

WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of an **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL** held on **TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2015 at 6.39 PM** in the Committee Room, Town Hall, West Borough, Wimborne Minster.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr S K Bartlett – Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council
Cllr Mrs S A Cook - Deputy Town Mayor & Vice-Chairman of the Council

Cllr Mrs S A Bell
Cllr J Burden
Cllr Ms C L Butter
Cllr R D Cook
Cllr L G Harvey
Cllr Mrs P A Hymers
Cllr Mrs D J March
Cllr R P Nunn
Cllr Mrs A E Roberts
Cllr Mrs K F Webb
Cllr T F Wheeler

MEMBER NOT PRESENT AND APOLOGY GIVEN

Cllr P H Bartlett

30 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

RESOLVED that Standing Orders Number 30 (standing to speak) and those parts of Number 29 relating to speaking more than once be suspended for this meeting.

31 **INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT 2014/2015**

The Town Clerk submitted the Auditor's Report for the 2014/2015 financial year, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix A** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Internal Auditor had inspected the various areas of financial administration set out in the report to ensure that appropriate procedures and systems were in place and that the Town Council operated sound financial management. He found that the standard of financial administration continued to be high and that there were no matters of concern that needed to be drawn to the Council's attention.

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RESOLVED that the report of the Internal Auditor be received and noted.

32 **FINAL ACCOUNTS 2014/2015**

The Town Clerk submitted the final accounts for the year ending 31 March 2015, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix B** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the accounts be approved for external audit.

33 **ANNUAL RETURN 2014/2015**

The Town Clerk submitted the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement as part of the Annual Return to the external auditor for the year ending 31 March 2015, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED that the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement be approved for submission to external audit.

(Note: the Town Council extended a vote of thanks to its staff especially the Finance Administrator for the work involved in Minutes 31, 32 and 33 above.)

34 **MAYORAL ALLOWANCE**

The Town Clerk referred to the comment made in the Internal Auditor's Report (see Minute 31 above) that the Mayoral Allowance should be reviewed since it had not been increased since 2000. The Town Council was asked to consider this issue.

The Internal Auditor had also pointed out that the Retail Prices Index had risen by 50% since that time which if applied to the current allowance would increase it to £2,250. The majority of Members were in favour of an increase but felt that a 50% increase was too great albeit that fifteen years had gone by since the last increase.

RESOLVED that the Mayoral Allowance for 2015/2016 be increased to £2,000 (the additional cost being met from the General Fund), and it to be reviewed annually at budget time each year.

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(Note: Cllrs S K Bartlett [Town Mayor] and Mrs S A Cook [Deputy Town Mayor] declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the room during the discussion and voting thereon. Cllr T F Wheeler took the chair for this item only.)

35 **COLEHILL & WIMBORNE YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE**
(Min 210 – 28.04.15)

The Town Clerk submitted for information a letter dated 14 May 2015 from the Chairman of the Trustees of the Centre a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members noted the kind letter of thanks from Mr Topping for the additional financial support which the Town Council had given to this project to enable it to be completed as soon as possible.

36 **WIMBORNE MINSTER FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL**

The Town Clerk submitted a letter dated 8 June 2015 from Jenny Brown the organiser of this Festival, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix E** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Ms Brown had asked the Town Council to consider sponsoring this event which would be held in October 2015.

Cllr Wheeler advised the Council that this was a popular event towards which Wimborne BID had given £1,000.

The Council had in the past sponsored a similar event organised by Claire Kavanagh who had ceased organising it in 2012. Ms Brown had re-introduced it in 2014.

Cllr Wheeler also referred to the confusion caused by the website set up by Claire Kavanagh which was still live and which possibly had a detrimental effect on the attendance at the revived Festival because that website showed that the other Festival was no longer being held.

The Town Clerk would attempt to regularise this matter to ensure that both the old website and the website for the event organised by Ms Brown did not cause confusion in the future.

RESOLVED that a grant of £500 be made from the General Fund towards the 2015 Festival, subject to the name of the Festival including “Wimborne Minster” in the title.

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37 **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF DORSET: DRAFT
RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Town Clerk submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix F** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Council was invited to comment on the draft recommendations of the Boundary Commission for Dorset.

RESOLVED that no comment be made.

38 **LEIGH PARK PLAYING FIELD – QEII FIELD IN TRUST**

The Town Clerk submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix G** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report set out a proposal by Cllr Mrs March supported by Cllrs Burden and Mrs Roberts, that the remaining third of Leigh Park Playing Field not registered as a QEII Field in Trust be so registered to prevent any development of that area.

The Town Clerk added that he had not had the opportunity to investigate the implications if that proposal was accepted, particularly in relation to the future of the Rugby Club, which was hoping to move from its current location at Leigh Park to the new facility opposite By the Way.

The Chairman of the Council advised Members that the Rugby Club had asked for a meeting with the Town Council in the near future when it was hoped the Club's intentions would be clarified.

The majority of Members thought that a decision on this matter was premature pending the receipt of further details on the situation regarding the Rugby Club.

RESOLVED that this proposal be deferred until further investigations and discussions have taken place with regard to the future of Wimborne Rugby Football Club.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

Signed Date.....
Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council