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

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**Notes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Advisory Full Council

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.00pm

**PLACE:** Zoom Virtual Meeting Place

**Present:** Colin Huckle Oz Kanji Lucy Hamilton

**Councillors** Peter Barrow Alex Fuhrmann Jan Bergman

Richard Nickinson David Northam Howard Legg

Graham Lambert Luke Wakeling Trefor Morgan

Michael Frost Jon Orrell Gill Taylor

Kate Wheller Christine James Mark Tewkesbury

Tia Roos Kevin Brookes Ken Whatley

Ryan Hope Peter Dickenson Ann Weaving

Tony Ferrari David Gray

**Officers** Jane Biscombe (Town Clerk)

Ian Milne (Deputy Town Clerk)

Charmaine Denny (Assistant Town Clerk)

Tony Hurley (Operations Manager)

Tara Williams (Parks & Open Spaces Manager)

Niki Ayles (Democratic Officer)

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| AC0064 | **Welcome**  Cllr Huckle welcomed those in attendance.  Jane Biscombe explained although that the Council is unable to hold decision-making meetings virtually, advisory meetings, such as this one, make recommendations to the Town Clerk under a delegation agreed by Members. WTC will be holding a face-to-face Full Council meeting in the Council Chamber at 11.00 am on Monday 17th January 2022. This is because there are some decisions that, legally, cannot be made by Officers and one of those is the precept. |
| AC0065 | **Apologies**  Apologies were noted from Cllr Harris, Cllr Winter and Cllr Blake. |
| AC0066 | **Declarations of Interest**  There were no declarations of interest. |
| AC0067 | **Councillor Questions and Updates**  There were no Councillor questions. |
| AC0068 | **Town Mayor’s Announcements**  The Mayor has attended several events recently, which are detailed in the agenda documentation. |
| AC0069 | **Public Questions**  **The following question had been received from Danny Whyte, from the WeyPortCCOS Facebook group:**  “With the history of Melcombe Regis going back hundreds of years, the area has been built up mostly on summer tourism. St.Alban Street is one of those little treasures that captures how quaint times were then. The lights, the bunting all enhance visitors’ memories whilst walking up and down this street. Can WTC think about putting in for permanent planning permission for lights and bunting to be hung all year down St. Alban Street please?”  **Response from WTC:**  The lighting scheme installed in St Alban Street for the Christmas season was temporary in nature as planning permission for a permanent installation is not in place. Any planning application for a permanent scheme will require considerable preparation as it would need to include a heritage statement and detailed drawings showing the impact of the installation on both the Conservation Area and any listed buildings.  At present, neither the Town Council nor the BID (*We Are Weymouth*) have plans to draw up such a detailed planning application.  The lighting is replaced by bunting provided by the local businesses during the lighter months as the lights would have little impact. This also enables the temporary nature of the two enhancements to be retained. The temporary lights were attached to buildings on St Alban Street with the owners’ permission. If Councillors wish to explore planning permission for permanent installations then it is recommended that this is referred to the Services Committee. |
| AC0070 | **Return to face-to-face meetings of Full Council**  Cllr Dickenson noted that the impact assessment states that “more people access the Council’s meetings online than attend in person” and requested the evidence for this. Jane Biscombe responded that the statistics were circulated to Members towards the end of last year. However, she will circulate this information in the next few days. There were currently 15 people watching the meeting online, many more than would usually attend a face-to-face meeting.  Cllr Hope recalled that the Finance and Governance Committee had discussed what could be done to support Members who may struggle with IT, and reminded Members that they can speak to their group leader or issues can be raised at TAG meetings. Jane Biscombe responded that she is happy to speak to Members in order to ascertain what support can be provided. Councillors have asked if the Council Chamber could be open on the evening of a virtual meeting for Councillors to use the Wi-Fi. The proposal and resource implications will be discussed by TAG.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Gray Seconder: Cllr Whatley  Members voted by a majority of 22 in favour, with 2 against and 2 abstentions, that the Council agrees to recommend to the Town Clerk to:  a) move Full Council, Committee and working group meetings to a virtual platform until the date of the next Full Council meeting at which point the arrangements will be reviewed considering Covid statistics and Government advice, and,  b) extend the existing delegation to the Town Clerk until 30 June 2022. |
| AC0071 | **Draft Budget and Precept**  Ian Milne introduced the item. There has been one amendment to the budget which was inserted after the Finance and Governance Committee on 15th December 2021. WTC currently contributes £20k towards the CSAS Officers, which is a service run by DC. DC have asked WTC to increase its contribution and £30k has been included as an upper limit. It is hoped that Portland Town Council will also make a contribution which will bring that figure down.  Cllr Gray thanked Cllr Nickinson, Cllr Whatley and Cllr Huckle for their contribution in the undertaking of two full rounds of scrutiny with budget holders and SMT, which was done in the spirt of challenge and agreement rather than budget cutting. Cllr Gray also thanked Officers for their contribution to discussions.  Cllr Gray highlighted that all services can be kept at their current levels, whether Members vote for a 0% increase to the precept or a -5% reduction. Income streams are up and WTC will seek further commercial opportunities which will avoid residents having to pay higher precept rates.  