

WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL held on TUESDAY
31 OCTOBER 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, West
Borough, Wimborne Minster.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr T F Wheeler - Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council
Cllr R D Cook - Deputy Town Mayor & Vice-Chairman of the
Council

Cllr S K Bartlett
Cllr J Burden
Cllr Mrs C A Chedgy
Cllr Mrs S A Cook
Cllr Mrs P A Hymers
Cllr Mrs D J March
Cllr R P Nunn
Cllr W J Richmond
Cllr Mrs A E Roberts
Cllr Mrs K F Webb

District Cllr D Morgan

NOT PRESENT AND APOLOGIES GIVEN

Cllr Mrs S A Bell
Cllr Ms C L Butter

District Cllr D G L Packer

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QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Question from Mr J Gatrell:

Mr Gatrell reported that his grandson had recently been assaulted in Wimborne Minster in an unprovoked attack. As a result of this assault he requested clarification on the following matters:

- a) How effective are the CCTV cameras in the Town?
- b) How is the footage used in such cases?
- c) Has the use of CCTV footage in similar cases led to a successful prosecution?
- d) What are the future plans for the CCTV system in the Town?

The Chairman responded by advising that CCTV footage had been used successfully in the past such as identifying the culprits responsible for pulling down the Christmas tree in the Square. The Town Clerk referred to another

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example where the use of CCTV footage had led to arrests following a series of burglaries in the Town.

The Chairman added there were plans in place to upgrade the current CCTV system to High Definition which would enable clearer footage to be obtained.

Mr Gatrell asked if the police used the CCTV in real time. The Chairman advised that it was not manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week but was manned during certain times by volunteers.

Questions from Mr M Tidd:

Question 1

For some time now I have been coming to these meetings asking for an explanation as to why four WMTC councillors along with councillors from Colehill and Pamphill were removed from the WCJMC. At a WMTC meeting there was a proposal to adopt a new constitution for the cemetery but it was withdrawn from the agenda prior to the meeting. When will the new constitution be presented and will it exclude councillors that served on the WCJMC between 2011 and 2013 as printed in the original proposal?

Question 2

Has the dispute between the Wimborne, Colehill and Pamphill Councils and Minster Memorials been settled?

If so when will local residents be given a full explanation at a public meeting with the opportunity to question those councillors involved either as committee members of WCJMC or town councillors that had knowledge of the dispute?

Any public meeting should address some of the following points:

- a) Why were the councillors removed from WCJMC?
- b) Will there be an explanation for settling the claim from Anthony Sherman and why it was not contested in the light of the First Tier Tribunal findings?
- c) What action was taken against the councillors as to their continued involvement with the Council regarding holding office?
- d) What effort was made to resolve the dispute between the councils and Minster Memorials in order to avoid legal action?

In response to Mr Tidd's questions, the Chairman advised that a new constitution had been drafted but an agreement had not been reached with Colehill and Pamphill & Shapwick Parish Councils. The clause referring to the councillors that served on the WCJMC between 2011 and 2013 remained in the new constitution. The Chairman added that the reason for reviewing the constitution was to reflect the role of Wimborne Minster Town Council with regard to staffing and financial administration.

The Chairman added that a final settlement had not been completed in legal terms but it was hoped it was imminent.

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Question from Mr A White:

Mr White referred to an issue raised at the previous Town Council meeting relating to overgrown amenity area in Leigh Road which was the responsibility of Dorset County Council.

Cllr Mrs S A Cook responded on behalf of the Police and Communities Together Panel (PACT) to Mr White's question as, following the last Town Council meeting, she had agreed with Mr White to make further enquiries. She advised that she had met with Sgt Tim Travers of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and as a result a number of the occupants of the properties adjacent to the hedge had been contacted about the issue. The feedback was that they did not want the hedge to be removed as it acted as a screen but they did want to see it properly maintained. Consequently, the Town Council contacted Dorset County Council requesting that the hedge be cut back.

Mr White responded that the work that the County Council had carried out was inadequate and it needed to be cut level with the height of the fence. The matter was referred to Cllr S K Bartlett who was present as County Councillor and he agreed to visit the site with Mr White to see what work was required.

124 **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 2017**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

125 **CONFIRMATION OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2017**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting be confirmed and adopted.

126 **CONFIRMATION OF RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2017**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting be confirmed and adopted.

127 **CONFIRMATION OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2017**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting be confirmed and adopted.

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128 **DORSET ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS – AGM 4
NOVEMBER 2017**

The Town Clerk submitted the list of motions to be considered at the DAPTC AGM 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.

