and wanted to make a difference and do something positive for the Town. My passion is planning and the environment and want to push the environmental message through the Town Council and Dorset Council.</p> <p>Cllr Hart provided information on the School Council in terms of debates and motions for future meetings and asked everyone to think about what the School Council is about.</p> <p>Responses in relation to the role of the School Council included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to give back to the community a youth voice; • to put ideas forward and make Wimborne Minster a better place, and • to allow young people to have a voice and take part in decisions that shape the future of Wimborne Minster. |
| WMSC/2023/04 | <p>Wimborne Minster Planning and Environment Committee</p> <p>Cllr Wheeler provided information on the role and responsibility of the Town Council's Planning and Environment Committee in terms of planning application responses and consultation with residents, licensing issues in terms of pubs, environmental work including tree work and Council's Tree Trail, recycling, climate action and sustainability work with local groups such as Wimborne War on Waste. Cllr Wheeler asked those present what they thought the Town Council could do better to clean up the Town from an ecology point of view. Responses included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public places should have recycling bins as well as normal waste; • people should be encouraged to use rubbish bins, more bins should be available in public places, and signage (posters / website) to tell people to take their litter home; • use cameras to fine people littering; • encourage people to collect rubbish on ground and put in bins and a PR exercise to promote this; • design signs in Town, use social media and posters that encourage bin use and no littering, and |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> as there are lots of new houses being build encourage regular litter picks and have equipment available throughout the area for use like there are on beaches. <p>Cllr Wheeler thanked participants for their ideas, asked participants to bring poster ideas to the next School Council meeting and confirmed their ideas would be forwarded to the Planning and Environment Committee for consideration.</p> <p>Participants asked questions about accessing Town Council meetings. The Town Clerk confirmed that all the Town Council meetings were open to members of the public and questions could be asked if relevant to items on the agenda. Cllr Wheeler confirmed all meetings took place on a Tuesday evening at 7pm in the Council Chamber or Committee Room at the Town Hall.</p> |
| WMSC/2023/05 | <p>Provision of youth services and facilities in Wimborne Minster</p> <p>Cllr Hart asked those present to debate the statement that youth service provision in Wimborne Minster was really good.</p> <p>All responses disagreed and made the following suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> put in an activity centre to give kids something to do (for example basketball, football, climbing, air hockey, table tennis); put in another play park for older kids; retail shops that cater for children and younger adults not just older people and other supermarket options including Aldi or Lidl; a youth centre for younger children and their friends to go; more areas in Town for kids and younger people can go that is age related to children, where they can feel comfortable rather than coffee and clothes shops for older people, and move away from the stigma that kids and young people are associated with when they are seen hanging around the town being bored. <p>Cllr Wheeler proposed the Town Council was to review and promote youth service provision including activities for all ages at different times and options of retail outlets including coffee shops, seconded by the four participants from Queen Elizabeth School, seventeen in favour, one abstention.</p> <p>Resolved: the Town Council was to review and promote youth service provision including activities for all ages at different times and options of retail outlets including coffee shops.</p> <p>Cllr Wheeler confirmed the above resolution would be reported back to the Town Council for further debate, costings and action.</p> |
| WMSC/2023/06 | <p>Motions for the next School Council meeting</p> <p>Cllr Hart put forward two ideas for future debates (climate change and voting age reduced from 18 to 16) and asked those present to come up with ideas for motions to debate at future meetings that were important to them.</p> <p>The representative from St John's First School left the meeting.</p> <p>The following ideas were put forward for debate at future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> less shops selling nicotine/vapes; campaign to reduce the number of cars in the Town; gender issues like pay; climate change and sustainability; come up with poster ideas for encouraging use of rubbish bins / take litter home messages; |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of crossings and safety of pedestrians at schools, and • speeding cars. <p>Cllr Wheeler confirmed the Planning and Environment Committee were progressing speed calming measures, 20mph zone in the Town centre and crossings at school locations with Dorset Council.</p> <p>It was agreed that the motion for debate at the next meeting would be climate change action.</p> |
| WMSC/2023/07 | <p>Close of meeting</p> <p>Cllr Wheeler thanked everyone for coming and taking part in the meeting and closed the meeting at 16.35pm. Refreshments were provided.</p> |

Signature of Chairman:

Date:

[end]