A lengthy debate followed regarding the budget and questions raised were answered by Officers or the relevant Member. Cllr Gray further explained that there will be two portions of votes, the first will be fees and charges plus the overall budget for this precept. Another debate will then be held regarding the precept. Votes will be taken separately, as required by the auditors.  Cllr Wakeling proposed that recommendations one and two are voted on as detailed in the agenda. This was seconded by Cllr Gray.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Gray  Members voted unanimously in favour that this Advisory Full Council recommends that Full Council approve the proposed fees and charges for 2022/23.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Gray  Members voted by a majority of 20 in favour, with 6 against, that this Advisory Full Council recommends that Full Council approve the proposed budgets for 2022/23.  Members then debated the precept amount for 2022/23. Cllr Gray proposed a 5% reduction in the Council Tax precept, which equates to an annual precept of £176.41 on a Band D property.  Cllr Hope proposed a recorded vote for recommendation 3, which was seconded by Cllr Gray. Cllr Weaving left the meeting during the debate regarding the precept and did not take part in the vote.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Gray Seconder: Cllr Barrow  Members voted by a majority of 22 in favour, with 1 against and 2 abstentions, to agree that this Advisory Full Council recommend that Full Council approve a precept for 2022/23 of £3,223,970.  Members voted as follows:  Cllr Fuhrmann – For Cllr James – For  Cllr Gray – For Cllr Northam – For  Cllr Taylor – For Cllr Lambert – For  Cllr Legg – For Cllr Bergman – For  Cllr Orrell – For Cllr Wheller – For  Cllr Whatley – For Cllr Brookes – For  Cllr Hamilton – For Cllr Wakeling – Abstain  Cllr Tewkesbury – For Cllr Frost – For  Cllr Kanji – For Cllr Barrow – For  Cllr Dickenson – Against Cllr Nickinson – For  Cllr Hope – For Cllr Roos – For  Cllr Ferrari – For Cllr Morgan – For  Cllr Huckle - Abstain |
| AC0072 | **Single-use plastic policy and Action Plan**  Charmaine Denny introduced the item.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Lambert  Members voted by a majority of 24 in favour, with 1 abstention, that Full Council recommends that the Town Clerk adopts the Single Use Plastic Policy and Action Plan including the mitigation actions as detailed within the plan to reduce the Councils use of single use plastics. |
| AC0073 | **Arrangements for seafront cleansing and waste and recycling collection**  Tony Hurley introduced the item. Cllr Bergman requested that when the cleansing arrangements are discussed with DC, that stringent measures on the cleaning up of dogs mess on a daily basis is included.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Barrow Seconder: Cllr Lambert  Members voted unanimously in favour that Full Council recommends that the Town Clerk agrees a one-year extension to the contract with Dorset Council for seafront cleansing and waste and recycling collection. |
| AC0074  AC0075  AC0076  AC0077  AC0078 | **PSPO Review**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item and reiterated that DC have requested that WTC increases its contribution for the CSAS Officers, and is also looking at bringing in a 3 or 5-year arrangement which will give them some assurance that the scheme will continue. This will also offer staff some continuation of employment, which will benefit the service.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Gray  Members voted unanimously in favour of agreeing to recommend that the Town Clerk send the comments in Appendix E to Dorset Council as the Council’s official response to the consultation.  **Consultation & Engagement Policy**  Cllr James left the meeting during this item and did not take part in the vote.  Resolved:  Proposer: Cllr Tewkesbury Seconder: Cllr Wakeling  Members voted by a majority of 23 in favour, with 1 against, that Full Council agrees to recommend to the Town Clerk the adoption of the Consultation and Engagement Policy.  **Petitions Policy**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Gray  Members voted unanimously in favour that Full Council agrees to recommend to the Town Clerk the adoption of the Petitions Policy.  **Dorset Council’s Air Quality Action Plan**  A discussion took place regarding the comments Members wished to be included as part of WTC’s response to the consultation. Jane Biscombe will work with the Democratic Officer with regards to the notes of this evening’s meeting and will circulate to Councillors prior to the consultation deadline on 23rd January 2022, and will submit WTC’s response to DC.  **Resolved:**  Members voted by a majority of 21 in favour, with 2 abstentions, to agree the action detailed above.  **Information Items**  **Redlands Community Sports Hub**  Cllr Northam reported that a number of Councillors have been meeting with Weymouth College, DC, and Active Dorset. The position is that Weymouth College are surrendering the lease of Redlands and have identified Active Dorset to take over part of the lease for the sports fields. However, they will not take over the indoor facilities. The current plan is that in July 2022 the indoor facilities will close.  A public meeting is being held at 6.00pm on Saturday 15th January 2022, at The Bay Theatre, Weymouth College. Councillors are urged to attend this meeting. Weymouth College are unable to live stream the meeting but will be producing a full summary after the meeting. Feedback has been received that a Saturday evening is not the best time for a public meeting, and some people may be deterred from attending due to the pandemic therefore there may be a need to consider another public meeting that is not organised by Weymouth College.  A petition to save Redlands currently has over 2000 signatures and a lot of people are very upset about the proposals. The information that there were alternative facilities available is turning out to be untrue. Cllr Northam stressed that Weymouth cannot afford to lose this facility. Everyone has heard about health and areas of deprivation, and it will get a lot worse if Redlands closes.  **WTC Forward Plan**  Cllr Gray requested that the Forward Plan looks ahead six months in terms of what is scheduled to be discussed at future meetings.  The meeting closed at 21.28pm. |