Cllr S K Bartlett, as one of the Town Council representatives on the DAPTC, supported all of the four motions and recommended them to the Town Council.

RESOLVED that all four motions be supported.

129 **DORSET COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr S K Bartlett – see **Appendix B** to these Minutes.

Dorset Area Joint Committee Core Briefing – see **Appendix C** to these Minutes.

130 **EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr S K Bartlett – see **Appendix D** to these Minutes.

Cllr D Morgan reported on several issues including the District Council's positive financial position, the speed restrictions along the Cranborne Road alongside the Bloor Homes development and the Task & Finish Group's review of certain parish boundaries.

131 **TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Town Mayor reported that since the last Town Council meeting he had attended a further 12 events as Mayor, making 58 for the civic year so far.

He had visited Step Outside Allotment Gardening Group and congratulated those volunteers involved in supporting the people attending the Group. It was especially pleasing to see some of the volunteers gaining recognition for their efforts at the Dorset Volunteers Awards Evening in Dorchester.

He commented that it had been a privilege to be invited to purchase the first poppy at the Royal British Legion Wimborne Branch's poppy appeal. He wished the Legion every success with their fundraising this year.

List of engagements - see **Appendix E** to these Minutes.

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The Town Mayor then read out a statement from the District Council’s Monitoring Officer:

“As the recently appointed Monitoring Officer at East Dorset District Council I have been examining the status of Code of Conduct complaints made against Councillors.

For Wimborne Minster Town Council, I can report that there are no active Code of Conduct complaints which are subject of any investigation. The most recent complaint was made against Cllr Shane Bartlett; following an independent investigation by a senior officer of East Dorset District Council in accordance with proper investigation procedure and it was concluded in March 2017 that there was no case to answer and Cllr Bartlett and the complainant’s representative were notified accordingly. I recommend that the Mayor communicate this update to Members of the Town Council at their next meeting.”

Cllr Mrs P A Hymers responded by stating that she was pleased that Cllr S K Bartlett had been exonerated from the various Code of Conduct complaints that had been made against him.

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TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORTS

Poppy Appeal Launch – The Poppy Appeal Launch took place on Saturday 28th October. As Chair of Wimborne’s Poppy Appeal Launch, Cllr S K Bartlett thanked the Mayor for his attendance.

Wimborne Cemetery Joint Management Committee – Cllr Mrs C A Chedgy – see **Appendix F** to these Minutes.

Wimborne Ochsenfurt Twinning Association – Cllr Mrs A E Roberts reported that the Association would be having its usual German sausage stall at this year’s Christmas Light Switch-On.

The meeting closed at 8.21 pm.

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



DAPTC AGM 2017 Motions for Consideration by member councils

Motion 1 (from Beaminster Town Council)

Beaminster Town Council would propose the DAPTC lobby NALC with a view to achieving a change in the legislation governing the de-registration of bus routes.

A. The reasons why the Parish or Town Council is submitting the proposal. Motions at the AGM should require that the Association take the issue forward with outside bodies, such as NALC:

Bus Company, Damory, recently deregistered a strategically important bus route (No 40 service) a vital link between Bridport, Beaminster, Crewkerne and Yeovil. It emerged that such de-registrations can be made with only 8 weeks' notice giving insufficient time for alternative provision to be made.

B. How the issue is affecting local councils in their area (with case study evidence):

Whilst discussions with commercial operators continue Dorset County Council have had to provide a temporary replacement bus service on week days, leaving no service at weekends there. Bridport and Beaminster Town Councils jointly secured a Community Transport Grant to finance a limited Saturday service between Bridport and Beaminster only.

C. What it is specifically the Parish or Town Council would like to change (e.g. a law):

For strategically important bus routes the current 8 week notice period should be increased to 14 weeks with a requirement that the operator cooperates fully with the relevant authorities in providing all relevant data and other information relating to the route in question.

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DAPTC AGM 2017 Motions for Consideration by member councils

Motion 2 (from Blandford Forum Town Council)

That DAPTC requests NALC to lobby for Central Government action to ensure that when a town or parish council objects to a planning application for legitimate planning reasons, it should be considered by the planning authority's planning committee.

A. The reasons why the Parish or Town Council is submitting the proposal. Motions at the AGM should require that the Association take the issue forward with outside bodies, such as NALC:

The Town Council puts forward the issue regarding planning committees at District level delegating authority to officers instead of considering planning applications.

B. How the issue is affecting local councils in their area (with case study evidence).

Increasingly, we are finding that applications are being approved based on delegated authority to officers and district councillors are not meeting to discuss and consider the applications, regardless of their size or impact, which can therefore exclude town and parish views.

