

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

01305 239839 - office@weymouthtowncouncil.gov.uk

**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Services Committee

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 13th April 2022 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 Kevin Brookes Cllr Graham Lambert

Cllr Christine James Cllr Tia Roos Cllr David Gray (Sub)

Cllr Peter Dickenson Cllr Kate Wheller (VC)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Becky Blake Cllr Gill Taylor Cllr Mark Tewkesbury

**Officers**

Ian Milne (Deputy Town Clerk)

Charmaine Denny (Assistant Town Clerk)

Tony Hurley (Operations Manager)

Niki Ayles (Democratic Officer)

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| S0190 | **Welcome by the Chair**  Cllr Hope welcomed attendees to the meeting, including recently elected town councillor for Westham West, Cllr Tim Young, who was attending as an observer. |
| S0191 | **Apologies for Absence**  Proposer: Cllr Wheller Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Apologies were unanimously approved from Cllr Blake, Cllr Tewkesbury and Cllr Taylor, who was substituted by Cllr Gray. |
| S0192 | **Declarations of Interest**  There were no declarations of interest. |
| S0193 | **Minutes of the last meeting**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wheller Seconder: Cllr Harris  Members voted by majority of 9 in favour, with 1 abstention, to agree the minutes of the last formal meeting on 2nd March 2022 as a true and accurate record. |
| S0194 | **Councillors Questions**  There were no Councillor questions. |
| S0195  S0196  S0197  S0198 | **Public Comments and Questions**  There was one member of the public in attendance plus recently elected town councillor for Westham West, Cllr Tim Young.  A member of the public raised concerns regarding traffic management along the Esplanade as well as the safety concerns regarding members of the public crossing the road at the King Street/Esplanade junction.  Cllr Hope advised that these matters are the responsibility of Dorset Council, and that the unitary Councillors who also sit on this Committee as town councillors would be happy to discuss this with the member of the public outside of this meeting. Cllr Hope advised that Officers had been notified of a statement from a member of the public with regards to Item 7, and this would be shared with Members at the start of that item.  **Transfer of street furniture and cycle shelters**  Cllr Brookes joined the meeting during this item. Ian Milne read a statement from a member of the public as follows:  “I first contacted DC last December about the placing of a Listening Bench outside the Catholic Church, Our Lady Star of the Sea, 1 Stavordale Road, Weymouth. I was told that such matters are now in the hands of WTC. However, the handover was not yet complete and hence my request has been left in limbo ever since. I feel that this has gone on long enough. We are not asking for money just permission to place the bench on the pavement, which is very wide, outside the church.  Where these have been placed, research has shown a benefit to many peoples mental health and wellbeing. It allows people to converse with strangers, either of which could be lonely or troubled and have no-one to talk things through with. The bench would be labelled to what it is with an explanation clearly marked for all to read. I would very much like a decision or guidance as to what is required for the next step.”  Tony Hurley then introduced the report. Cllr Hope stated that, in light of the letter from the member of the public, there is a need to identity a process with regards to the installation of street furniture. Tony Hurley will seek clarification from DC with regards to whether new permission is required from DC for the installation of a new item of street furniture in a specific location if a piece of street furniture has only recently been removed from that location.  It was highlighted that WTC will be given £20k by DC towards the replacement of damaged benches. Cllr Harris requested that Members be provided with a map detailing the location of benches, especially those that require replacement or repair, as soon as possible.  Cllr Hope proposed the addition of the following recommendations:  c) That WTC contacts DC and supports the application for a Listening Bench on Stavordale Road, in order to get the process moving.  d) That a process is brought back to the next Services Committee so that all Members know how to apply for new benches.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Harris  Members voted unanimously in favour of agreeing the two additional recommendations details above.  Members then voted on the substantive recommendation.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Northam Seconder: Cllr James  Members voted unanimously in favour that the Committee:   1. notes progress with the transfer of street furniture from Dorset Council and the proposed provision of two new cycle shelters in Weymouth Town Centre; 2. requests officers to bring forward a progress report later in 2022 which includes an assessment of costs and future budget implications relating to the on-going maintenance and replacement of street furniture. 3. That WTC contacts DC and supports the application for a Listening Bench on Stavordale Road, in order to get the process moving. 4. That a process is brought back to the next Services Committee so that all Members know how to apply for new benches.   **Update on plans for outdoor arts event**  Tony Hurley introduced the report. Tony Hurley will ask Activate about its plans in terms of community engagement in the run up to the event.  Cllr Gray proposed the addition of the following recommendation:  c) That post-event analysis is obtained, for use in any future considerations.  Concerns were raised regarding traffic management during large events such as this, and it was highlighted that DC will need to resolve any traffic management issues. WTC will be encouraging attendees to sustainably travel where possible however some areas of the town do not have a bus service after a certain time, and it was suggested that DC be approached with regards to opening the Park and Ride for events such as this. Tony Hurley will take these points back to DC.  