

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

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**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Full Council

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 19th February 2020 at 7.00pm

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

**Present:** Graham Winter Colin Huckle Mark Tewkesbury

**Councillors** Peter Barrow Alex Fuhrmann Jan Bergman

Howard Legg David Northam Tony Ferrari

Graham Lambert Luke Wakeling Tia Roos

Michael Frost Jon Orrell Gill Taylor

Ken Whatley Kate Wheller Lucy Hamilton

Trefor Morgan David Harris Ryan Hope

Kevin Brookes Oz Kanji

**Officers** Jane Biscombe (Town Clerk)

Ian Milne (Business & Finance Manager)

Charmaine Denny (Contracts & Facilities Officer)

Niki Ayles (Democratic & Administration Officer)

**Absent:**

**Councillors** Anne Weaving David Mannings David Gray

Richard Nickinson Christine James

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| C0133 | **Welcome**  Cllr Graham Winter welcomed everyone to the meeting. |
| C0134 | **Apologies for Absence**  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Winter Seconder: Cllr Brookes  Apologies for absence were unanimously approved from Cllr Mannings, Cllr Nickinson, Cllr Weaving, Cllr James and Cllr Gray. |
| C0135 | **Declarations of Interest**  There were no declarations of interest. |
| C0136 | **Minutes of the last meeting**  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Northam Seconder: Cllr Frost  The minutes of the last meeting held on 8 January 2020 were unanimously agreed as a correct record and were duly signed. |
| C0137 | **Councillor Question Time**  No questions had been received prior to the meeting. |
| C0138 | **Public Question Time**  There were no members of the public present. |
| C0139 | **Town Mayor’s Announcements**  Cllr Winter highlighted the value of the town’s twinning with Louviers and Holzwickede but noted that there is the need to bring in new membership and build links to local groups and sports clubs. The Mayor thanked Councillors, staff and members of the public who attended the Mayor’s Charity Barn Dance on Saturday 25th January 2020, and those who could not attend but made a donation. Over £400 was made for the Mayor’s Charity.  Cllr Fuhrmann left the Council Chamber briefly during this item. |
| C0140 | **Representatives on Outside Bodies and Local Updates**  No reports had been received. |
| C0141 | **Dorset Council Reports**  No reports had been received.  Cllr Northam referred to the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2018-2019, and encouraged Councillors to look at this document. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/planning-policy/west-dorset-and-weymouth-portland/evidence-base/pdfs/monitoring/amr-2018-19-final.pdf>  Cllr Wakeling noted that there have been no reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies and Local Updates, or Dorset Council reports, for some time now even though WTC has a lot of town councillors who are also unitary councillors. Cllr Barrow responded that it is knowing what to report back, and said that if anyone has a particular question he will investigate and report back to Full Council. Cllr Tewkesbury asked what aspects of DCs work directly affect WTC and the town. Cllr Barrow will explore this and report back to Full Council. |
| C0142 | **Committee Minutes and Recommendations and other Committees**  The minutes are approved by their respective Committees.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Members agreed unanimously to note the minutes of other Committees. |
| C0143 | **Risk Assessment**  Ian Milne introduced the item and explained that the Risk Management Policy needs approval before the end of the financial year. The policy, along with the Strategic Risk Register, has been considered by the Finance and Governance Committee. There are two high risk areas around assets, because WTC does not yet have a fully funded maintenance programme, and around IT due to high-profile risks which have been reported in the press. Officers will be meeting with WTC’s IT support provider tomorrow to discuss this.  The Strategic Risk Register will be reviewed quarterly by SMT (Senior Management Team) and it is hoped that there will be some form of Member involvement to ensure effective scrutiny.  Cllr Hope noted that he cannot see it written anywhere that WTC will discontinue anything that remains a high risk continuously. Ian Milne will discuss this with the Council’s internal auditors and will make amendments if appropriate and viable.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Wakeling  Councillors voted by a majority of 21 in favour, with 2 against, to approve the Risk Management Strategy and Strategic Risk Register |
| C0144 | **Insurance Tenders**  Ian Milne introduced the report and confirmed that the level of insurance cover for the next year is the same as the current year. WTC has quite significant insurance cover however the level of self-insurance is very low and excesses are approximately £250. WTC does not have the reserves that other authorities do and therefore is unable to substantially self-insure.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Brookes Seconder: Cllr Hope  Councillors voted unanimously to agree to award the insurances contract to its existing provider for a period of 3 years. |