For example, when a town or parish council objects to a planning application for legitimate planning reasons it should be considered by the District Council's Planning Committee.

C. What it is specifically the Parish or Town Council would like to change (e.g. a law):

Central Government is asked to make amendments so that the views of town and parish councils (local residents) are taken into consideration as part of the planning process.

Local Authority policy and procedures in order to take local views on planning into account and to ensure planning committee meetings are held.

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DAPTC AGM 2017 Motions for Consideration by member councils

Motion 3 (from Chideock Parish Council)

Chideock Parish Council asks NALC to strongly request that the DCLG revisits the consultation on Parish Polls which was carried out from 4 December 2014 to 30 January 2015 but never acted upon, and to amend the current legislation governing Parish Polls. The consultation sought the views of the public, local authorities and the parish sector on:

- the trigger (the number or proportion of electors required to demand a poll)
- the voting arrangements for parish polls
- the questions on which a poll can be held
- consequential related matters.

A. The reasons why the Parish or Town Council is submitting the proposal:

A group of Chideock electors recently demanded a poll at a parish meeting. West Dorset District Council will charge the Parish Council (and ultimately the council tax payers of the parish) approximately £1,000 to conduct the poll (for 500+ electors). The subject matter of the poll is not something which is within the remit of the Parish Council as it pertains to the A35 which is a Trunk Road under the jurisdiction of Highways England.

The DCLG consultation made the following recommendation:-

A poll can be called on any question arising at a meeting which **concerns affairs which relate to a parish council/meetings functions** and meets the following criteria:

1. The subject matter was discussed at the parish meeting.
2. The subject matter directly affects those who live and/ or work in the parish; and
3. **The parish council/meeting has the capacity to make a decision on the subject matter including any decision as a statutory consultee, but not including a decision simply to agree a declaratory statement on the matter.**

B. How the issue is affecting local councils in their area (with case study evidence).

The cost of a Parish Poll to the Parish / Town Council is considerable and cannot be budgeted for in advance. This cost is acceptable where the Poll is on a question which is beyond the remit and powers of a Parish Council.

2017 - Chideock Parish Council - Electorate - 500+, poll taking place on 17 August 2017 - 2 questions relating to the A35 Trunk Road, which is not within the remit of the Parish Council

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DAPTC AGM 2017 Motions for Consideration by member councils

2010 - Dorchester Town Council Poll - Electorate - 14,341 Ballot papers included in count - 2204 Turnout 15.4% - the question was whether WDDC should move to new purpose built offices, which is not within the remit of the Town Council

2007 - East Stoke Parish Council - Electorate - 339 Ballot papers included in count - 80 Turnout 23.6% - the question was "Do you want a referendum on the EU Constitutional Treaty?", which is not within the remit of the Parish Council

C. What it is specifically the Parish or Town Council would like to change (e.g. a law):

The legislation that governs parish polls is found in Section 150 of and Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 and The Parish and Community Meeting (Polls) Rules 1987.

Motion 4 (from Hurn Parish Council)

Hurn Parish Council ask that the DAPTC take the issue forward to NALC to ask for a change to the law to make Parish Councils statutory consultees on tree application in their Parishes and that the information provided is of a high enough quality to facilitate the consideration of the proposal.

A. The reasons why the Parish or Town Council is submitting the proposal. Motions at the AGM should require that the Association take the issue forward with outside bodies, such as NALC:

Hurn Parish Council propose that Parish Councils should be statutory consultees for all Tree applications in their Parishes and that all these applications should be of a sufficient quality, in order that Parish Councillors are able to reach an informed judgement as to the merits of the applications. Detailed photographs and plans should be included where appropriate.

B. How the issue is affecting local councils in their area (with case study evidence):

Hurn Parish Council been asked to comment, on numerous occasions, on tree applications which do not provide sufficient information for Councillors, thereby inhibiting an informed decision being made. Trees are integral to rural and urban areas and Parish Councils have the local knowledge needed to comment on these proposals.

C. What it is specifically the Parish or Town Council would like to change (e.g. a law):

Hurn Parish Council ask that the DAPTC take the issue forward to NALC to ask for a change to the law to make Parish Councils statutory consultees on tree application in their Parishes and that the information provided is of a high enough quality to facilitate the consideration of the proposal.

Dorset County Councillors Report 31st October 2017.

- 1) Road signage for a works entrance to the Bloor Homes development on Cranborne Road has been blamed for a number of collisions that have resulted in wing mirrors parting company with the rest of the motor vehicle. Officers for the County Council are satisfied that the road sign placement is satisfactory.

