

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

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**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Annual Meeting of the Full Council

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.00pm

**PLACE:** Zoom Virtual Meeting Place

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

**Councillors** Peter Barrow Alex Fuhrmann Jan Bergman

Howard Legg David Northam Tony Ferrari

Graham Lambert Luke Wakeling Trefor Morgan

Michael Frost Jon Orrell Gill Taylor

Kate Wheller Christine James Kevin Brookes

Tia Roos David Harris Ken Whatley

Lucy Hamilton Ryan Hope David Gray

Richard Nickinson Ann Weaving

**Officers** Jane Biscombe (Town Clerk)

Niki Ayles (Democratic & Administration Officer)

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| C0323 | **Election of Chairman (Mayor)**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Winter Seconder: Cllr Tewkesbury  Members voted unanimously in favour of electing Cllr Colin Huckle to the role of Chairman (Mayor) for 2021/22.  the Cllr Huckle then made the following statement and signed the Book of Acceptance:  “I, Colin John Huckle, having been elected to the office of Chairman of Weymouth Town Council declare that I take that office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability. I undertake to observe the code as to the conduct which is expected of members of Weymouth Town Council.”  Cllr Huckle informed Members that his chosen charity for the year would be the Veteran’s Hub and that his Chaplain would be Reverend Geoffrey Carey.  Cllr Huckle and Cllr Winter hope to jointly hold a picnic in Sandsfoot Gardens on Sunday 6th June 2021. This will be an opportunity for members of the public to meet the former Mayor and current Mayor, as well as other Councillors, and Cllr Huckle hoped that as many Members as possible would be able to attend.  Cllr Huckle and Cllr Winter also hope to hold a joint Civic Day next year for the Chairman and members of other Councils. This is something that Cllr Winter was unable to do in his two years as Mayor.  Cllr Huckle chaired the remainder of the meeting as newly elected Chairman. |
| C0324 | **Election of Deputy Chairman (Deputy Mayor)**  Cllr Winter nominated Cllr Lucy Hamilton for the role of Deputy Chairman (Deputy Mayor). This was seconded by Cllr James. Cllr Hamilton expressed thanks for the nomination but did not wish to be considered for the role.  Cllr Hamilton then nominated Cllr Ann Weaving for the role of Deputy Chairman (Deputy Mayor). This was seconded by Cllr Fuhrmann.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hamilton Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Member voted by a majority of 25 in favour, with 1 abstention, to elect Cllr Ann Weaving to the role of Deputy Chairman (Deputy Mayor). |
| C0325 | **Election of Mayor Elect**  Cllr Brookes nominated Cllr Richard Nickinson for the role of Mayor Elect. This was seconded by Cllr Harris.  Cllr Roos nominated Cllr Weaving for role of Mayor Elect. This was seconded by Cllr Winter.  **Resolved:**  Members voted by a majority of 15 in favour, with 6 against and 2 abstentions, to elect Cllr Ann Weaving to the role of Mayor Elect. |
| C0326 | **Apologies for Absence**  There were no apologies for absence. |
| C0327 | **Declarations of Interest**  There were no declarations of interest. |
| C0328 | **Minutes of the last meeting**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Winter Seconder: Cllr Wheller  Members voted by a majority of 24 in favour, with 2 abstentions, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as a true and accurate record, and agreed that they will be signed as such on a later date. |
| C0329 | **Councillor Questions and Updates**  **Cllr Bergman asked the following question:**  “There has been a recent incident in which a young child could have been severely injured or even killed as a result of safety standards not being adhered to by a building contractor working in Weymouth. The Health and Safety Executive was informed and at the time of writing my question, was in the process of investigating the incident. Would Weymouth Town Council support my request that in liaison with Dorset Council, it reviews potential actions a council can take, to prevent building companies which do not adhere to safety guidelines, operating in Weymouth?”  **The following response was provided by the Town Clerk:**  “Although the Town Council has no responsibilities or powers within this area, safety is always a priority. I understand that the Police, Dorset Council and the Health and Safety Executive are already involved in this incident and an inquiry is already progressing and I would be interested to learn what actions Councillors feel would be appropriate in this case.”  It was agreed that a report would be taken to the next appropriate Services Committee meeting, relating to how WTC deals with Health and Safety in relation to contractors, in order that Members can agree a way forward.  **Cllr James asked the following question:**  “What is this council and more importantly DC going to do regarding the continued antisocial behaviour happening along the harbour? I’m not talking about the railing as this is now old news. I understand the CSAS officers now have powers regarding littering, but after the weekend they will be like a pebble trying to dam a torrent. There are claims that toilet paper ran out in the public toilets, which is not helpful.  