

Council Offices, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NG

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Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the following meeting.

Please inform the Clerk if you are unable to attend.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

**MEETING:** Meeting of Weymouth Town Council

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 26 June 2019 at 7.00pm

**PLACE:** Council Offices, Commercial Road, Weymouth, DT4 8NG

This is a meeting in public, not a public meeting. If you would like to attend and have any special requirements eg access or a copy of the agenda in another format, eg large print, please contact us.

Agenda and papers are available at [www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk)

J L Biscombe, FSLCC, CiLCA

Town Clerk 20 June 2019 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the last meeting
5. Councillors’ Question Time
6. Public Question Time
7. Town Mayor’s Announcements
8. Representatives on outside bodies and local updates
9. Dorset Council reports
10. Committee Minutes and Recommendations from other Committees
11. Weymouth Seafront Lighting Scheme
12. Motion - Climate Change
13. Motion - Academisation of local schools
14. Motion – Social Mobility in Dorset
15. Tumbledown Farm update
16. Champion Members
17. Working Groups
18. Representatives on outside bodies
19. Policy Adoption
20. Deputy Responsible Financial Officer
21. Information Items

* Neighbourhood Planning
* Changes to Committee membership
* Forward Plan

1. **Welcome**
2. **Apologies for Absence**

To approve apologies for absence.

Apologies have been received from Cllr Ann Weaving

1. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive Members declarations of interest in matters on the agenda

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2019.

Recommendation:

That Members approve the minutes to be signed as a true and accurate record.

1. **Councillor’s Question Time**

Prior notice preferred where possible

Two questions have been received from Cllr Christine James.

1. **Public Question Time**

The length of time available for public questions will be determined by the Chairman.

1. **Town Mayor’s announcements**

To receive a report from the Town Mayor

Recommendation:

That Councillors note the report.

1. **Outside Bodies and local updates**

To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies and other local updates.

A report has been received from Cllr Huckle regarding the recent Dorset Association of Parish and Town Council’s meeting.

Recommendation:

That Councillors note the report.

1. **Dorset Council Reports**

To receive updates from Dorset Council Members.

Recommendation:

That Councillors note the reports.

1. **Committee Minutes and Recommendations from other Committees**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Committee | Date | Minute Nos | Recommendations |
| Planning and Licensing | 21/05/19 |  | None |
| Services | 28/05/19 |  | Presentation from Weymouth BID and item regarding Tumbledown Farm item on this agenda |
| Planning and Licensing | 04/06/19 |  | None |
| Finance and Governance | 12/06/19 |  | None |
| Planning and Licensing | 18/06/19 |  | None |
| HR | 19/06/19 |  | Brought to next meeting |

It has not been possible to complete the minutes for the HR Committee meeting on 19 June 2019, and they will be brought to the next Full Council meeting.

Recommendation:

That Members note the minutes for the meetings listed above and that Item 15 (Tumbledown Farm) has been added to the agenda at the request of the Services Committee. A presentation from the BID will be brought to a future meeting.

1. **Seafront Lighting Scheme**

Councillors will be aware of the history of the seafront lighting scheme from the attached letter from John Sellgren, Executive Director for Place, Dorset Council.

The lighting scheme costs are in excess of the grant from the Coastal Communities Fund by £65,000. Dorset Council have agreed to fund £50,000 of this and the Dorset Coast Forum are providing £5,000. A further £5,000 has been pledged by the Weymouth BID, on condition that the Town Council allocates the remaining £5,000 to the project. The CCF grant needs to be spent by December 2019 or CCF will request it’s return in its entirety.

The £5,000 could be funded from the Beach & Promenade budget, specifically from the Seafront and Town Centre lighting budgets. As the existing lights were handed over to WTC in a good state of repair, it is unlikely that all the budget allocated to repairs and replacements will be used in 2019/20. The £5,000 could be funded from this anticipated underspend.

The scheme is approximately 1.10 kilometres in length, from the Weymouth Pavilion to just short of the Pier Bandstand. The installation would be retro-fitted to 29 of the Sapa Highway Columns and centrally controlled from the Weymouth Beach Office. The original scope was 31, so two have been removed. The two links below will show you the proposed scheme for Weymouth.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BBopGTXL8e0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lKiDfEeQUOw>

Bob Savage, Weymouth Town Council’s Senior Building Service Engineer and a qualified electrical engineer, is supportive of the scheme and has no concerns in taking on the maintenance of it. There is a budget currently allocated to this maintenance.

