

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

01305 239839 - office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

**Notes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Advisory Full Council

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 23 June 2021 at 7.00pm

**PLACE:** Zoom Virtual Meeting Place

**Present:** Colin Huckle Ann Weaving Mark Tewkesbury

**Councillors** Peter Barrow Alex Fuhrmann Jan Bergman

Howard Legg David Northam Oz Kanji

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 Graham Winter Peter Dickenson

Becky Blake

**Officers** Jane Biscombe (Town Clerk)

Ian Milne (Business and Finance Manager)

Tony Hurley (Operations Manager)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AC0018 | **Welcome**  Cllr Huckle welcomed those in attendance.  Jane Biscombe then spoke about the meeting and how it differs from a usual Full Council meeting.  At the last proper Full Council meeting on 05 May Councillors considered the way forward regarding decision making now that decision making meetings could not be held virtually. Councillors felt that a return to large face to face meetings was not appropriate at this time as safe working practises could not be put in place in the Council chamber.  Councillors agreed an enhanced delegation to the Town Clerk and that her decisions would be informed and guided by a scheme of meetings following the same schedule that had been agreed for Committee and Full Council meetings. It was recognised that these advisory meetings would not make decisions but would inform her of the decisions that Councillors felt it appropriate to take until The Council returns to face-to-face decision-making meetings, or virtual meetings are made legal. This scheme of delegation will be reviewed in November if it is still in place at that time.  Councillors will notice that there are no minutes to approve at this meeting tonight. This is because only formal Full Council meetings can approve the minutes and as such the minutes of the meeting held on 05 May will be agreed at the next formal meeting which is a single-issue item meeting to sign off the governance statement (as this cannot be delegated) and is due to be held at 10am on 24th June. The minutes of that meeting will then be agreed at the next formal Council meeting which the Council anticipates holding in September, depending on restrictions.  Advisory meetings, such as this one, will have notes rather than formal minutes and those notes will be ratified at the next appropriate Formal Full Council meeting. |
| AC0019 | **Apologies**  Apologies were noted from Cllr Ferrari and Cllr Nickinson. |
| AC0020 | **Declarations of Interest**  None |
| AC0022 | **Councillor Questions and Updates**  There were no Councillor questions. |
| AC0023 | **Town Mayor’s Announcements**  Cllr Colin Huckle, Mayor of Weymouth thanked everyone involved in the Mayor’s picnic recently. It was a very successful event.  Cllr Huckle had also attended the Remembrance event at the Nothe Fort, a concert by Weymouth Brass Band, and had unveiled the street name plate at The Old Town Hall. Cllr Huckle also spoke about his visit to the Open Front Room in Weymouth town centre which offers mental health support. |
| AC0024 | **Public Questions**  None |
| AC0025 | **Finance and Governance Committee Membership**  Proposer: Cllr Luke Wakeling Seconder: Cllr David Gray  **Resolved:**  Members unanimously agreed that Cllr Whatley will take Cllr Wheller’s seat on the Finance and Governance Committee. |
| AC0026 | **Internal Audit Report**  Ian Milne introduced the report. Cllr Colin Huckle commended the Officers and Councillors involved who have contributed to such a successfully run Council in such a short period of time. It is a testament to the skills and dedication of those involved that we are receiving such good audit reports after having only been running for two years.  The report was noted. |
| AC0027 | **Annual Governance Statement 2020/21**  Ian Milne introduced the reports which were scrutinised at the last Finance and Governance meeting. For that reason, the detail work had already been carried out and Councillors were content.  Proposer: Cllr Colin Huckle Seconder: Cllr Luke Wakeling  **Resolved:**  Members unanimously agreed to recommend the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return) to the Full Council meeting on 24 July 2021, and agreed that the Annual Governance Statement be signed by the Chairman and Town Clerk at that meeting. |
| AC0028 | **Annual Accounting Statement 2020/21**  Proposer: Cllr Mark Tewkesbury Seconder: Cllr David Gray  **Resolved:**  Members unanimously agreed to recommend that Full Council approve the Annual Accounting Statements for the year ending 31 March 2021 (section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return) and the Annual Statements be signed by the Chairman of the meeting where approval was given. |
| AC0029 | **Earmarked Reserves**  Ian Milne introduced the report. Cllr David Gray reassured the meeting that all requests have been incorporated and that the council won’t see this level of underspend in future years. Cllr Gray further informed the meeting that the accounts put the Council in a good position to consider the precept for next year.  Proposer: Cllr Howard Legg Seconder: Cllr David Harris  **Resolved:**  Members unanimously agreed to:   1. recommend to the Town Clerk a list of existing reserves that have delegated authority to be used. 2. recommend to the Town Clerk a final list of reserves that are to be funded from the 2020/21 budget underspend and recommend which of these reserves should have delegated authority to be used. |
| AC0030 | **Updated Standing Orders**  Cllr Tia Roos left the meeting during this item.  Proposer: Cllr David Gray Seconder: Cllr Ken Whatley  **Resolved:**  Members unanimously agreed to recommend to the Town Clerk that the amendments in the report are made to Standing Orders. |
| AC0031 | **Updated Financial regulations**  Proposer: Cllr David Gray Seconder: Cllr Peter Barrow  **Resolved:**  Members agreed unanimously to recommend that the revised Financial Regulations be recommended to the Town Clerk for adoption. |
| AC0032 | **Safeguarding Policy**  Councillors asked if Councillors should have enhanced DBS checks. Jane Biscombe replied that as Councillors did not work 1:1 with vulnerable adults or children, and did not have access to sensitive data, this was not necessary. Other Councils have applied for enhanced DBS checks for their Councillors and have been refused as no clear need was demonstrated. An organisation needs to have a clear reason to request DBS and enhanced DBS checks. This can be revisited if the Council decides to start working more closely with young people, but even then 1:1 work will not be permitted.  Proposer: Cllr Kate Wheller Seconder: Cllr Mark Tewkesbury  **Resolved:**  Councillors agreed to recommend to the Town Clerk that the Safeguarding policy be adopted for immediate use. |