Extra bins or skips are suggested, though I completely understand the extra cost for bins and personally a massive education programme around littering is needed including the penalties if caught doing do. The police need to now accept this is becoming a hot spot and not just feed us with words as was the case at the recent town centre meeting. The police were also happy to lock up the toilets at midnight so that people’s doorways are not used as a toilet.  So can we be assured from tonight’s meeting that tough action and penalties will be taken and enforced from now until people can be trusted to behave like decent human beings? Can we have some discussions with local shops who sell alcohol to explain how this behaviour will also affect them in end as well?”  **The following response was provided by the Town Clerk:**  “WTC has no powers in this area, all the necessary powers and duties fall to Dorset Council and the Police. DC manage the licensing, environmental health and waste services, as well as the 4 CSAS officers. All parties are aware of the issues.  We are working closely with all parties to ensure we are giving support where we can and that we are able to represent the views of local residents. We are speaking about additional bins and facilities. We have agreed to extend the toilet opening hours to 11pm each night and are working with DC on meeting that additional funding. DC have already agreed £1,000 to assist with the costs of late opening at weekends and we are currently exploring options for later opening during the week.  Six additional bins are already in place on the Harbourside. These are emptied at 7pm and then again at 6am and the whole area is also cleansed at that time in the morning. An increase is being looked at although last weekend was particularly busy due to it being a bank holiday.  The Police have offered to close toilets at the end of their shift which will be between 11pm and midnight, however, we are already offering this. There is a risk that if officers are dealing with an issue or are called to another area, or have to accompany prisoners to detention, the toilets will not get locked. This poses an obvious risk to the facilities of vandalism and anti-social use including drug taking.  I will check on the toilet paper issue, but it is very difficult for staff and contractors to keep on top of consumables when people decide to deliberately waste them.  We hope that as pubs and clubs start opening again, the problem will dissipate, however there is a weekly officer meeting to look at this to ensure parties stay responsive to the evolving need.  I will speak to the Weymouth BID and Chamber of Commerce on how we can get the message out to local retail outlets about the impact of alcohol.”  Cllr Orrell reported that there is a commitment from the portfolio holder for Housing and Community Safety at Dorset Council to have a meeting with WTC to discuss the issues and how to make the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) more effective.  It was felt that, following tomorrow’s elections, WTC needs to press the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Community Safety Team to have a more visible presence in the area. The Town Clerk will liaise with Cllr Orrell regarding holding a meeting with the portfolio holder for Housing and Community Safety at DC.  Cllr James left the meeting during this item. |
| C0330 | **Committee Minutes and Recommendations from other Committees.**  Members noted the minutes and recommendations from other Committees. |
| C0331 | **Public Questions**  **The following question had been submitted by Cllr Louie O’Leary, Dorset Council, and was read out by the Town Clerk:**  “Weymouth Town Council does a fantastic job managing it’s toilet facilities. Area’s like Bowleaze are constantly increasing in popularity amongst visitors year by year but lack suitable toilet facilities. Will Weymouth Town Council look at investing in new facilities in the Bowleaze area to meet these needs?”  **The following response was provided by the Town Clerk:**  “There are currently public toilets available at Overcombe Corner, as well as the toilets available at local cafes and at the fun fair. We have not been contacted by members of the public to request additional facilities so I would be keen to learn where members of the public are requesting additional facilities are built. The Council currently has no plans and no budget to explore additional public toilets, but this could be looked at in the future if there was a demonstrable need and if a budget were agreed.” |
| C0332 | **Decision making by the Council after 6th May 2021**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item as detailed in the agenda documentation. Cllr Harris proposed that the recommendation detailed in the agenda documentation be amended to read:  “That Full Council agree the amendment to Standing Orders for a period of **up to** six months.”  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Ferrari  Members voted unanimously in favour of accepting the amendment to the recommendation as proposed above by Cllr Harris.  Members then voted on the recommendation as amended.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Harris  Members voted unanimously in favour of Full Council agreeing the amendment to Standing Orders for a period of up to six months.  The meeting concluded at 8.15 pm. |