There has been a considerable amount of anti-social behaviour and vandalism concerning the road signs including them being repositioned, thrown away, stolen and chucked into trees and hedges.

- 2) The Forward Together Team have met to finalise plans to provide the Council's Statutory Services within their current budgets for the year 2017/18 financial year. The Council will still need to address its remaining budget deficit through to 2018/19. Plans need to be in place for the Council's financial position for 2019/20 concerning LGR regardless whether there is a minded to decision or not.
- 3) As a result of 85 East Borough being hit and damaged by traffic, it is proposed to install bollards outside 83 and 85 East Borough to prevent these premises from further damage.
- 4) DWP has reduced waste and recycling costs to households to an estimated £153.00 per household. However, fly tipping continues to be a major problem across the County.
- 5) There will be a temporary road closure on Smugglers Lane on 30th October until 10th November 2017.
- 6) Residents at Dog Dean have requested that the road is granted an 'Access Only' status thereby preventing non-residential vehicular movement on this road. The request will go before the County Council's Petitions Panel later this month.
- 7) Queen Elizabeth's School has received a "GOOD" Ofsted report.
- 8) LGR information on this has been supplied in a separate report to Members.
- 9) Dress Down Day at County Hall on the 6th October in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Support Day raised £527.45

County Councillor Shane Bartlett.





Dorset Area Joint Committee Core Briefing – 16 October 2017

Current position

- Prior to the meeting Members participated in an informal workshop to further discuss partnership working and collaboration.
- Members agree that moving forward the programme needs to be properly resourced

What's next

- Still awaiting feedback and announcement from Secretary of State in respect of LGR.
- Members will receive a report on the process and timetable to recruit a Chief Executive for the potential new council

Key Decisions and Actions

- Members had a detailed discussion about the importance of resourcing the work programme.
- Members resolved:
 1. That a Programme Manager and a Communication & Engagement Manager be recruited to support the work of the Joint Committee.
 2. That the recruitment processes for a larger team in readiness to support any work arising from any LGR decision be commenced, and specifically that the recruitment of Workstream Coordinators, to a maximum value of £250k be agreed.
 3. That a further report on the arrangements for the appointment, or otherwise, of an Interim Chief Executive or equivalent be considered at the next meeting of the Joint Committee on 15 November 2017.
- The workstream co-ordinators will be responsible for supporting the development of the vision that has been set-out for collaborative working across the Councils and with wider Dorset partners
- Members received an update on communications activity over the last month and how communications managers are working in partnership to develop the communications approach.
- Until such time as a communications lead is appointed, communications managers will attend committee meetings on a rota basis, taking responsibility for managing all proactive and reactive communications coming out of that meeting.

Impact on Councils

- It was agreed that officers would begin the recruitment process for workstream leads.
- Communications will be tailored more towards different stakeholder interests. For example whilst members might be interested in political decisions, staff will take more interest in how decisions on HR issues impact them directly.
- Whilst there will be a consistent message to communications where possible it was acknowledged that on occasions partner councils will need to tailor messages to fit with the individual style and systems of their organisation
- The next meeting of the Joint Committee is on 15 November, 2.30pm, South Walks House in Dorchester.

Full minutes and reports considered at the meeting are available on www.dorsetareacouncils.wordpress.com

District Councillors Report 31st October 2017.

- 1) A panel has now been selected to investigate and deal with Furzehill's request for a governance review concerning its parish boundary and the possibility of it creating a parish with Holt.
- 2) A consultation document concerning car park charging in EDDC owned car parks has now been put online and can be found on the Dorset For You website. The Town Council is a consultee. Only Wimborne and Ferndown are proposed to have car park charging within EDDC. The consultation will end in November and will be brought back to the Scrutiny Committee before going back to Cabinet and then Full Council at EDDC.
- 3) EDDC has been discussing the disposal of small areas of amenity land.
- 4) EDDC Task and Finish Group for exploring other options for Local Government Reorganisation continues to meet due to the failure of the Secretary of State's ability to come to a decision about whether to allow Dorset to progress with its Unitary proposal.

EDDC voted not to support a submission to the Secretary of State back in January 2017 and to date we still have no answer from the Minister.

The Queen's Speech did not include the Business Rates Retention for Local Authorities that was part of the Local Government Finance Bill. This would have allowed the retention of the £26 Billion that is collected by local Government. EDDC collects in the region of nearly £23 Million, however after the mathematical mechanism handed down by Government at Westminster the District Council retains only about £1.9 Million.

