

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

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**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Services Committee

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 18th September 2019 at 7.00pm

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

**Councillors**

**Present:**

Cllr David Northam (Chair)

Cllr Kevin Brookes (Vice Chair)

Cllr Alex Fuhrmann

Cllr David Harris

Cllr Gill Taylor

Cllr Christine James

Cllr Mark Tewkesbury

Cllr Ken Whatley

Cllr Graham Lambert

Cllr Trefor Morgan (Sub)

**Not present:**

Cllr Jan Bergman Cllr Ryan Hope Cllr Tia Roos

**Officers**

Jane Biscombe (Town Clerk)

Matt Ryan (Deputy Town Clerk)

Tara Williams (Parks & Open Spaces Manager)

Niki Ayles (Democratic and Admin Officer)

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| S0020 | **Welcome by the Chair**  Cllr Northam welcomed attendees to the meeting. |
| S0021 | **Apologies for Absence**  Apologies for absence were approved from Cllr Jan Bergman, Cllr Tia Roos and Cllr Ryan Hope. Cllr Trefor Morgan attended as a substitute for Cllr Hope. |
| S0022  S0023 | **Declarations of Interest**  There were no declarations of interest.  **Minutes of the last meeting**  Tara Williams confirmed that Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) will collect bags left at the side of the bin at the entrance to the Rodwell Trail on Abbotsbury Road.  Councillors agreed unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 2019 were a correct record, and the minutes were duly signed. |
| S0024 | **Councillors Questions**  Two questions had been received from Cllr Whatley, the responses to which were given in the agenda for this meeting.  Unauthorised posters can be removed from Council assets. If Councillors wish to remove expired posters from assets not belonging to the Town Council, they should do so with care to avoid damage and with their own personal safety in mind. Dealing with fly posting is the responsibility of the landowner. Fly posting on Town Council assets should be reported to the office immediately for action.  Jane Biscombe will speak to DWP regarding leafleting on cars which causes a littler problem.  Cllr Tewkesbury asked if traffic enforcement officers could remove leaflets from cars. Jane Biscombe will speak to DC about this.  An issue with Sunday fireworks is that there are no buses to get people there. The evening service on Sunday has stopped almost everywhere. |
| S0025 | **Public Comments and Questions**  Three members of public and 1 member of the press were present.  Tara Williams will look at the sign by the swimming pool telling cyclists to go up to Chickerell road, which has fallen down.  Dorset Council issues should be reported directly to Dorset Council. |
| S0026 | **Dog Related PSPOs**  This item was brought forward on the agenda.  Cllr David Gray asked that the Council does not support the extension of the existing PSPO. 206 businesses in Weymouth do not support extension. The ban was brought in against the vote where 63% voted against the longer ban. Cllr Gray stated that the Council should commend DC for trying to bring in one policy across Dorset. Cllr Gray felt that the continuation of the existing order will further penalise business in Dorset as dog owners are choosing to go elsewhere. Most businesses are concerned about the end of the season rather than the start.  Member of the public: I am member of dog friendly Weymouth group and we have spent time working with businesses getting stickers out, so people know where dog friendly businesses are. I have been looking at the Anti-Social Behaviour Act and guidance put out to councils. The order could be varied rather than extended.  Jane Biscombe reminded Councillors that the order is managed by Dorset Council, not WTC, WTC are a consultee.  Members noted that not all the public, especially some children, like dogs and it is beneficial to have areas where dogs are not permitted. A restriction on dogs is also required to maintain the Blue Flag Award at Weymouth beach. Members also discussed a possible “doggy toilet” and moving the summer dog area.  Members also noted that the ban is not just for the beach but also other open spaces including The Marsh where there is a significant issue with dog owners not picking up after their pets.  There will be a full public consultation in January 2020.  Proposed: Cllr Alex Fuhrmann. Seconded: Cllr Mark Tewkesbury  Agreed unanimously.  Resolution:  Weymouth Town Council do not support the extension as is of the existing Weymouth PSPO but would like to have parity with other Seaside PSPOs which ban dogs from certain areas between 1st May and 30th September. This desire is supported by the results of the 2015 survey where 63% were in favour of this and a 2019 request from local business to reduce the ban which currently extends to 31st October. Weymouth Town Council would like a variation to the PSPO to achieve this, with public consultation.  Cllr Fuhrmann left the room. |
| S0027 | **Parks and Open Spaces Electric Vehicle**  Tara Williams detailed the report. WTC currently lease flatbed vans and one is up for renewal in October. The Council has recently had to install a height barrier at Radipole due to incidents of unauthorised encampments and flatbed vans cannot get under the barrier. An electric vehicle would be able to access the site and would contribute to our work to be a greener Council.  Cllr Fuhrmann returned to the Council Chamber.  A Goupil G3 vehicle suits the Council’s needs at a cost of £13,500. WTC pays in excess of £2,750 pa for rental, appx. £1,000 for fuel, fuel tax of £210, MOT £40 and a service charge. When WTC return the vans after leasing, a depreciation cost is also incurred. Yearly costs are, therefore, in excess of £4,000. If the Council takes on an electric vehicle, the Council will recoup the cost over a three-year period.  Councillors had concerns that the vehicle was second hand. It is bespoke and has had a complete overhaul with a new battery. The vehicle has a new battery which should last 5 years+.  Proposed: Cllr Mark Tewkesbury. Seconded: Cllr Alex Fuhrmann.  Resolution:  The Council agrees to commit £13,499 to purchase a Goupil g3 vehicle.  Agreed unanimously. |
| S0028 | **Green Flag Judges’ Recommendations to Improve Greenhill Gardens**  Tara Williams introduced the item. The funding is coming from existing maintenance budgets.  Proposed: Cllr Christine James. Seconded Cllr Mark Tewkesbury.  Resolution:  The Committee approved the following actions funded using existing revenue budgets straddling two financial years:   1. Installation of a second handrail to meet DDA regulations. 2. Purchase of LED bulb fittings to current lighting scheme, including the Bennett’s Shelter. 3. Creation of a small area of native planting and introduction of some bug habitat. 4. Installation of a children’s nature trail.   Agreed. 9 in favour, 1 abstention. |
| S0029 | **Free parking days**  Matt Ryan introduced the item. The Council is permitted five free events days. WTC has two remaining days from the free event allocation. The proposal is to include them in the overall free Christmas parking arrangements.  Cllr Lambert opposed the recommendation as the Council should not be encouraging car use and would prefer to see free bus travel offered. Councillors accepted that this would support the use of cars but not all areas have access to public transport and the Council needs to balance climate change against its other responsibilities including encouraging a vibrant town centre. Councillors agreed to look at this issue in the future.  Proposed: Cllr Alex Fuhrmann. Seconded: Cllr Christine James  Resolution:  That Councillors agree the Christmas Parking proposal in advance of the Dorset Council decision.  Agreed: 9 in favour, 1 against. |
| S0030 | **Health and Nature Charter**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item.  Proposed: Cllr Christine James. Seconded: Cllr Kevin Brookes.  Resolution:  That Councillors sign the Health and Nature Charter  Agreed unanimously |
| S0031 | **Information Items**  Tumbledown – there is a meeting on 24 September and an update will be brought to this Committee in future.  Radipole Lottery Project – the stage 2 bid is being prepared  The Marsh – lighting is not planned for the play area. An update on CCTV was brought to Full Council previously. Councillors noted a need to look at what provisions are in place for young people to support them to move away from anti-social behaviour.  Cllr Ken Whatley reminded Councillors that there is meeting tomorrow night about reviving the carnival.  The meeting closed at 8.26 pm. |