

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

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**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Services Committee

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 20th October 2021 at 7.00pm

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

**Councillors**

**Present:**

Cllr Ryan Hope (C) Cllr Alex Fuhrmann Cllr Weaving (Sub)

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 David Northam

**Officers**

Ian Milne (Deputy Town Clerk)

Tara Williams (Parks and Open Spaces Manager)

Tony Hurley (Operations Manager)

Niki Ayles (Democratic & Administration Officer)

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| S0148 | **Welcome by the Chair**  Cllr Hope welcomed attendees to the meeting. |
| S0149 | **Apologies for Absence**  Apologies were received from Cllr Wheller, Cllr Kanji and Cllr Blake. Cllr Blake was substituted by Cllr Weaving.  Cllr Wheller, Vice-Chair, had sent her apologies. Cllr Brookes was nominated, un-challenged, to the role of Vice-Chair for this evening’s meeting. |
| S0150 | **Declarations of Interest**  There were no declarations of interest. |
| S0151 | **Minutes of the last meeting**  **Resolved:**  **Proposer: Cllr Taylor Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann**  Councillors agreed by a majority of 11 in favour, with none against and 1 abstention, that the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 21st April 2021 were a true and accurate record, and these were duly signed. |
| S0152 | **Councillors Questions**  There were no Councillor questions. |
| S0153  S0154 | **Public Comments and Questions**  **The Marsh**  Concerns were raised that travellers may be able to access The Marsh as the stones had been removed.  Tara Williams responded that WTC had been informed by contractors that work at The Marsh would be starting on 14th October therefore the stones were removed. WTC was then informed that there would be a delay to the start date. However, the work is now commencing on Friday 22nd October.  **Planning permission in Roundhayes Close**  A member of the public was concerned that he has been unable to find out from Dorset Council who will be occupying 13 Roundhayes Close, which is being converted into 6 flats and is close to his property.  Cllr Taylor will investigate this and contact the member of the public accordingly.  **Anti-social Behaviour**  Concerns were raised about ASB in the proximity of The Marsh.  Cllr Fuhrmann responded that members of the public are advised to continue to report ASB to Dorset Police as this is how they build a case.  Thanks were expressed to the member of the public for attending this evening’s meeting.  Members of the public are welcome to submit questions by email to [office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting, to be asked on their behalf, or can attend in person to ask a question.  **Parks and Open Spaces Footfall Counters**  Tara Williams, Parks and Open Spaces Manager, introduced the report.  In order to ensure the more accurate recording of data, Parks and Open Spaces propose to take ownership of the data so that it can be reported more regularly. The training of staff will be arranged with the counter supplier and software will be installed on to a staff laptop or similar.  Parks and Open Spaces would like to purchase 3 further footfall counters to be installed at Sandsfoot Gardens. It can then be moved to monitor the use of WTC play areas. It is suspected that some play areas are under used and this will help identify where money should be invested.  **Resolved:**  Members noted the report. |
| S0155  S0156 | **Summer firework displays – evaluation and proposals**  Tony Hurley introduced the report.  Cllr Lambert highlighted that since the decision was taken to hold 5 fireworks displays in August, things have moved on in terms of climate change. The latest IPCC report was published in August and the UN Secretary General has described it as a “code red for humanity”. Half of the total cumulative global emissions have been since 1990. The Climate and Ecological Emergency Group have been looking at this. The five firework displays provided 50 minutes of entertainment in total, producing 115 tons of carbon dioxide and dumping up to 300kg of waste directly into Weymouth Bay. The cost to the precept payer is £5600 per event, to dump chemicals into the sea off of Weymouth. Only £1390 of sponsorship was obtained overall for the events.  Cllr Lambert stated that the CEE Group had agreed that its strategy for encouraging personal change is for WTC to lead by example. If the Committee votes this evening for a Summer of fireworks, WTC cannot in all honesty say that it is the Council to follow. Cllr Lambert was concerns that by continuing with fireworks displays, the reputation of the Council as a credible leader in the fight against climate change will be undermined. There are alternatives and the Council does not need to be destructive, and the money could be used in a better way.  There then followed a lengthy debate.  Concern was raised that there may be a knock-on effect on the local economy if the fireworks display were not held. It was also felt that there was a need to look at whether the carbon dioxide figures quoted were as a result of the fireworks displays only, or the fireworks display plus the number of visitors being attracted to the town for the events.  There was also concern that the fireworks displays are enjoyed by many families who cannot afford to take their children to events and activities that charge a fee. It was suggested that WTC looks at what it can do to mitigate the impact of fireworks displays, and that consideration should be given to planting trees wherever possible.  It was suggested that public fireworks displays may encourage people to attend them rather than holding private displays at home, and that perhaps WTC needs to advertise this more.  Cllr Northam stated that in August, WTC held 5 displays to help revitalise the town, along with other events such as the Inside Out puppet display. LED lights have also been installed along the seafront, and there was previously mention of these being linked to music and enabling local people to be creative and utilise the facility. Cllr Northam suggested that one firework display be held on 5th November and one in August, but that WTC find four other creative events to hold in the town on evenings in the Summer.  Cllr Taylor felt that the Committee did not have enough information to take forward this evening. Information has been received regarding fireworks and there have a been a lot of ideas but there is nothing to vote on this evening, and she asked whether the item can be deferred and a report containing information regarding other ideas be brought to the next meeting of the Services Committee.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Taylor Seconder: Cllr Northam  Members voted by a majority of 10 in favour, with 2 abstentions, to defer this item until the next meeting of the Services Committee.  