| AC0033 | Asset Transfer – Former KidsRUs site Cllr Peter Barrow informed the meeting that there is a site in Southill, on Southill Garden Drive just past the Church, which used to house a pre-school, in prefabricated buildings. The school closed some years ago, and the lease was returned to Dorset Council, as freeholder. Since closure, the prefabricated buildings, and the site, fell into a state of disrepair, and it became a health and safety hazard which is the source of frequent complaints.  It is a small site, with no obvious development potential, and is therefore very low on Dorset Council’s list of priorities. Dorset Council agreed their new asset transfer policy, so there is now a process in place, that allows Town and Parish Councils to apply for asset transfers, from Dorset Council to themselves.  Cllrs Barrow, Gray, Harris, and James, met on site recently, with officers from Weymouth Town Council and Dorset Council where it was agreed that the best way forward for the site, was to transfer it to Weymouth Town Council, who can then work with SPARK (Southill’s Local Charity), to incorporate the site into the rest of the open space.  Developing and supporting strong and healthy communities, is one of the priorities within Dorset Council’s Strategic Plan, The Council sees asset transfers, as one means of delivering against this priority. As such, Dorset Council is committed to pro-actively seeking, to transfer appropriate assets to provide benefits to local communities.  It is believed that a town or parish council, or other community group, would be able to secure a grant, and/or have access to funding streams, not available to Dorset Council.  The first stage in an asset transfer request, is for Weymouth Town Council to inform Dorset Council, that we would like to make a formal asset transfer request. Dorset Council then appoint a named Dorset Council officer, to work with Weymouth Town Council, to complete the asset transfer request form. This process investigates the legal, financial and practical matters, that need to be investigated and agreed.  Once the form is complete, then it comes back to Weymouth Town Council for consideration, and if Cllrs are happy with the information supplied, it can be formally submitted to Dorset Council. The area would join the existing play area and residents have already raised £30,000 for a zip wire.  Cllr Tia Roos returned to the meeting during this item.  Proposer: Cllr Peter Barrow Seconder: Cllr David Harris  **Resolved:**  Councillors agreed to recommend to the Clerk that Councillors and officers liaise with DC to establish a named contact so that the legal, financial and community implications of transferring the site from DC to WTC can be established. |
| AC0034 | Proposed Inclusion of Mural Trail Project to the Council’s development action plan In January 2021 the Services Committee expressed its support for the mural project, having considered a detailed project plan, and recommended that it be included in the council’s development action plan. The Committee also recommended that the project be considered for funding at year end. Under Agenda Item 11 of this meeting, members agreed to allocate £25,000 to the mural project. If the project is supported then officers will seek to secure match funding from the Weymouth BID and Arts Council England to ensure that there are sufficient funds to enable implementation.  Councillors congratulated those involved in bringing this project forward, in particular Cllr Alex Fuhrmann.  Proposer: Cllr Mark Tewkesbury Seconder: Cllr Christine James  **Resolved:**  Councillors agreed to recommend the approval of the Mural Trail Project Plan to the Town Clerk. |
| AC0035 | Parliamentary Boundary Consultation Councillors discussed the options presented. Councillors were keen to keep natural communities together and stick to existing ward boundaries, although it was noted that this is not currently the case in all areas. Councillors discussed voting for option D, with C as a back stop. However, this was rejected in favour of a vote on option D only.  Proposer: Cllr David Harris Seconder: Cllr Mark Tewkesbury  **Resolved:**  That Councillors agreed to ask the Town Clerk to return a submission from the Council requesting that all towns south of the Ridgeway (including Upwey, Broadway, the Littlemoor extension and Chickerell) be included in our parliamentary area. |
| AC0036 | **Information Items**  Councillors discussed the venues for future meetings and requested that the Committee meetings in September were held face-to-face to trial the new café style of working. The Full Council meeting in September will be held on zoom. These arrangements will be reviewed should restrictions on meetings be put in place.  A Task and Finish group will be set up to look at the PSPO revision.  Cllr Hope requested that items for the Services Committee in October be sent to him as the agenda is currently light.  The items were noted. |
| AC0037 | Host Venue Agreement for Ironman 70.3 events 2021-23 **Iron Man Host Venue Agreement**  Despite being cancelled in 2020, this major sporting event is planned to return in September this year and in both 2022 and 2023. The confidential document attached to this report sets out the most current draft of the Host Venue Agreement covering the three years of the event and is an agreement between Iron Man, Dorset Council and Weymouth Town Council. This agreement needs to be signed and sealed with the agreement of Full Council.  Members will see that there are still some sections of the agreement with annotation in red text where there are still some relatively minor issues that need to be resolved.  At a meeting between officers of all three parties this afternoon these outstanding issues were satisfactorily resolved and the deputy town clerk is now in a position to recommend the signed of the agreement to the town clerk.  Councillors thanked officers for their work on this document and discussed the content. This event is a huge bonus for the town, however, the Council needs to ensure it does not take the backlash for things beyond it’s control. In future years, sustainable transport options need to be promoted.  Cllr Barrow left the meeting.  Proposer: Cllr Ryan Hope Seconder: Cllr David Northam  **Resolved:**  That Councillors agreed to the Town Clerk having delegated authority both to agree any final amendments to the Ironman 70.3 Host Venue Agreement 2021-2023 (confidential Appendix Q) and to sign and seal the Agreement.  Cllr Colin Huckle commended Officers on the quality of report submitted at this meeting.  Meeting ended: 20:44 |