

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

01305 239839 - office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Services Committee

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 23rd October 2019 at 7.00pm

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

**Councillors**

**Present:**

Cllr David Northam (Chair)

Cllr Jan Bergman

Cllr Alex Fuhrmann

Cllr David Harris

Cllr Gill Taylor

Cllr Christine James

Cllr Mark Tewkesbury

Cllr Ken Whatley

Cllr Graham Lambert

Cllr Ryan Hope Cllr Tia Roos

**Not present:**

Cllr Kevin Brookes

**Officers**

Jane Biscombe (Town Clerk)

Matt Ryan (Deputy Town Clerk)

Ian Milne (Business & Finance Manager)

Kevin Good (Beach Manager)

Charlotte Shepherd (Events Manager)

Tara Williams (Parks & Open Spaces Manager)

Charmaine Denny (Facilities & Contracts Officer)

Niki Ayles (Democratic and Admin Officer)

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| S0032 | **Welcome by the Chair**  Cllr Northam welcomed attendees to the meeting. |
| S0033 | **Apologies for Absence**  Apologies for absence were approved from Cllr Brookes.  Cllr Fuhrmann acted as Vice-Chair in Cllr Brookes absence. |
| S0034 | **Declarations of Interest**  There were no declarations of interest. |
| S0035 | **Minutes of the last meeting**  Cllr Northam asked officers to ensure the wording of the resolution in minute number S0026 was accurate.  Resolved:  Proposer: Cllr James Seconder: Cllr Lambert  Councillors agreed by a majority, with one abstention, that the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 18th September 2019 were a correct record, and the minutes were duly signed. |
| S0036 | **Councillors Questions**  No Councillor questions had been submitted prior to the meeting.  Cllr Whatley had been approached by the Ramblers suggesting that “happy places” be brought in for benches along the Esplanade. Benches have a sign which says “happy to talk”, which encourages people to sit and talk to others. Cllr Whatley suggested that WTC produces simple laminated signs to be put on benches for a trial period.  Jane Biscombe responded that WTC do not generally use laminated signs because as they do not last long and can look tatty. However, Officers can investigate having some proper signs if Cllr Whatley provides some wording.  Cllr Taylor requested that Julie Hursthouse, Community Development Officer, be involved in this as DC are running a project around loneliness and encouraging people to talk to one another.  Cllr Tewkesbury requested that Officers find out whether the defibrillator at the WTC offices is registered on the web app for defibrillator locations.  This will be investigated by officers and the defibrillator will be registered if it is not already.  Cllr Bergman highlighted that he recently visited the homeless bus this week and was incredibly impressed by the work undertaken by the manager. However, he has been informed that they are charged £1000 to park by DC, and he feels that this should not be the case.  Jane Biscombe responded that car parking is a function managed by DC and is not an issue on which WTC can dictate policy. However, Officers at WTC will speak to fellow Officers at DC.  Cllr Taylor understood that the bus is not parked on any part of the carpark and that they pay rates to DC and have planning permission until approximately 2023. |
| S0037 | **Public Comments and Questions**  **Dogs in Children’s Play Area at Lodmoor Country Park:**  A member of the public asked the following question:  ROSPA identify that “dogs on children's playgrounds represent a major health and injury hazard” (<https://www.rospa.com/Play-Safety/Advice/Dogs>). With this is mind, is there any reason why the children’s play area at Lodmoor Country Park in the Radipole ward couldn’t be fenced off, bringing it up to the same standard of safety as almost all other play areas in Weymouth Town Council wards, ensuring a designated space within the Country Park where children can benefit from outdoor fun free from hazards associated with dogs, while providing clarity for those wishing to exercise their dogs without risk of unintentional harm to children, unpleasant confrontation or possible prosecution?  Tara Williams responded that she discussed this issue with the Chair of the Friends of Lodmoor Country Park, on 3 October. The current dog byelaws state that dogs should be on leads in and around the footprint of the play area and signage clearly shows this, however, it is known that some dog owners continue to ignore the byelaw and allow their dogs to run off leads. Suitable fencing options are currently being costed and funding sources explored.  Cllr Bergman requested that he be informed should the fencing not go ahead for any reason.  **Water Tap at Cemetery:**  A member of the public raised the issue of a tap wasting water when it is turned on and, despite raising this a month ago, the problem has not been resolved.  Tara Williams apologised that the issue has not been resolved thus far and said that she will ensure that this is done immediately.  **Bin at The Marsh:**  A member of the public reported that a bin on the east side of The Marsh, going up to Chickerell Road, was very full and dog waste bags were on the floor.  Tara Williams responded that the bins are emptied daily and she will speak to the member of staff concerned.  **Deckchairs on the Seafront:**  A member of the public felt that the arrangements for deckchairs on the seafront should be kept as they are currently. |