Bob Savage has worked on the design alongside Tonkin Liu and members of Dorset Council.

His views are that the scheme is innovative, low energy and low maintenance and should enhance the Esplanade’s ambience after dark. The scheme is versatile and can be programmed for any given time, including sunset and sunrise and the lighting display can be programmed to a variety of modes. The scheme has flexibility to be programmed for the Christmas period which will give another dimension to the festive lighting in the Town Centre. The new lighting installation can also be utilised for events with the bonus that individual or clusters of columns can be illuminated as required. Aesthetically during daylight hours, the installation looks satisfactory and does not detract from the look of the esplanade.

The LED linear light fitting units have a 5-year warranty which is an important factor in supporting this scheme, this will remove the risk of expensive replacements paid for by the Town Council. The light fittings are corrosive / vandal resistant and have an ingress protection rating of IP67, all other external components are designed for corrosive environments.

Natalie Poulter, Forum Co-ordinator for the Dorset Coast Forum will attend to give Members a presentation.

Recommendation:

That Councillors agree to allocate £5,000 from the Seafront and Town Centre lighting budget for 19/20.

1. **Climate Change Motion**

The impacts of climate breakdown are already causing serious damage around the world. The ‘Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C’, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in October 2018,

(a) describes the enormous harm that a 2°C average rise in global temperatures is likely to cause compared with a 1.5°C rise, and

(b) confirms that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society and the private sector.

All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to act, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies.

If the world is to stay within 1.5°C rise, developed countries like the UK need to cut emissions faster than poorer countries and achieve net-zero carbon by 2030. Strong policies to cut emissions also have associated health, wellbeing and economic benefits.

**Recommendations:**

**Councillors are asked to agree to:**

1. Develop, by 31st December 2019, a report to go across the whole of the Council’s activities which provides quantitative measures of the climate impact of those activities, an overall aggregate measure of the total impact of the Council’s activities, to consider climate mitigation measures (such as solar PV), and to provide reports of these measures in subsequent corporate documents to Services committee, Finance and Governance committee and then Full Council.
2. Officers being asked to bring a report to the next Finance and Governance Committee to determine any financial impacts of producing the above report, and identifying a budget for any impacts identified.
3. Make the Council’s activities net-zero carbon by 2030.
4. Set, by 31st December 2019, annual targets for these quantitative measures of climate impact on all the Council’s activities for the next 10 years which in aggregate amount to net zero carbon by 2030.
5. Ensure that all planning comments to Dorset Council are consistent with a shift to net-zero carbon by 2030.
6. Request the Council’s pension provider to end any investment in the fossil fuel industry or other activities that have an impact on climate change by no later than 31st May 2020.
7. Make decisions that discourage fossil fuel car use, withdraw all forms of subsidy to such usage, redirect resources into electric vehicles, walking, cycling provision and improved rail and bus services, and supports projects that help ensure that all citizens can travel to work and education, and access services in an environmentally friendly way.
8. Ensure that all policy papers submitted to the Council and its Committees include a Climate Change Impact Assessment.
9. Engage with all relevant local agencies and partners to help deliver these goals through all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources and send representatives to attend any meetings, events and partner workshops.
10. Call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and lobby local MPs to do likewise.
11. **Academisation of local schools – Motion**

With the formation of the Town Council comes the opportunity to ensure our communities come first. The academies programme is fragmenting our school system and making it more difficult for local authorities to plan and deliver new school places. We need a fair and equitable admissions system and to ensure schools have the services they require to meet the needs of all children. Academy trusts are not accountable to their local communities and represent a dangerous step towards privatising education and there is no evidence that the academy programme has raised standards of education. There is growing evidence of abuse of public funds by academy trusts – including through high salaries for their CEOs and commercial relationships with linked organisations. There are high rates of pupil exclusion and ‘off-rolling’ in academy trusts. Academy status is an irreversible process with far reaching consequences for pupils, staff and the wider community as well as neighbouring schools and the local authority. Many schools have converted to academy status against the wishes of parents/carers, pupils and staff and without meaningful consultation.

The Town Council are asked to discuss the views that:

* Parents, staff, local authorities and local communities should always have a say over significant changes to their school – particularly where decisions taken are irreversible as is currently the case with academy status.
* Where a school ‘voluntarily’ converts to academy status, this decision should be taken by the whole school community and follow a ballot - with majority - of key stakeholders, such as staff and parents/carers, which produces a clear mandate for conversion.
* Schools with an inadequate Ofsted judgement should not be forced to become part of an unaccountable Multi Academy Trust (MAT). Instead local authorities should be funded to provide the support these schools need to address their problems and provide a high-quality education for all their pupils whilst remaining accountable to their local communities.
* Despite Weymouth Town Council not having official authority in this sector we still represent our communities and ask this to be carried to Dorset Council.