Due to the Council no longer receiving a Revenue Support Grant, the Council is dependent on providing the statutory services that it has to, by raising funds that it can generate within the District. The final year of the Four-Year Settlement will see the introduction of a tariff that will have to be paid to the Government. For EDDC, this amounts to £980,000. This additional tax (nearly £1million) is the main concern for creating a possible budget deficit for 2019/20. In comparison, Hampshire will have to pay to Westminster £1.6million and the County Council an estimated £10million.

It is likely that the District Council will be reliant on raising its Council Tax by the maximum permissible amount in order to be able to continue providing the services that it is responsible for however, it should be recognised that no decision has been made on this as yet.

In short, the District Council will be in a position of a negative Revenue Support Grant to the tune of £980,000 in 2019/2020. While the lack of the retention of the business rates, Brexit, possible lack of economic growth and rising inflation means that the economic environment is uncertain and puts the Council in a difficult position in formulating a Medium Term Financial Strategy.

EDDC has forecast the need to make savings in order to reach a balanced budget of £527k in 2019/2020 and £466k in 2020/2021. This means that there needs to be savings on the District Council of £1,125,000 up to 2022/2023.

As you will have heard, the financial position of the upper tiers of local authorities is in a difficult position and it would be mindful for Parish Councils to take this into account and the possible effect and repercussions that may have on those authorities.

East Dorset District Councillor Shane Bartlett.

MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

27 SEPTEMBER 2017 – 31 OCTOBER 2017

27.09.2017	Blandford Forum Town Council – The Mayor & Mayoress attended the Civic Day.
29.09.2017	Macmillan Coffee Morning - The Mayor & Mayoress attended coffee mornings at Nationwide Building Society & Dacombes.
30.09.2017	Sturminster Newton – The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Civic Day.
01.10.2017	Wimborne Methodist Church – The Mayor and Mayoress attended a service of celebration and rededication.
02.10.2017	Knoll Gardens Art Exhibition – The Mayor attended the launch of an exhibition of work of Inga Street, Knolls Gardens Artist-In-Residence.
05.10.2017	East Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau – The Mayor & Mayoress attended the AGM.
11.10.2017	Wimborne In Bloom – The Mayor and Mayoress attended a Cheese and Wine Social Evening.
14.10.2017	The Mayor & Mayoress attended an Eco Fair held on the Minster Green which included stalls with information and activities from a variety of local and national organisations concerned about the earth.
17.10.2017	Step Outside Allotment Gardening Group – The Mayor attended the Group's Harvest Celebration at Kingston Lacey's Kitchen Garden.
18.10.2017	Dorset Youth Marching Band – The Mayor and Mayoress attending the Band's AGM.
21.10.2017	Wimborne Drama – The Mayor and Mayoress attending the production "Travels With My Aunt" at the Tivoli Theatre.
26.10.2017	Dorset Volunteer Awards Evening 2017 – The Mayor and Mayoress attending the evening in Dorchester.
28.10.2017	Wimborne Minster's Poppy Appeal Launch – The Mayor and Mayoress attended and the Mayor purchased the first poppy.
31.10.2017	Walford Mill – The Mayor and Mayoress took part in Pumpkin Carving event for Halloween.



Report from Wimborne Cemetery Joint Committee Meeting held on 16th October 2017

Cllrs Wheeler and Carole Chedgy attended their first Joint Committee meeting on the 16 October 2017. This was the first meeting since 17th May 2017 due to the resignations of 2 councillors and the previous Clerk.

Cllr Wheeler was duly elected as Chairman.

We met the new clerk Karen St Clair. She reported that she was having considerable trouble organising documentation, getting on board with the bank, and interpreting the accounts. This meant the draft budget could not be completed in October and would go on to November.

It was agreed that she would change to the Sage accounting system. It gave better information, was more user friendly, and she would have more support.

The first 6 months financial reports were not approved and were left over to November. There was nothing necessarily untoward, but the information available was not sufficient to approve them.

There was a request from WTC for maintenance to 3 drains near Redcotts and Culverhayes. The Committee accepted 2, but not the 3rd as it was outside the cemetery boundary, and may be the responsibility of WTC.

The Committee approved a rolling programme of maintenance of memorials with further information to be obtained by the clerk.

The hedge bordering Redcotts Road and Redcotts has been cut. I was charged with investigating Redcotts residents' opinions on the hedge being replaced by a fence. The reaction to this is a resounding no. They would like the hedge to be maintained as little has been done in recent years. If any Wimborne councillors or members of the public have a view on this please let me know as I shall report to the next committee meeting.

Cllr Carole Chedgy