| S0038 | **Scheme of Charging 20/21**  Ian Milne introduced the report as detailed in the agenda for this meeting.  Jane Biscombe clarified that hire cost for meeting rooms at the Commercial Road offices are for weekdays only and the scheme of charging can be amended to reflect this. Discussions are ongoing with the Registration Service but a separate funding agreement is being explored with them as it would be an ongoing agreement.  Resolved:  Proposer: Cllr Bergman Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Members agreed by a majority of six in favour, four against, and one abstention:   1. To a policy of raising fees and charges on an annual basis by RPI 2. To review any changes on a case by case basis where it is deemed that applying RPI is not appropriate.   Cllr Tewkesbury was concerned that this recommendation should have gone before the Finance and Governance Committee rather than the Services Committee. |
| S0039 | **Public Toilet Cleansing In-House Provision**  Matt Ryan introduced the report. Cllr Fuhrmann was concerned that staff from DC and Churchill would be TUPE’d over and may be doing the same job but being paid differently, and requested that this is referred to the HR Committee to ensure that the positions have a degree of equality.  Matt Ryan responded that staff will TUPE over under their current conditions of employment and are protected under these regulations. However, discussions can then be held regarding any changes if appropriate. The Council will be paying the Real Living Wage.  Resolved:  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr James  b)Members agreed by a majority of ten in favour, with one against to consider an attendant at the new beach office facilities during the Autumn/ winter period at an additional cost of £8,800 per annum for an initial one-year fixed term contract.  Resolved:  Proposer: Cllr James Seconder: Cllr Hope  Members agreed unanimously to:  a) the in-house cleaning of the Weymouth public toilet facilities and Commercial Road Office facilities by Weymouth Town Council;  c) carrying out a procurement exercise for consumables in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 by procurement framework and/or tender;  d) a delegation to officers to use agency and or local contractors to fulfil cleansing duties and requirements as detailed within the report and where required; engage external procurement expertise from existing budgets. |
| S0040 | **Deckchair Concessions**  Kevin Good introduced the report as detailed within the agenda for this meeting.  Resolved:  Proposer: Cllr Fuhrmann Seconder: Cllr Tewkesbury  Members agreed unanimously to:   1. approve the continuation of the scheme for Weymouth Residents; 2. agree to honour all valid passes issued to date (including those issued by Weymouth & Portland Borough Council); 3. agree to include Portland Residents should Portland Town Council wish to be part of the scheme and meet the financial cost of this. 4. That officers approach Chickerell TC to discuss the possibility of extending the scheme to Chickerell residents. |
| S0041 | **VE & VJ Day Celebrations**  Charlie Shepherd introduced the report as detailed in the agenda for this meeting.  Resolved:  Proposer: Cllr Taylor Seconder: Cllr Tewkesbury  Members agreed by a majority, with one abstention that this is taken up by the Tourism, Events, Arts and Festivals working group to take a recommendation to Finance and Governance on 06 November 2019. |
| S0042 | **Radipole Park & Gardens Heritage Lottery Bid**  Tara Williams presented the report as detailed in the agenda for this meeting.  Cllr Hope wished to extend thanks to the Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens for taking the project this far and said that Julie Hursthouse has a list of external organisations that could be approached with regards to funding. Cllr Tewkesbury was concerned that this item should have gone straight to the Finance and Governance Committee rather than the Services Committee.  Resolved:  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr James  Members noted unanimously to approve the following action:   1. To not progress with the application for a loan from the LTA, which will result in a £50,000 shortfall in match funding.   and   1. To recommend to Finance and Governance that £25,000 is reserved from the Parks & Open Spaces Waste & Recycling budget for 2019/20 and 2020/21 to offset against the £50,000 grant funding shortfall for the Radipole Park and Gardens Heritage Lottery bid, should external funding not be secured. |
| S0043 | **Information Items**  Members noted the information items.  **Tumbledown Farm Update:**  On 5 November the Tumbledown Farm Working Group will meet to discuss the way forward and on 30 November a consultation session will be held at Emmanuel Church in Southill between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm. Little Owls Forest School Play Group (for up to 16 toddlers) is held one morning a week. This started in September and operates during term time only. A weekend Family Forest School is also held on one morning. This commenced in October and a further two sessions are planned for 17 November and 15 December.  Cllr Whatley asked whether the is any update on the Melcombe Regis Board. Jane Biscombe responded that no update has been received to date and she will follow this up with DC again.  Cllr James asked when the Merlin Tower is going to be removed. Jane Biscombe responded that she will take this up with DC to ascertain whether there is any information they can share with WTC.  The meeting closed at 8.48 pm |