

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

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**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Full Council

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.00 pm

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

**Present:** Colin Huckle Graham Lambert Oz Kanji

Tia Roos Graham Winter Alex Fuhrmann

Peter Dickenson Michael Frost Kevin BrookesARHarris

Gill Taylor Jon Orrell Richard Nickinson

Ryan Hope Mark Tewkesbury Cllr Hamilton

Howard Legg Kate Wheller Luke Wakeling

Ken Whatley Ann Weaving Christine James

Jan Bergman

**Apologies:** David Gray David HarrisPete Barrow

Tim Young David Northam

**Officers:** Jane Biscombe (Town Clerk)

Ian Milne (Deputy Town Clerk)

Charmaine Denny (Assistant Town Clerk)

Niki Ayles (Democratic Officer)

**Members of the public and press:** There were 8 members of the public in attendance.

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| C0372 | **Election of Chairman (Mayor)**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Huckle Seconder: Cllr Tewkesbury  Cllr Weaving was elected unopposed.  Cllr Huckle and Cllr Weaving left the Council Chamber momentarily in order to exchange the chain of office. On return to the Council Chamber, Cllr Weaving read the following statement. “I, Ann Weaving, having been elected to the office of Chairman of Weymouth Town Council declare that I take that office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability. I undertake to observe the code as to the conduct which is expected of members of Weymouth Town Council.” |
| C0373 | **Election of Deputy Chairman (Deputy Mayor)**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Fuhrmann Seconder: Cllr Wakeling  Cllr Roos was elected unopposed.  Cllr Roos read the following statement. “I, Tia Roos, having been elected to the office of Deputy Chairman of Weymouth Town Council declare that I take that office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability. I undertake to observe the code as to the conduct which is expected of members of Weymouth Town Council.” |
| C0374  C0375  C0376 | **Election of Leader**  Cllr Hope nominated Cllr Harris for the role of Leader of Weymouth Town Council. There were no further nominations.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr James  Cllr Harris was elected unopposed.  **Election of Deputy Leader**  Cllr Wakeling nominated Cllr Wheller for the role of Deputy Leader of Weymouth Town Council. There were no further nominations.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Cllr Wheller was elected unopposed.  **Apologies for Absence**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Tewkesbury Seconder: Cllr James  Members voted unanimously in favour to approve apologies from Cllr Harris, Cllr Young, Cllr Gray, Cllr Northam and Cllr Barrow. |
| C0377 | **Declarations of Interest**  Cllr Hope, Cllr Wheller, Cllr Orrell, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Legg, declared and interest in Item 16, Community Governance Review consultation from Dorset Council, as a Member of Dorset Council, and stated that they would not take part in the vote. |
| C0378  C0379  C0380  C0381  C0382  C0383  C0384  C0385  C0386  C0387  C0388  C0389  C0390 | **Minutes of last meeting**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wheller Seconder: Cllr Hope  Members voted unanimously in favour to agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 16th March 2022 as a true and accurate record.  **Councillors Questions and Statements**  **Cost of Living Crisis**  Cllr Hamilton highlighted the current cost of living crisis being faced by many Weymouth residents and asked for clarification regarding how Weymouth Town Council can support them.  Cllr Roos responded that there are many organisations and charities doing their best to find ways around, or extra financial support for people. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of support regarding the cost of energy. Support will be provided by Dorset Council but this is reliant on receipt of government money. Residents are urged to reach out to the Citizens Advice Bureau and other groups who might be able to offer grants.  **Safety Signage by the Rock Groyne**  Cllr James requested an update from DC regarding safety signage by the rock groyne as there are a lot of children climbing on the rocks.  Jane Biscombe responded that she has been in contact with Will Holmes, Resort Manager, regarding the signage by the rock groyne. Anyone attending the meeting or watching via Facebook are urged not to climb on the rocks. Officers are exploring additional signage, including pictorial signage.  **Parking Machines in Weymouth**  Cllr James highlighted the current issues regarding the parking machines in Weymouth and requested an update from DC regarding the current situation and the machines not working.  Jane Biscombe responded that Officers are aware of the ongoing issues regarding parking, and anyone experiencing any problems is urged to complain to Dorset Council. In addition, she will contact Senior Managers at Dorset Council tomorrow morning asking them to investigate the issues as a matter of urgency, and any updates will be shared with Councillors.  **Platinum Jubilee**  Cllr Huckle reported that he has been contacted by a resident who feels that Weymouth Town Council should acknowledge Queen Elizabeth II’s tenure of 70 years, possibly with a statue or the renaming of New Bond Street as “Queen Elizabeth Square”. Local residents may wish to contact DC to find out how this is done.  **Town Mayor’s Announcements**  Cllr Huckle provided a verbal report regarding his Mayoral year and wished to thank his Deputy Mayor, Cllr Ann Weaving, for supporting him in the last year, as well as his Chaplain, Reverend Geoffrey Carey, and his Mayoress and wife, Marian Huckle.  Cllr Huckle’s last official engagement as Mayor would be the Mayor’s Community Picnic on Sunday 15th May at Lodmoor Country Park, where he would present the Mayor’s Community Award to the following recipients:   * Dawn Sewell * Jim Halls * Hali-Rae Green * Weymouth & Portland Marine Litter Project (Dave Taylor & Jane Fuhrmann) * Des Lochrie and Cycling without Age Volunteers * Bob Ford * James Knott-Fancey   Reverend Carey then said a few words and took a short verse from the book of Psalms.  Cllr Nickinson requested that a vote of thanks for Cllr Huckle’s year of mayoral service be recorded in the minutes.  **Public Questions**  A member of the public raised concerns regarding the traffic issues being experienced in Weymouth and the way in which they perceive Weymouth to be treated by Dorset Council.  Jane Biscombe urged the member of the public to contact their unitary Councillors with any concerns.  **Committee Minutes and Recommendations from other Committees**  The agenda does not have any recommendations from additional Committees. The committee minutes are listed in the agenda and available on WTC website.  Members noted the item.  **Nomination to Committees**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item and suggested that Members agree the proposed membership of the HR, Appeals, Planning and Licensing, and Services Committees en bloc.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Wakeling  Members voted unanimously in favour of agreeing the membership of the HR, Appeals, Planning and Licensing, and Services Committees, as detailed in Appendix A.  Members of the HR Committee and Services Committee then elected their Chairs as these would automatically become members of the Finance and Governance Committee.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Roos  Members of the HR Committee voted unanimously in favour of electing Cllr Wheller Chair of the HR Committee.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Taylor Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Members of the Services Committee voted unanimously in favour of electing Cllr Hope Chair of the Services Committee.  As there are two independent seats on Finance and Governance, one of which had been taken by Cllr Wheller as Chair of the HR Committee. Cllr Wakeling proposed that he substitute Cllr Wheller for himself in these nominations.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Cllr Fuhrmann  Members voted unanimously in favour of Cllr Wakeling substituting Cllr Wheller for himself on the Finance and Governance Committee.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Huckle Seconder : Cllr Wakeling  Members voted unanimously in favour of agreeing the Finance and Governance Committee membership as amended.  Members of the Finance and Governance Committee then elected the Chair of that Committee.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Legg  Members of the Finance and Governance Committee voted unanimously in favour of electing Cllr Gray Chair of the Finance and Governance Committee.  Members of the Appeals Committee elected the Chair of that Committee.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Kanji Seconder: Cllr Weaving  Members of the Appeals Committee voted unanimously in favour of electing Cllr Legg Chair of the Appeals Committee.  With regards to the Planning and Licensing Committee, it was highlighted that the proposed membership was incorrect and that Cllr Bergman should sit on the Committee rather than Cllr Brookes. Unfortunately, the vote regarding Committee membership had already taken place and could not be changed. However, this will be taken to the next Full Council meeting.  Members of the Planning and Licensing Committee elected their Chair.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Brookes Seconder: Cllr James  Members of the Planning and Licensing Committee voted unanimously in favour of electing Cllr Dickenson Chair of the Planning and Licensing Committee.  **Nomination to Champion Roles**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item. Cllr Fuhrmann did not support the Champion roles as he did not know what it brought to the Council, and proposed that no Champion roles be approved this evening and it come back to a future meeting to debate the removal of Champion roles from Standing Orders. This was seconded by Cllr Hope in order that it could be debated and voted on.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Fuhrmann Seconder: Cllr Hope  Members voted by a minority of 2 in favour, with 20 against and no abstentions, to not approve the Champion roles this evening and for it to come back to a future Full Council meeting to debate the removal of the Champion roles from Standing Orders.  Therefore, the motion was defeated.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wakeling Seconder: Cllr Tewkesbury  Members voted in favour of the Council retaining the same two Champion roles as last year.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Members voted unanimously in favour of agreeing Cllr Taylor as Community Champion.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Nickinson Seconder: Cllr Brookes  Members voted unanimously in favour of agreeing Cllr James as Armed Forces Champion.  **Nominations to outside bodies**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Roos Seconder: Cllr Wheller  Members voted unanimously in favour of nominating Cllr Huckle and Cllr Harris to DAPTC, with Cllr Brooke acting as substitute if neither could attend meetings.