With regards to Activate undertaking their own survey of attendees to the event, it was requested that the survey includes questions regarding the impact on Weymouth, whether it was attendees first visit to Weymouth and whether it was the event that brought attendees to the town.  It was highlighted that traffic management for an event is the responsibility of the event organiser and that they will be liaising with DC regarding traffic management. However, concerns were raised that the event organiser may not be aware of the traffic management issues already experienced in the town. It was also suggested that WTC contact First Buses to explain that this is a major event for the town.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Gray Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Members voted unanimously in favour of the following additional recommendation:  c) That post-event analysis is obtained, for use in any future considerations.  Members then voted on the substantive recommendation.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wheller Seconder: Cllr Dickenson  Members voted unanimously in favour that the Committee:  a) confirms its support for the project and the details set out in Appendix A;  b) recommends to Finance and Governance Committee that an additional grant of £10,000 is allocated to the project from any underspend from the 2021-22 budget.  c) That post-event analysis is obtained, for use in any future considerations.  **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) policy**  Tony Hurley introduced the report. Cllr Northam reported that, since the cycle lane improvements on Dorchester Road, he no longer feels the need for a SID in this location as he feels that the improvements have resulted in a speed reduction and the area is now safer, especially for school children.  Cllr Roos advised that she and Cllr Ferrari met with the headteacher of St John’s Primary School on Coombe Avenue a few years ago to discuss a way of reducing speed on the approach to the school and asked whether consideration could be given to installing a SID in this location. Cllr Hope advised Cllr Roos to explore this with the headteacher and trial this process.  Cllr Hope proposed the following addition to the policy:  6) If a DC study of a location does not determine the requirement for a SID, it will not be revisited for 24 months unless there is a significant change in circumstances.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Harris  Members voted unanimously in favour of agreeing the above addition to the policy.  Members then voted on the recommendation, taking into account the above addition to the policy.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Northam Seconder: Cllr Dickenson  Members voted unanimously in favour that the committee agrees the policy, as set out in the agenda document with the addition of the above addition, by which Weymouth Town Council will consider community request for additional Speed Indicator Device deployments/locations. |
| S0199 | **Information Items**  **Seafront Masterplan Update**  Tony Hurley introduced the report. A specialist consultant has been appointed for the research and development of the Masterplan, and the Member invite is the start of the process. Any Members who are not able to attend will be advised regarding how they can feed into the process.  There was concern that the Seafront Masterplan had become like a town planning exercise, when Weymouth is developing a Neighbourhood Plan and has received £30k from the government for a design coding exercise. Tony Hurley reassured Members that the Seafront Masterplan will look at the beach, promenade and the activities that WTC provides. It is not an urban characterisation exercise.  Cllr Hope urged Members, and members of the public, to get involved with the Seafront Masterplan. Members of the public can put their suggestions forward by contacting their local councillors, and there will be wider consultation with the public as the plan is drafted.  **Radipole Park and Gardens Update**  Charmaine Denny introduced the report. Cllr James was concerned that lowering the speed limit along Radipole Park Drive needs to tie in with the work in the gardens as this is essential to make the project a success. Cllr Gray responded that a survey is currently in hand. It was requested that it is impressed on those who win the contract to factor in any potential price increases for materials, and a contingency fund of at least 10% is set aside.  **Update of Giant Deckchair Project**  Tony Hurley introduced the report. The giant deckchair will arrive on 25th April 2022 and will be secured installed on the Promenade. It is hoped that the deckchair will present a “selfie” opportunity and help promote the resort.  **Community Development Activities**  Tony Hurley introduced the report.  **Weymouth Mural Trail**  Tony Hurley introduced the report. It is hoped that over June and July 2022 the designs can be applied to the walls of various buildings between Overcombe and Nothe Parade. The Weymouth Mural Trail will remain a standing item on this agenda, for updates regarding the planning process.  **Actions from previous meetings**  It was noted that some actions have been outstanding for some considerable time, and Officers were asked to provide updates, via email, for actions from 10th March 2021, 2nd June 2021 and 7th July 2021.  Once completed, and noted at the next meeting, actions can be removed from the actions table.  **Forward Plan**  Members were reminded that there is one scrutiny underway in relation to the allotment service, and that if there is a need for scrutiny of other areas, Members should complete the relevant documents in order to get it on to the scrutiny plan.  **Resolved:**  Members noted the information items.  The meeting closed at 8.13 pm |

N.B. The livestream of this meeting can be found on the Weymouth Town Council [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WeymouthWTC/videos/498138868686977) page.