

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

01305 239839 - office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Services Committee

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.00pm

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

**Councillors**

**Present:**

Cllr Ryan Hope (C) Cllr Alex Fuhrmann Cllr David Northam

Cllr David Harris Cllr Gill Taylor Cllr Mark Tewkesbury

Cllr Graham Lambert Cllr Christine James Cllr Tia Roos

Cllr Peter Dickenson Cllr Kevin Brookes Cllr Kate Wheller

**Apologies:**

Cllr Becky Blake Cllr Oz Kanji

**Officers**

Ian Milne (Deputy Town Clerk)

Charlie Shepherd (Events Manager)

Ben Heath (Project Officer)

Tony Hurley (Operations Manager)

Niki Ayles (Democratic Officer)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| S0160 | **Welcome by the Chair**  Cllr Hope welcomed attendees to the meeting. |
| S0161 | **Apologies for Absence**  Proposer: Cllr Tewkesbury Seconder: Cllr James  Apologies were unanimously approved from Cllr Blake and Cllr Kanji. |
| S0162 | **Declarations of Interest**  Cllr Hope and Cllr Brookes declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 12 as members of the Lions Club which organises the Beach Motocross event.  Cllr Roos declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 16 as an employee of an organisation that uses Redland Community Sports Hub. |
| S0163 | **Minutes of the last meeting**  Cllr Northam referred to page 86 of the minutes of the last meeting regarding the Summer Fireworks item. The minutes state that “there was a lengthy debate” followed by a few extracts. Cllr Northam requested the record be checked and the minutes amended accordingly to include his comments.  Ian Milne (Deputy Town Clerk) responded that Officers will review the record of the meeting, as well as the video recording, and any amendments will be bought back to the next meeting for approval.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Northam Seconder: Cllr Roos  Members voted unanimously in favour of deferring the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October, until such time that the record and video recording have been reviewed for accuracy. The minutes of the last meeting will be brought back to the next meeting of the Services Committee for approval, subject to any amendments as appropriate.  Cllr Hope requested that, should Members wish to query the accuracy of the minutes in the future, that they contact the office in order that their queries can be ratified. |
| S0164 | **Councillors Questions**  There were no Councillor questions. |
| S0165  S0166 | **Public Comments and Questions**  The following public question was shared with Members by Cllr Hope:  “Could the committee advise why the steps to the beach by the pavilion are kept clean during the summer season but are left to accumulate sand during the winter months. The steps have the potential to cause someone to slip and fall.”  Tony Hurley provided the following response:  “The Town Council pays Dorset Council’s to clear these steps throughout the summer season as part of the wider cleansing of the beach. However, in the winter months the town council only has a small number of staff on duty inspecting and maintaining the whole Promenade, so it is not always possible to keep the steps free of sand. Unfortunately, these steps are prone to collecting sand quite quickly if there is a northly or easterly wind, or spring tide.    However, there are alternative, shallower steps with handrails and also a slipway slightly further along the Promenade where the beach can easily be accessed.”  Cllr James was concerned that now the issue has been highlighted by a member of the public, it should be looked at. Officers are looking at erecting signage in the area of the steps as there are alternatives a few yards away. WTC is developing a Beach Masterplan therefore Members may wish to look at this in the future.  The following question was asked by a member of the public:  “On behalf of Dog Friendly Weymouth and Portland, our hope is that future firework displays will be more inclusive of young children. Autistic children cannot usually enjoy fireworks because of loud noises. This year, on the occasion of the two quieter displays, a child was able to watch from the beach and was not feeling the vibrations from the bangs through her body. We feel that more inclusive displays would increase the number of people who come view the fireworks. They would also be of great benefit to pets and wildlife in the area as every bit of wildlife is affected by fireworks. The group would like to see quieter fireworks displays.  Secondly, how can the litter produced by these events be reduced. Every year, on 6th November, I attend the beach and help clear the beach of litter along with other dog walkers. The situation has got better as bins have been placed on the beach. However, some people are still putting used sparklers in the sand. A lot of fast-food containers and plastic bottles have been found, and the group would like to reduce those things and WTC is keen to reduce single use plastics. I am hoping that there is something that can happen that reduces the amount of litter that is left behind.”  Cllr Hope thanked the member of the public for her questions. The Committee would be discussing this issue later in the meeting and therefore the member of the public was invited to stay and listen to the remainder of the meeting. Cllr Hope also wished to thank the member of the public and her group for the beach clean that they undertake each year on 6th November.  **Single-use plastic policy**  Ben Heath introduced the report.  Cllr Taylor requested the inclusion of sustainable alternatives.  Two Community Litter Pick bags have been put together for community use. WTC is linking with Litter Free Dorset and will send out Risk Assessment templates as well as list of Do’s and Don’ts. WTC has also included the contact details for Dorset Waste Services, and WTC’s terms and conditions if a litter pick is taking place on the Council’s land as well as information regarding insurance. Ben Heath confirmed that Dorset Waste Services are happy to collect the rubbish collected on litter picks as part of their collection and WTC will not incur a cost for this.  Concerns were raised about the re-use of the gloves provided in the Litter Pick bags. Ben Heath confirmed that attendees will be advised to bring their own gloves and groups will be advised that the gloves provided in the bags are re-used.  Cllr Northam requested that Officers contact Dorset Waste Services to enquire about the disposal route for litter that has been collected by people crossing public rights of way on to private land.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Wheller  Members voted unanimously in favour of the Services Committee;   1. agreeing to endorse the Single Use Plastic Policy and Action Plan including the mitigation actions detailed within it required to reduce the Councils SUP usage. 2. recommending the adoption of the Single Use Plastic Policy and Action Plan to Full Council. |
| S0167  S0168 | **Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy**  Tony Hurley introduced the report.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Northam Seconder: Cllr Taylor  Members voted unanimously in favour of nominating Cllr James, Cllr Wheller, Cllr Fuhrmann and Cllr Hope to a member task and finish group to oversee the development of the draft cultural strategy.  Other town councillors may be asked to share their experience as and when appropriate.  Members then voted on the substantive recommendation.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Fuhrmann Seconder: Cllr Wheller  Members voted unanimously in favour of:   1. officers developing a draft Cultural Strategy for Weymouth for consideration by the Committee later in 2022; 2. that a member task and finish group is established to oversee the development of the draft cultural strategy.   **Survey of firework display and alternative options**  Tony Hurley and Charlie Sheppard introduced the report. A lengthy debate was held regarding how many fireworks displays the Council should be organising. It was highlighted that WTC is on course to reduce its carbon to zero by 2030, which requires steady change each year.  Cllr Harris proposed an additional recommendation, recommendation C, for Members to accept that the 2022 firework display on 5th November be held. This was seconded by Cllr Lambert.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Lambert  Members voted unanimously in favour of the addition of recommendation C, that Members accept that the 2022 firework display on 5th November will be held.  Members then discussed the substantive recommendation.  As well as the environmental impact of fireworks, it was suggested that the economic and social impacts should have equal merit.  It was suggested that WTC should ask the local community to become involved in identifying alternative events as there may be residents who have great ideas but don’t know who to contact. If any member of the public has a suggestion regarding alternative events, they are asked to contact their ward Councillor, who can bring suggestions forward.  It was highlighted that the result of the post-fireworks survey was that the majority of the public like the display, and therefore all firework displays should remain in place as well as the Council looking at other events. It was noted that WTC received a lot of positive press from the local press and radio following the fireworks events.  It was suggested that some events that WTC runs may have a bigger carbon impact than the fireworks but this will not be known until the data is available, and this will take time. Therefore, it is not possible to make a decision regarding what should happen in the Summer.  Cllr Fuhrmann proposed that WTC holds 4 fireworks displays in 2022, two of which are lower noise displays. Additionally, the bonfire on the beach is made out of pallets and, when set alight, the wood burns but the nails are left behind and this needs to be considered. Cllr Taylor seconded Cllr Fuhrmann’s proposal.  Tony Hurley reported that the budget for Summer fireworks is normally £15k for 3 displays, and there is a separate budget for Bonfire Night of just over £5k. However, last year’s budget was extended for 5 firework displays.  Members were reminded that the Committee is not being asked to decide whether or not the Council will hold fireworks displays. The recommendation is to set money aside in the budget. Whilst the budget is set aside, alternatives will continue to be explored.  Cllr James suggested that WTC should lobby supermarkets to stop selling fireworks and instead donate fireworks for public displays. Cllr Hope invited Cllr James and Cllr Roos, who had earlier stated that central government should be lobbied to ban the selling of fireworks for private displays, to propose a motion to Full Council regarding the issue.  