

The New Town Hall, Commercial Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8NG

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**Minutes of meeting**

**MEETING:** Services Committee

**DATE & TIME**: Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 7.00 pm

**PLACE:** Council Chamber, The New Town Hall, Commercial Road, Weymouth,

DT4 8NG

**Present:** Ryan Hope (C) Christine James Alex Fuhrmann (VC)

Michael Frost David Harris Gill Taylor

Peter Dickenson Mark Tewkesbury Tia Roos

Graham Lambert Jon Orrell David Gray

**Apologies:** Kevin Brookes Oz Kanji

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

Ian Milne (Deputy Town Clerk)

Tony Hurley (Operations Manager)

Will Holmes (Resort Manager)

Jay Willson (Senior Resort Officer)

**Members of the public and press:** There were no members of the public in attendance.

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| S0211 | **Welcome**  Cllr Hope welcomed attendees to the meeting as well as members of the public following the meeting live on YouTube. |
| S0212  S0213  S0214 | **Apologies for absence**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Tewkesbury Seconder: Cllr Frost  Members voted unanimously in favour of accepting apologies from Cllr Brooks and Cllr Kanji.  **Declarations of Interest**  There were no declarations of interest.  **Minutes of the last meeting**  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Dickenson Seconder: Cllr Janes  Members voted unanimously in favour of agreeing the minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2022 as a true and accurate record, and they were duly signed as such. |
| S0215  S0216  S0217 | **Councillor Questions and Statements**  Cllr Dickenson asked the following question:  “Could we please have an update on the benches policy here in Weymouth and in particular how do we get existing benches repaired or replaced”  Tony Hurley provided the following response:  At present, until Dorset Council can transfer the benches to the Town Council there is no way to get the benches replaced or repaired as Dorset Council’s policy is only to remove damaged benches. The policy to transfer to town and parish councils is to enable the local councils to replace and repair benches themselves. Dorset Council have now confirmed that the two cycle shelters which form part of the agreement have now been ordered and this will allow for the signing of the agreement soon. The facilities team will revisit the bench audit that was completed some eighteen months ago to reassess the condition of all the benches and ascertain which need repairing or replacing and record which ones have been removed by Dorset Council. Once this exercise has been completed works can commence to repair and replace.  Cllr James asked the following questions:  “Why is the sports festival located at the far end of the beach which impacts on the people wishing to walk their dogs and why can’t dogs be walked further up the beach whilst this area of the beach is in use”.  Cllr Hope provided the following response:  The area of the beach that allows people to walk their dogs is covered by the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) that is governed by Dorset Council. Therefore, the Town Council has no authority to extend this area. All interested parties are encouraged to participate in the next public consultation in respect of the PSPO so that all issues can be considered.  “Could there be better beach access at the Greenhill end of the beach to allow those with mobility issues to access the beach”  Will Holmes provided the following response:  Several approaches have been made by the public in respect of access to the beach near Greenhill. Due to the nature of the stone surface the beach staff have concerns on the stability of matting should this be put over this surface. The matting works across a sandy base as the sand becomes compacted and provides a solid base for people to move across. Tests will be carried out over the winter months using the existing equipment to understand the issues and whether the existing matting can be made suitable across this area of the beach. If this is unsuccessful and it is found that an alternative solution would be more appropriate then a PID will be drawn up and bought back to the Services Committee.  “There have recently been instances where groups of school children have been sat on the beach on hot sunny days. Could the council invest is some gazebos that could be hired out to interested groups to provide shelter from the sun”  Will Holmes provide the following response:  At present some schools do approach the beach staff to mark areas out where their pupils can sit. The council does own gazebos so in the future when approaches are made to mark out an area, staff can advise on the availability of these gazebos to offer protection from the sun.  **Public Question Time**  There were no public questions.  **Tumbledown Governance Review**  Jane Biscombe introduced the report. Cllr Lambert requested clarification on the project board to which the Tumbledown Project Group (TPG) would report. Jane Biscombe explained that the Project Group is a non-decision-making group to help senior officers have a council wide strategic overview of all Council projects. Cllr Lambert then asked why there was no information on the frequency of the meetings in respect of the TPG and Jane Biscombe responded that the recommendation would be that this group meets quarterly.  Cllr Dickenson raised concerns that the two groups were too large, and the process would become over bureaucratic. A discussion then took place on the roles of each of the groups and how they would work going forward.  Cllr Harris proposed that a third item be added to the recommendation that stated the two groups themselves will determine the frequency of meetings.  Cllr Tewkesbury proposed that the governance arrangements be reviewed in a years’ time.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Harris Seconder: Cllr Lambert  Members voted unanimously in favour to:   1. Approve the governance arrangements detailed in the report, and 2. Agree the composition of each group as follows: 3. Tumbledown Project Group (TPG): Up to 5 Councillors and 3 Officers 4. Tumbledown Operational Group (TOG): Will remain open to all parties as contained within the report with no limit on member numbers. 5. Agree that the two groups will determine the frequency of meetings. 6. Agree that there is a review of the governance arrangements after 12 months. |
| S0218 | **Provision of lockers for sea swimmers at Greenhill Beach**  Tony Hurley introduced the report. Cllr Roos raised concerns that the lockers would only be available to three designated organisations and that the facilities should be made available to all members of the public.  In response to a question from Cllr Tewkesbury, Will Holmes explained to the committee the exact location of where the lockers would be sited. Tony Hurley then explained the security risks that would need to be considered should the committee be minded allowing full public use of these facilities.  Cllr Hope asked Cllr Grey as Chairman of the Finance and Governance Committee on whether it would be appropriate for the named organisations to apply for funding through the Councils grant scheme. In response, Cllr Grey clarified that this would depend on whether the provision of lockers is for all members of the public who are wanting to swim or whether support was being provided just to organisations who support those who want to participate in sea swimming.  A discussion then took place on whether it would be practical to have some additional banks of lockers so that some were allocated to the groups and others allocated to the public.  Cllr Hope proposed that the recommended number of lockers as outlined within the report be installed on a trial basis and be made available for all to use. If this trial proved unsuccessful then it was proposed that consideration would be given to handing the facilities over to the organised groups or relocate the lockers to an area adjacent to the beach office.  **Resolved:**  Proposer: Cllr Hope Seconder: Cllr Fuhrmann  Members voted by a majority of 6 in favour, with 0 against and 4 abstentions to:  Recommend to Full Council the allocation of £1,000 from the Council’s Project Reserve to cover the cost of purchasing and installing lockers on the Promenade near the rock groyne and that these lockers be made available to all. This would be on a trial basis and if this trial proved unsuccessful then consideration would be given to handing the facilities over to the organised groups or relocate the lockers to an area adjacent to the beach office. |
| S0219 | **Information Items**  Cllr Hope requested that a contact name be given against each information item on future agendas.  **Resolved:**  Members noted the information items. |
|  | The meeting concluded at 8.08pm  N.B. The livestream of this meeting can be found on the Weymouth Town Council [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OInjNT7lZJA) page. |