Any suggestions for alternatives to fireworks displays should be emailed to the Events Team. The Town Clerk will include this statement in the Friday round-up email to all Councillors and staff.  **Review of deckchair hire service (from Finance & Governance Committee 16/06/21)**  Tony Hurley introduced the report.  Cllr Tewkesbury proposed an amendment to the recommendation, that the provision of parasols will be trialled next year.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Tewkesbury Seconder: Cllr Dickenson  Members voted by a majority of 9 in favour, with 1 against and 2 abstentions, to agree that the provision of parasols should be trialled next year.  It was highlighted that during the Olympics, special deckchairs were acquired and it was suggested that the Council may wish to consider this for the 10th anniversary of the Olympics. Officers will look into this, as well as the suggestion of having a giant deckchair on the beach to advertise the deckchair hire service.  Members then voted on the recommendation as amended.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Tewkesbury Seconder: Cllr Dickenson  Members voted by a majority of 11 in favour, with 1 abstention to:  a) note the performance of the beach equipment hire service and the contribution that the income generated makes towards meeting the overall cost of the beach management service;  b) agree the continuation of the peak rate hire charges for July and August.  c) that the provision of parasols will be trialled next year. |
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| S0157 | **Proposals for Platinum Jubilee and 10th Anniversary Games celebrations and events**  Tony Hurley introduced the report.  It was noted that part ii of the recommendation includes a jubilee fireworks display and Cllr Roos proposed that this be removed given the discussion earlier in the meeting.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Roos Seconder: Cllr James  Members voted by 6 in favour, with 6 against, to remove part ii of the recommendation. Cllr Hope, as Chair, had the casting vote and chose to vote against the proposal. Therefore, the motion was defeated.  Cllr Fuhrmann proposed that the recommendation be amended in order that the proposed jubilee firework display be discussed at the next meeting of the Services Committee, along with the other fireworks displays discussed earlier in the meeting.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Fuhrmann Seconder: Cllr Taylor  Members voted by a majority of 11 in favour, with 1 abstention, to agree that the proposed jubilee fireworks display will be considered at the next meeting of the Services Committee.  Cllr Northam suggested that the Jubilee Beacon Lighting at the Nothe be the large search light on top of the Nothe, rather than a traditional beacon, in order to take in to account the climate and ecological emergency and wondered whether Olympic celebrations could tie in with the local water sport provision.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Tewkesbury Seconder: Cllr Taylor  Members voted by a majority of 10 favour, with 2 abstentions, to agree:  a) That the committee recommends the reallocation of the VE/VJ reserve of £29,422 in order to fund the following:  i. a jubilee beacon lighting at the Nothe Fort;  ii. a seafront jubilee weekend firework display within a budget of £6,000 (to be discussed at the next Services Committee meeting);  iii. a Jubilee Celebration Grant Fund is established comprising a total of £6,000 to be allocated via grants of up to £500 to voluntary and community groups to support celebratory events for the Jubilee holiday;  iv. a Community Sports Festival as set out in the report with a budget of £5,000;  v. a Community Sports Grant Scheme with a budget of £4,000 to allocate grants of up to £250 to sports clubs participating in the Sports Festival.  vi. the commissioning with a budget of £5,000 of an art installation in Nothe Gardens to provide a permanent commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the London Games.  b) That the committee requests to Finance & Governance Committee and Full Council that the VE/VJ reserve is reallocated to be available to fund the special events as listed in recommendation (a);  c) if the funding for the events listed in recommendation (a) is agreed by the council then officers should present more detailed plans for implementation to the committee at the earliest opportunity. |
| S0158  S0159 | **Free use of Dorset Council car parks**  Tony Hurley introduced the report.  Cllr Lambert highlighted the impact assessment and suggested that free buses should be offered on the proposed dates rather than free parking. This would benefit those who cannot afford cars and, in addition, cars would not be attracted in to the town.  Cllr Hope suggested that a Project Initiation Document is submitted to look in to how much it would cost to have free buses into the town.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Northam Seconder: Cllr Harris  Members voted by a majority of 11 in favour, with 1 against, to agree that a request is submitted to Dorset Council for the allocation of the following dates for the free use of all town centre car parks:  a) Saturday November 27th 2021  b) Thursday December 16th 2021  **Information Items**  **Update regarding Ambassador for Disability Rights (from Services Committee 08/09/21)**  Tony Hurley provided an update.  Cllr Hope felt that it would be useful for the Council to apply for organisational membership of Disability Rights UK either out of an existing budget or by bringing it back to the Services Committee or the Finance and Governance Committee.  It was reported that the Weymouth and Portland Access Group disappeared for a couple of years but now wishes to re-establish as Weymouth Access Group. The group would be interested in looking at this sort of report and interpret it in relation to Weymouth, and it would give the group a boost to establish itself again.  Officers will investigate membership of Disability Rights UK and bring a report to the next meeting of the Services Committee.  **Update on deployment of Speed Indicator Devices (SID)**  Tony Hurley provided a verbal update.  **Date from previous events**  Tony Hurley provided a verbal update.  Cllr Hope requested that online surveys are undertaken following the bonfire and fireworks event on 5th November and following the Remembrance Day event.  **Mural Trail Update**  Tony Hurley provided a verbal update.  Cllr Fuhrmann reported that an amazing number of artists had applied and the working group had had to put off established artists. However, the group was happy in terms of the local artists sourced and he will be excited to look at those finalists and show those to Committee members in the future.  **Forward Plan**  Members were reminded that the Committee made a recommendation to the Town Clerk to have in place a Scrutiny Policy and Form. However, as yet, none have come forward.  Cllr Taylor reported that she had submitted a scrutiny form around allotments. Ian Milne will look into this. |
|  | **Resolved:**  Members noted the information items. |
|  | The meeting closed at 8.43 pm |