Recommendation:

The Councillors agree to:

* Publicly support a halt to forced academisation by lobbying the Government to remove the requirement that any school with an ‘inadequate’ Ofsted judgement must become a sponsored academy as part of a MAT.
* Lobby the Government and Dorset Council to allow schools that have become academies, either as standalone trusts or as part of MATs, to return to the local authority family of schools if that is the wish of their school community.
* Call on Dorset schools considering a move to academy status to undertake a full consultation before any decision is taken to convert to academy status and to include a binding ballot of all staff and parents on the question of whether to convert.
* Request that in circumstances where Dorset Council is not satisfied that the consultation or ballot was organised fairly and in line with the above principles, they will organise such a ballot themselves.
* To send this resolution to the Local Government Association and Dorset Council to urge them to campaign for the above principles.

1. **Social Mobility in Dorset - Motion**

­Recent reports have revealed that low wages and poor social mobility are key issues in some areas of Dorset. Weymouth and Portland are particularly disadvantaged, but so are some other areas of the County.

The Social Mobility Commission’s “State of the Nation 2017” report, assessed social mobility across all local authority areas in the Country. Weymouth and Portland was placed third from bottom of England’s 324 local authority areas.

A House of Commons Library Briefing Paper, CBP 8400, published in 2019, assessed social mobility across all parliamentary constituencies. South Dorset was placed last among the 533 constituencies in England.

A report on the future of seaside towns, published in 2019 by The House of Commons Select Committee on Regenerating Seaside Towns and Communities assessed challenges faced by all seaside areas. Weymouth and Portland was referred to on several occasions, with the report noting particularly severe problems with low levels of attainment in secondary schools; reliance on part-time jobs, with the lowest wages in the UK; severe difficulty in encouraging students to return after graduation; and a population of transient renters in low-cost housing that is three times higher than the rest of Dorset.

End Child Poverty released a report in May 2019 on children living in poverty across the UK. In Weymouth and Portland 30% of children live in poverty, with particularly high levels in Weymouth East (39%), Melcombe Regis (39%) and Underhill (40%).

The GMB Union released a report in May 2019 that assessed wage levels across the UK using ONS statistics. This revealed that 25% of jobs in Weymouth and Portland pay less than the Real Living Wage with 6,500 working residents in Weymouth and Portland being paid less than £9 an hour. More than half of this total was represented by part-time jobs, giving evidence of an under-employed workforce on poverty wages. There are also many other areas in Dorset that have similar issues with low pay.

Many of our most disadvantaged residents are denied life chances to which they aspire. If we fail to improve social mobility, we risk parts of our County becoming blighted communities.

Dorset’s micro-climate and world-class environment attracts older more affluent residents to live in the County and our economy benefits significantly from their personal spending. They in turn rely on a resilient and economically successful semi-skilled and skilled workforce for their lifestyle aspirations. It’s in all our interests that the workforce is supported and encouraged to remain in Dorset. Improving social mobility will provide the key underpinning to Dorset’s aspirations of future prosperity and is therefore vitally important to all of us.

It is recognised that work to improve social mobility is already underway with activity in areas such as economic growth, housing, community safety, health and education. However, given the evidence in recent reports we need to acknowledge that we need to do more.

There is still much to do to set up our new Council and it is appreciated that it is very early days. However, surely this does not stop us being ambitious for our community and committing to a clear course of action from the very beginning.

**Motion to be sent to Dorset Council by County Councillors:**

* Dorset Council acknowledges that improving social mobility requires a decisive co-ordinated effort. Council needs to provide visible and effective leadership to lead a multi-agency approach that drives improvement.
* Dorset Council resolves that a Cabinet member, together with an Executive Director, will be accountable for improving social mobility in Dorset, with an initial focus on Weymouth and Portland. Together, they will be tasked to create and lead a multi-agency Team that will develop and deliver an overarching strategic plan. This Team should ensure all action is effectively targeted, accountability is clear, and that progress can be effectively assessed. The initial Team meeting should take place as soon as possible and an initial plan should be in place within twelve months.
* Dorset Council has already declared it will work in an inclusive manner across all its work. Council will ensure that the team involves all stakeholders with relevant experiences and skills. There is a pressing need to ensure that action is taken where it is most needed and that communities can see progress being made. To this end Council will invite relevant community groups to join the team, both to provide valuable inputs and to provide progress reports to the community.
* Dorset Council will task the relevant Overview and Scrutiny committee to review progress at quarterly intervals so that independent challenge and scrutiny is in place.
* A progress report should be a standing agenda item for all Cabinet meetings, so that progress can be assessed, and momentum maintained.