| C0145 | **Pensions Discretionary Policy**  Ian Milne introduced the item. Officers will identify where there is a case for discretion and would review that with the HR Committee. It is, however, within Members gift to recommend that it goes to Full Council. Questions were raised over some of the policy wording and it was suggested that an Officer be given delegated authority to amend the wording as necessary.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Ferrari Seconder: Cllr Legg  Councillors voted by a majority of 22 in favour, with 1 against, to add to the proposed recommendation that the Business and Finance Manager have delegated authority to amend the wording of the policies 21 A(4), 21 (5) and 21 (5A) and (5B) as necessary in line with Members comments.  The Governance Working Group is reviewing Standing Orders and the Scheme of Delegation and Jane Biscombe will request that the delegation to HR is clarified in the documents.  Councillors then voted on the recommendation as a whole.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Hope  Councillors voted by a majority of 21 in favour, with 2 against, that the Council:-   1. Approves the Pension Scheme Policy Statement as outlined in Appendix C; and 2. Agree that the policy statement and associated impacted policies will be reviewed on a three-yearly basis, or sooner if there is a change in legislation that would affect its operation or business needs require it. 3. That the B&FM have delegated authority to amend the wording of the policies 21 A(4), 21 (5) and 21 (5A) and (5B) as necessary in line with Members comments. |
| C0146 | **Fraud and Corruption Policy**  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Wheller  Councillors voted by a majority of 22 in favour, with 1 abstention, to approve the attached Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy. |
| C0147  C0148  C0149  C0150  C0151  C0152  C0153  C0154 | **Land – Ryemead Lane**  Charmaine Denny introduced the report. Cllr Northam raised concerns that the sale of this land before an asset review plan and an asset management group is in place could set a precedence. Cllr Ferrari stated that the role of WTC is to provide benefits to the people of Weymouth and something useful could be done with the funds. He also reminded Councillros that WTC can refuse any further requests.  Cllr Wakeling asked whether WTC has a property reserve for such funds. Ian Milne explained that there would normally be an amount under which the money would go to a general fund. However, Members can request that the money specifically goes into a property reserve.  It was proposed that the decision regarding the sale of land at Ryemead Lane is deferred until a policy is in place regarding the asset review and disposal of land.  Proposer: Cllr Northam Seconder: Cllr Legg  Members voted by a minority of 9 in favour, with 14 against, that the decision regarding the sale of land at Ryemead Lane is deferred until a policy is in place regarding the asset review and disposal of land.  Concerns were raised regarding the amount of time it may take for the asset review to be undertaken. Charmaine Denny reported that it is hoped that a methodology will be in place soon regarding how that asset review will be undertaken.  Councillors voted on the original recommendation.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Wheller Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Councillors voted by a majority of 15 in favour, with 7 against and 1 abstention, that Full Council agrees to the disposal of land at Ryemead Lane for the value of £750.00, plus associated costs as detailed within the report.  **Motion – Free bus services in Weymouth**  Cllr Lambert introduced the report and stressed that the purpose of the motion is to investigate the feasibility of replacing free parking with free buses, and Councillors are not making a decision now regarding whether to provide free buses.  Cllr Legg highlighted that if people are to be encouraged to use a free bus, the buses need to be available and this would only apply to those areas that already have a bus service. Cllr Legg and Cllr Taylor submitted amendments to recommendation b). Following a lively discussion, Councillors voted on the amendment to recommendation B.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Legg Seconder: Cllr Wakeling   1. Councillors voted by a majority of 16 in favour, with 5 against and 2 abstentions, to instruct officers to work with Dorset Council and local bus companies in order to produce a feasibility report on offering free or subsidised buses in place of free parking during the pre-Christmas period, to encourage the use of parking in the park and ride car park, to support communities in Weymouth that do not receive a regular bus service or whose bus services are vulnerable.   Councillors then voted on the recommendation as a whole.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Lambert Seconder: Cllr Orrell  Councillors voted by a majority of 17 in favour, with 6 against, to:-   1. Discuss the motion 2. Instruct officers to work with Dorset Council and local bus companies in order to produce a feasibility report on offering free or subsidised buses in place of free parking during the pre-Christmas period, to encourage the use of parking in the park and ride carpark, to support communities in Weymouth that do not receive a regular bus service or whose bus services are vulnerable. 3. The report to be prepared in time for consideration by Councillors prior to the decision being made on use of free parking days.   **Tumbledown Farm resourcing**  Cllr Orrell introduced the item and stressed the importance and value of appointing an Officer to manage the Tumbledown Farm project and get it off the ground.