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Orrell Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Members voted unanimously in favour of nominating Cllr Huckle to the Harbour Consultative Group.  Cllr Fuhrmann left the Chamber briefly and did not take part in the next vote.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Lambert Seconder: Cllr Legg  Members voted by a majority in favour of nominating Cllr Orrell to the We Are Weymouth Ltd Board (Weymouth BID).  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Orrell Seconder: Cllr Wakeling  Members voted unanimously in favour of nominating Cllr Huckle and Cllr Lambert as Trustees on the JRE Charity Trust Board.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Lambert Seconder: Cllr Winter  Members voted unanimously in favour of nominating Cllr Northam to the role of Rights of Way Liaison Officer.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wheller Seconder: Cllr James  Members voted unanimously in favour of nominating Cllr Fuhrmann to the role of Vice-President of the Holzwickede Society.  **Confirmation of working group membership**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item. Cllr Whatley had been attending Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) group meetings as a guest but wished to join the group officially.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Fuhrmann Seconder: Cllr Roos  Members voted unanimously in favour of Cllr Whatley joining the CEE group officially.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Wheller Seconder: Cllr Frost  Members voted unanimously in favour of agreeing working group membership for 22/23 as amended.  **Community Governance consultation from DC**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item and informed Councillors that eight members of Weymouth Town Council are also Dorset Council councillors. This item is to agree representations to Dorset Council about what the outcome of the CGR should be for Weymouth. Later in the process those who are members of Dorset Council will make the final decision about the CGR for the whole of Dorset. The Tonw Clerk had consulted the Monitoring Officer who advised that subject to the eight dual hatted councillors confirming that whatever decision they made tonight they would approach the later decision to be made at Dorset Council with an open mind then it is reasonable for dual-hatters to take part fully and to vote at both councils.  In particular the Monitoring Officer advised that when Councillors come to make the final decision at Dorset Council it is both understandable and lawful that they should be predisposed to a particular outcome for Weymouth provided that they go into the meeting willing to consider all of the representations made to Dorset Council and without an unchangeable predetermined view. If Councillors were able to reassure the Town Clerk that they were willing to go ahead on that basis then this removes any obstacle to Councillors taking part at both councils.  Cllr Wakeling then presented the report. Cllr Weaving left the Chamber briefly during this item.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Fuhrmann Seconder: Cllr Frost  Members voted by a majority of 10 in favour, with 3 against and 8 abstentions, to agree the annex to this report as well as Proposal 1 as the response from Weymouth Town Council to Dorset Council’s Community Governance Review.  Cllr Wakeling was thanked for his efforts in putting together WTC’s response.  **Delegation to the Services Committee**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Huckle Seconder: Cllr Hope  Members voted unanimously in favour to agree that the Services Committee be asked to determine which projects will be put forward by Weymouth Town Council for Dorset Council CIL funding.  All Members are invited to attend the Services Committee to give their thoughts.  **Delegation to the Finance and Governance Committee**  Jane Biscombe introduced the item. Members voiced concerns regarding DC putting new things in place and then asking WTC to take on maintenance and insurance after installation has taken place.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Nickinson Seconder: Cllr Hope  Members voted unanimously in favour to agree that the Finance and Governance Committee be asked to determine the Council’s level of involvement with the six interpretation boards for the Station Gateway Project.  Cllr Frost left the Chamber briefing during this item.  **Information Items**  **Ferry Update**  Jan Bergman provided a verbal update. Cllr Bergman and Cllr Huckle have been meeting with the Chief Executive of a ferry company and having constructive discussions over the last few months. Latterly, Dorset Council and the Town Clerk have been involved in meetings. The next meeting will be held at 11am on Thursday 19th May, and a further update will be provided following that meeting.  Cllr Hope asked for reassurance that elected Members from DC, in particular, the Cabinet Member for Transport, are willing to engage in discussions as he does not want WTC to be accused of holding up any development of the peninsula site, and wants to be confident that DC is as serious about this opportunity as Cllr Bergman, Cllr Huckle and Cllr Winter, who has also been involved in discussions.  Details of the forthcoming meeting will be sent to Cllr Winter.  **Actions from previous meetings**  The action from 16th February 2022 is now complete.  **Resolved:**  Members noted the information items. |
|  | The meeting concluded at 8.50pm. |