**Report references**

Social Mobility Commission report “State of the Nation 2017”

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/662744/State_of_the_Nation_2017_-_Social_Mobility_in_Great_Britain.pdf>

House of Commons Library Briefing Paper Number CBP 8400

<https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8400#fullreport>

The future of seaside towns report

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldseaside/320/320.pdf>

End Child Poverty

<http://www.endchildpoverty.org.uk/poverty-in-your-area-2019/>

GMB report on wages

<https://www.gmb-southern.org.uk/news/dorset-wilts-residents-earning-less-living-wage>

Recommendation:

That Councillors agree to support the Notice of Motion entitled “Social Mobility in Dorset” that is going before the next Dorset Council Meeting.

1. **Tumbledown Farm update**

A recent Officers meeting has confirmed the desire to work in partnership on a community project at the Tumbledown Farm site. This meeting initially discussed a possible project to establish an agricultural and horticultural hub to provide education, develop pathways for skills acquisition leading to employment/onward progression for people with learning disabilities, supporting recovery for people with mental health and addiction problems whilst allowing the local community direct access to well managed green space.

By utilising Tumbledown Farm there is an incredible opportunity to develop a real community green asset which can contribute to the wellbeing of all levels and ages of society. Some of the possibilities are outlined below:

* Provide education on dietary and nutritional needs, together with how to prepare and grow fruit and vegetables and give the opportunity to put that in practice through the provision of community allotments and fresh food banks.
* Provide meaningful work opportunities for people with learning disabilities, helping to develop skills to enable employment or onward progression opportunities.
* Using well managed green space to help the recovery of people suffering from mental health and addiction problems, with the possibility of learning new skills to assist with employment and progression.
* A hub where the local community can engage with some Council services, developing a sense of local pride and community.
* A well-managed green asset for the local community to benefit from.

A meeting open to all Councillors will be held the day before this Full Council meeting to scope out ideas and parameters. All Councillors have been invited.

Councillors are asked to nominate up to three Councillors to be involved in future partnership meetings and lead on reporting back to Full Council.

Recommendation;

That Councillors nominate up to three Councillors to sit on Tumbledown Farm partnership meetings.

1. **Champion Members**

To consider having Champions or lead Members for certain aspects of the Council’s work. Members may wish to consider Champions for:

* Beach
* Recreation
* Events and Festivals
* Transport
* Community Development
* Health
* Equalities/Diversity/Dementia Friendly Communities
* Town Centre/Business

Recommendation:

That Members:

1. Agree to nominate lead Councillors
2. Agree which areas to have leads for
3. Nominate Councillors to those leads.
4. **Working Groups**

To consider forming working groups to progress various strands of the Council’s work. Members may wish to consider deferring some decisions until after the Council’s corporate plan is agreed. Members may wish to consider working groups on:

* Council Strategic Plan
* Governance (Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, name)
* Youth Council/Young People
* Neighbourhood Plan – should Councillors set up this group, the Town Clerk will arrange a briefing session from planners at Dorset Council regarding neighbourhood Planning in general and the unique situation in Weymouth
* Tumbledown Farm – any internal working group should not replicate the work of the wider partnership group detailed in Item 13. Councillors may wish to discuss whether a separate working group is needed
* Social mobility and vulnerable communities

Working Groups should follow Standing Orders which state that:

* A Working Group(s) may be formed by resolution of the Full Council or a committee at any time. The work of such a working group will be decided upon at the time it is formed by means of a minute detailing the terms of reference which will consider the purpose of the working group, its membership, frequency of meetings, accountability, reporting, and areas of interest
* Working Groups will report back with recommendations to the Full Council, or the committee that formed it from time to time and as appropriate

The Finance and Governance Committee has set up working groups on income generation/commercialisation, and

Recommendation:

That Members:

1. Agree which working groups, if any, to form at this time
2. Nominate Councillors to those groups and determine the frequency of meetings and reporting requirements
3. **Representation on outside bodies**

The Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group have requested that one Councillor is nominated to attend. The meetings are held quarterly in the evening.