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Orrell Seconder: Cllr Barrow  Councillors voted unanimously to agree to commit £24,800 to employ a Regeneration Project Officer for the Tumbledown Farm Project, as detailed in the report form the CIL fund.  **Annual Town Assembly Plan for 25 March 2020**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item. Cllr Winter stressed the importance of engaging the public so that they feel able to attend and speak with Councillors, and can see how WTC is making the town a better place. The event will be advertised extensively via the Dorset Echo, on the WTC social media pages and website, and potentially in the advertising drums on the promenade.  A discussion was held regarding the format the event should take with regards to members of the public being able to ask questions. It was hoped that the various stalls would be able to answer most questions however there would also be general stall which for enquiries that did not fit within specific stalls. Members requested a questions slot where questions could not be resolved at stalls.  Cllr Taylor requested that WTC go to the residents of Weymouth at some point rather than expecting them to come to the Town Council offices, and said that she would like to see WTC set up some gazebos in the town. Officers will explore an event for the Summer.  After a slight amendment regarding the schedule for the event, Councillors voted on the recommendation detailed within the agenda documentation.  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Wheller  Councillors voted by a majority of 21 in favour, with 2 abstentions, to allow Officers to organise the Annual Town Assembly as discussed at this meeting.  **Planning and Licensing Committee Membership**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item and confirmed that there is no mandatory training required to sit on the WTC Planning and Licensing Committee. The Committee is currently operating with 11 Members which may make it less robust if Members are not able to attend. Jane Biscombe confirmed that at Town Council level, proportionality is not a legal requirement.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Barrow  Councillors voted unanimously to nominate Cllr Whatley to the Planning and Licensing Committee until the election in March, at which point the new Councillor will take the seat.  **Poole Hospital A&E, maternity and children’s services provision**  Cllr Orrell introduced the item. If Poole A&E is downgraded and becomes a Minor Injuries Unit, people in the Swanage area will go to Bournemouth or Dorchester, therefore potentially having an impact on Weymouth residents. Cllr Bergman requested that recommendation B be amended so that the letter states that WTC would support a consultant led “A&E Local” for Poole Hospital.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Fuhrmann Seconder: Cllr Harris  Councillors voted unanimously to amend recommendation B to read “Agree that the Town Clerk will write to the CCG and Dorset Council’s Health Scrutiny Committee, to express concern and support a consultant led “A&E Local” for Poole Hospital.  Councillors then voted on the recommendation as a whole.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Orrell Seconder: Cllr Barrow  Councillors voted unanimously to:-   1. Discuss the information above 2. Agree that the Town Clerk will write to the CCG and Dorset Council’s Health Scrutiny Committee, to express concern and support a consultant led “A&E Local’ for Poole Hospital.   **Town Crier Proposal**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item. Concerns were raised regarding Officer capacity and the funding needed to support a Town Crier role. It was highlighted that Weymouth BID could appoint an unofficial Town Crier without Council support.  Cllr Hope asked whether Weymouth BID have been asked whether they would support the ongoing management of a Town Crier and said that having one could be a good attraction to the town. Jane Biscombe confirmed there have been no discussions regarding this. Should a third party appoint an official Town Crier, WTC would have no say regarding their conduct.  Resolved  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Legg  Councillors voted by a majority of 10 in favour, with 9 against and 4 abstentions to agree that the Council appoint a Town Crier for Weymouth.  **Information Items**  Councillors noted other information items.  Cllr Whatley asked for an update regarding flyposting and the Melcombe Regis Board. Jane Biscombe responded that the issue of flyposting and leafleting sits with DC and she is currently awaiting a response. A discussion has yet to be held with Officers from DC regarding the Melcombe Regis Board and she will follow this up but is keen to see that work stream continue for the benefit of residents.  Cllr Wakeling reported that the Governance Working Group has some substantial proposals for changes to Standing Orders and some motions. One proposal is a change to WTC meeting styles, which the group would like to trial between now and Christmas, and this is being modelled on Frome Town Council who run a “café style” meeting but have much greater public attendance.  Cllr Wakeling noted that a Community Art Project is due to be discussed at the Finance and Governance meeting in March and asked whether there is any further information regarding this. Jane Biscombe responded that Officers are working with the owner of a wall on a proposal to use it for community art rather than commercial advertising.  The meeting concluded at 9.08 pm |