Cllr Hope summarised that there has been a long, detailed debate, and the Committee is being asked to earmark the budget for the fireworks displays whilst Officers will continue to come back to this Committee with further details regarding the impact of fireworks and possible alternative displays. Cllr Fuhrmann confirmed that he was happy, therefore, to request that the budget for Summer evening events is increased.  As a point of clarity, Ian Milne highlighted that if recommendation B is amended as requested by Cllr Fuhrmann, then it would be a recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee to increase the budget.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Fuhrmann Seconder: Cllr Taylor  Members voted by a majority of 6 in favour, with 5 against, to recommend that the funding for Summer events evening entertainment is increased for the 2022-23 budget, for fireworks or reallocation to alternative events.  Members then voted on the overall recommendation, as amended.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Northam Seconder: Cllr Tewkesbury  Members voted by a majority of 11 in favour, with 1 abstention, to recommend that the Committee:  a) instructs officers to commission further market research into large-scale outdoor events, which would include obtaining indicative costings and an assessment of environmental impact;  b) that the funding for Summer events evening entertainment is increased for the 2022-23 budget, for fireworks or reallocation to alternative events.  c) that Members accept that the 2022 firework display on 5th November will definitely go ahead. |
| S0169 | **Lighting of Jubilee Clock for 2022**  Tony Hurley introduced the report.  Cllr Hope proposed an amendment to the recommendation, and that a panel be formed, to be made up of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor Elect, to select the charities and good causes to benefit from the illumination of the Jubilee Clock in 2022. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Taylor  Members voted by a minority of 2 in favour, with 10 against, for a panel be formed, to be made up of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Mayor Elect, to select the charities and good causes to benefit from the illumination of the Jubilee Clock in 2022. The motion was therefore lost.  Cllr Brookes proposed an amendment to the recommendation to include the word “local” when referring to charities and good causes and suggested that local charities and good causes be invited using any media channels available and that the opportunity should not be promoted online only as some charities are not always online or on social media.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Brookes Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Members voted unanimously in favour that the committee nominates two members to form a panel with the Mayor to select the local charities and good causes to benefit from the illumination of the Jubilee Clock in 2022.  Cllr James nominated Cllr Roos to sit on the panel alongside the Mayor.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr James Seconder: Cllr Brookes  Members voted by a majority of 11 in favour, with 1 abstention, to nominate the Mayor and Cllr Roos to form a panel to select the local charities and good causes to benefit from the illumination of the Jubilee Clock in 2022. |
| S0170  S0171  S0172  S0173  S0174  S0175  S0176 | **Annual Festival and Events Programme 2022**  Tony Hurley introduced the report.  Charlie Sheppard clarified that WTC “organised events” are events which are managed and run solely by WTC. WTC “hosted events” and “facilitated events” are events where WTC liaises with organisers about what land they wish to use etc.  Cllr Fuhrmann requested that a code is allocated for events where the only involved of WTC is the use by the organisers of WTC land.  Concern was raised that events across the community still do not appear to be taking place beyond the beach and town centre. The Council has been asked to deliver a community forum in several forums but does not appear in the 2022 Events Programme.  Tony Hurley responded that it had been agreed that community roadshows would remain separate from the main events programme.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Members voted unanimously in favour that the Committee:   1. agrees the draft central Events & Festivals programme for 2022 as set out in Appendix D, and is looking forward to receiving details of how it is going to support/deliver community events around the town.   The Committee then discussed recommendation B.  Cllr Northam requested that the Council considered whether it should be seeking funding from the Arts and Culture Department at Dorset Council, as he sees Dorset Council putting on events in the east of the County, but not in Weymouth. Tony Hurley responded that Dorset Council provides funding to Activate Performing Arts and B-side. Cllr Northam therefore requested that it is recommended to Dorset Council that they made an equal engagement with Weymouth to other parts of Dorset.  Cllr Wheller proposed that Recommendation B be amended to read as follows:   1. gives its in principle support to the programming of a major outdoor arts performance event in Autumn 2022 and requests that the council considers the allocation of £20,000 in the budget for 2022-23 in order to provide part-funding for the event.   **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wheller Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Members voted unanimously in favour that Recommendation B be amended as proposed by Cllr Wheller above.  Members then voted on the overall recommendation as amended.  Cllr Hope will talk to Cllr Northam outside of his meeting regarding Cllr Northam’s concerns around the funding of events by Dorset Council in other parts of Dorset but not Weymouth.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wheller Seconder: Cllr Tewkesbury  Members voted unanimously in favour that the Committee;   1. agrees the draft central Events & Festivals programme for 2022 as set out in Appendix D, and is looking forward to receiving details of how it is going to support/deliver community events around the town. 2. gives its in principle support to the programming of a major outdoor arts performance event in Autumn 2022 and requests that the council considers the allocation of £20,000 in the budget for 2022-23 in order to provide part-funding for the event.   **Free parking allocation in association with key 2022 events**  Tony Hurley introduced the report. Cllr Hope proposed that all proposals/recommendations be removed and that WTC promotes the availability of 4 free parking days, and that applications are invited from organisations for the Services Committee to agree at its next meeting, as he was concerned that no applications have been made other than what is before Councillors this evening.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Members voted by a majority of 10 in favour, with 2 against, that all proposals be removed and that WTC publicises the availability of 4 free parking days, and that applications be invited from organisations for the Services Committee to agree at its next meeting.  The Events Team will work with the Communications Team to prepare a press release.  **Scrutiny Request – Allotment Leases**  Cllr Taylor introduced the report and explained that the first meeting of the scrutiny/review group would be scope what is going to be looked at.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Taylor Seconder: Cllr Wheller  Members voted by a majority of 10 in favour, with 2 abstentions, to agree that the scrutiny review request be progressed. It was agreed that Cllr Taylor, Cllr Wheller and Cllr Brookes will sit on the review panel.  **Fees and Charges**  Ian Milne introduced the report.  **Resolved:**  Members noted the fees and charges (Appendix F) that will be presented to Finance and Governance Committee on 15 December 2021.  **PSPO Review**  Ian Milne introduced the item. Cllr Luke Wakeling shared his concerns regarding the south harbourside in that there is a gap along Trinity Street and Cove Row. He would therefore like WTC to propose that Trinity Street, Cove Row and Nothe Parade are included in the PSPO area. He added that Members may also note the concerning gap at the Westham subways and Rodwell Trail, which stops at Chickerell Road and does not go as far as the tunnel at Rodwell.  Cllr James asked that WTC also request that the PSPO goes as far as Pottery Lane and the Wessex Water site.  Cllr Taylor asked that WTC request that the other side of Lakeside Walk be included in the PSPO and said that if the consumption of alcohol is excluded on the Gurkha side of the lake, it will be moved to the other said and therefore this also needs to be included.  It was highlighted that the draft Order is based on information provided to DC around antisocial behaviour and crime hotspots, and the locations mentioned above have not been included as there is not the data to support it.  All comments were noted and Cllr Wakeling will map out the areas for inclusion, ready for Full Council debate on 12th January 2022.  **Redlands Community Sports Hub**  Cllr Harris introduced the item, and informed Members that a meeting has been agreed between Cllr Harris, Cllr Barrow, Weymouth College, Active Dorset, a DC Officer and DC Cabinet Member, which will be taking place next week. In terms of Recommendation B, Cllr Harris should be receiving that information and can circulate that to Members. However, this does not alter the other points about why the decision was taken without any reference to WTC, and why there was no discussion with the DC Councillors for Weymouth, who received a briefing just one day before the press release was published.  Cllr Northam highlighted that there is a huge outcry in the local community about what is happening, and he would like to be involved as ward Councillor, dependent on dates.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Tewkesbury  Members voted unanimously in favour that WTC request that DC officers and the cabinet brief holder attend a briefing session for all councillors to:  a) Discuss why WTC was not involved in the decision making to close Redlands Sports Hall, and how we can work better together in the future  b) Share the data they used to determine this course of action to enable a shared understanding  c) Confirm how the building of at least 350 new houses (possibly 500) within half a mile of the site and the work just beginning on “Building stronger communities” was included in the evaluation.  **Information Items**    **Resolved:**  Members noted that information items.  The meeting closed at 9.42pm. |