Weymouth BID have invited the Council to nominate one Councillor to sit in on board meetings as an observer in a non-voting capacity. Meetings are held monthly on a Friday morning form 10.30am until 12.30pm.

The Jonathan and Rebecca Lloyd Edwards Charity Trust has requested that two Councillors are nominated to its Board of Trustees. Their constitution states that these should be one Councillor from Weymouth East Ward and one from Weymouth West Ward. The Charity is an alms house charity and owns 11 properties in Weymouth. The Charity is keen to have trustees with knowledge of finance, housing or property management but a keenness to be involved is just as important. The Trust meets three times a year and uses email in between meetings. <https://www.jrecharitytrust.co.uk/>

Officers of the Town Council are reinvigorating the Weymouth Town Centre Management Group. The Group was set up to support, initiate and monitor the co-ordination of initiatives and activities for the wellbeing and development of the Town; delivering economic growth alongside the management of the environment and public realm. The Management group would consist of representatives from external partners, community and business organisations such as Dorset Council, Weymouth BID, Dorset Police, Chamber of Commerce and the Civic Society. The group would come together every 6 – 8 weeks. This is a great opportunity to have a hands-on approach to Weymouth Town Centre and to work with all stakeholders and partners at all levels. Members are requested to nominate two Councillors, possibly from the Services Committee to become part of the Weymouth Town Centre Management Group.

Recommendations:

That Councillors:

1. Nominate one Councillor to the Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group
2. Nominate one Councillor as observer to the Weymouth BID Board
3. Nominate two Councillors as Trustees on the JRE Charity Trust Board
4. Nominate two Councillors to the Weymouth Town Centre Management Group
5. **Policy adoption**

Members are asked to agree the following polices that are attached to this agenda:

* Equalities
* Data Protection and Privacy

Recommendation:

That Councillors adopt the Equalities and Data Protection and Privacy policies.

1. **Deputy Responsible Financial Officer**

Members are asked to appoint Ian Milne, Business and Finance Manager, as the Deputy RFO to enable decisions to be made in the absence of the Town Clerk:

1. **Information items**

**Neighbourhood Planning**

Dorset Council is carrying out a consultation on the proposed Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan. The consultation runs from 31st May 2019 to 12th July 2019. The plan and supporting documents can be viewed online via the following link: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/sutton-poyntz-neighbourhood-plan>.

**Changes to Committee membership**

Members are asked to note the following changes to the Committee membership:

* Cllr Weaving will be replacing Cllr Wheller on Planning and Licensing
* Cllr Huckle will be replacing Cllr Roos on Appeals
* Cllr Fuhrmann will be replacing Cllr Wheller on Services
* Cllr Wheller will be replacing Cllr Fuhrmann on Finance and Governance

**Forward Plan**

WTC Forward Plan – this is not a definitive list and is subject to change

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Meeting | Items for consideration |
| 10/07/19 | Services | Public conveniences cleansing contract  Seasonal Beach & Promenade – catering, retail and attraction opportunities  Weymouth Public Art Project (update)  Free parking days allocation and Christmas parking  Tumbledown Farm update  Draft Winter Maintenance Plan |
| 24/07/19 | F&G | Toilet charging  Payments from Dorset Council  Quarterly Financial Report (Q1) |
| 04/09/19 | Full Council | Updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations  Presentation from Weymouth BID |
| 11/09/19 | HR | Town Clerks Appraisal arrangements  Options for Enforcement staff |
| 18/09/19 | Services | Tumbledown Farm update |
| 25/09/19 | F&G | Policy Review  Mid-year review of capital expenditure 19/20 |
| 16/10/19 | Full Council | Mid-year review of capital expenditure 19/20  Draft Corporate Plan  Sutton Poyntz Neighbourhood Plan examiners report |
| 23/10/19 | Services | Laser lighting options to inform the budget draft  Deckchair concessions  Tumbledown Farm update |
| 06/11/19 | F&G | Appointment of Internal Auditors for 20/21  Agency staff procurement  Quarterly Financial Report (Q2)  Draft Budget recommendations |
| 20/11/19 | Full Council | Appointment of Internal Auditors for 20/21 |
| 27/11/19 | HR | Annual appraisal outcomes  Staff car parking |
| 04/12/19 | Services | Tumbledown Farm update  CiL funding allocation |
| 18/12/19 | F&G | Draft Budget and Precept |
| 08/01/20 | Full Council | Draft Budget and Precept  Policy Review |

Recommendation:

That Members note the forward plan