

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the ANNUAL MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL held on TUESDAY 15 MAY 2018 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 Mrs S A Bell  
Cllr S K Bartlett  
Cllr Ms C L Butter  
Cllr Mrs C A Chedgy  
Cllr Mrs P A Hymers  
Cllr R P Nunn  
Cllr W J Richmond  
Cllr Mrs K F Webb

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Cllr J Burden  
Cllr R D Cook  
Cllr Mrs S A Cook  
Cllr Mrs D J March  
Cllr Mrs A E Roberts

**1** **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL 2018/2019**

Cllr Mrs K F Webb was proposed and seconded.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr K F Webb be elected Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council for the 2018/2019 municipal year.

**2** **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Cllr Mrs Webb made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took the chair.

**3** **INCOMING MAYOR'S SPEECH**

See Appendix A to these Minutes.

**4** **ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL 2018/2019**

Cllr S K Bartlett was proposed and seconded.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr S K Bartlett be elected Deputy Town Mayor and Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2018/2019 municipal year.

5                    **APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES 2018/2019**

**RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Committee Appointments attached as Appendix B to these Minutes be approved.

6                    **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SPECIFIC POSTS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS 2018/2019**

**RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Appointments to Specific Posts and Outside Organisations attached as Appendix C to these Minutes be approved.

7                    **OUTGOING MAYOR'S SPEECH**

See **Appendix D** to these Minutes.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

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

**Good evening everyone.** Thank you very much to Cllr Butter and Cllr Bartlett for proposing and seconding me for Town Mayor and Chairman this year. Thanks also to those Cllrs and office staff that have helped me learn the ropes since joining the Council. And a special mention to the Town Clerk who I must drive to distraction with my constant questions!

**And I'll say thank you in advance** to my Mum and oldest daughter Alice for all the babysitting they'll be doing this year!

**And on behalf of the Council,** many thanks to Cllrs Terry Wheeler and Robin Cook for their services to the Council during 2017/18 in their roles as Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

---

**During this year celebrating 100 years** since the emancipation of women, it's fitting that we should have a female Mayor – although we have had our fair share over the years. We are unusual though in that 50% of our Councillors are female – when only 33% of all Cllrs in England are!

**We have one of the highest percentages** if not, THE highest in Dorset. And all of our Chairmen are women this year too. And I can confirm that we're all on equal pay!

**I came to love Wimborne** when I started working in here 2002. Initially I worked in town as a financial adviser for what was then Abbey. I used to sit upstairs and had a lovely view of the High St from my desk!

**Shortly after that we moved** from just up the road in Broadstone to Wimborne when I had been working at East Dorset District Council for a few years. When I left there, I got a bit closer to town again when I became the Manager of Wimborne BID when it was in its infancy. I really enjoyed working there, it was there I got to know so many local people and organisations and I worked closely with the Town Council on some partnership projects.

**Which is why I decided in 2015 to 'move departments'** again and stand for Council! Whilst the BID look after the businesses of the town and the council focus on residents, we work together for our mutual interests.

**The BID is now well into its 2<sup>nd</sup> term,** and there's definitely evidence that they're doing something right! The town looks fantastic and feels as though it's thriving when High Streets in many other places are struggling.

---

**During the past 2 years** I've been Chairman of the Resources Committee and I've managed projects that have seen changes implemented that will help the Council modernise and prepare for the impacts of Local Government Reorganisation.

**There's still more to do** but we have a really good team in place and I'm confident that we'll keep moving forward.

**So expect more changes** at the town council, but whilst we're keeping an eye on expenditure to make sure that the tax payers get value for money. This is particularly important now as we're not sure what financial impacts there may be as a result of the new Unitary authority coming into place which is only 11 months off!

---

**During my Mayoral year**, I would like to highlight some of the town's history, and I've got some projects in mind for this. There are so many interesting and exciting facts about the town that I've learned over the past few years, largely during my involvement with Wimborne History Festival.

**I would like local people to get to know** more about our rich royal history, our rivers, famous inhabitants and ancient scheduled monuments! So I'll be arranging some events that can bring some of this to life and hopefully raise some money for my charities.

**Also this year I would like to focus on enhancing the communication** at the Council. Generally our meetings are formal and held in public so don't give Cllrs the opportunity to have general open conversations and ideas sharing which I believe we should be doing as we're a team.

**So I'll be introducing monthly drop in coffee mornings** for Cllrs to attend if they're available. I think improved communication internally will give a wider benefit, I'll contact Cllrs separately with details about this.

**And if the public would like to know a little more** about being a Cllr generally or what it's like being Mayor, then you may like to follow my BLOG which I've already started (there'll be a link on the website soon). I'll update this to give details of events and some meetings that I attend with the odd photo thrown in!

**This is year 4 of a 4 year term**, so this time next year it could be 'all change'. By the end of our term, I hope we have the Council prepared to adapt in readiness for the new Unitary authority.

**It's going to be especially busy** as we'll be liaising with the District Council before they are no more, so myself and other Councillors will need to be ready for the work that will involve. Overall though, I see this as being a positive year as we take the Council forward towards whatever new shape or size it may end up being.

---

**My first chosen charities** this year are two of the fantastic Community resources we have in Allendale House and the Allendale Centre.

**Allendale House is not just a lovely** historic listed building but it offers community space for a variety of uses, including private hire! If you haven't been in there, go and have a look, Sarah and Kim in there are very friendly!

**The Allendale Centre has really turned around** in the last few years with high occupancy rates now and a brilliant café and has recently had a significant refurbishment. And of course that's where Radio Wimborne is – which I'm also involved with - and its recently become part of the charity.

**My third charity** is Julia's House which I'm sure you all know of and the amazing work it does for children with life limiting conditions.

**I'm also thinking there** will be further opportunities throughout the year to help other local causes.

**Thank you**

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2018/2019**

**RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Cllr J Burden  
Cllr Ms C L Butter  
Cllr Mrs C A Chedgy (Chairman Elect)  
Cllr R D Cook  
Cllr Mrs S A Cook  
Cllr R P Nunn  
Cllr W J Richmond  
Cllr T F Wheeler (Vice-Chairman Elect)  
Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio  
Vice-Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio

**PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mrs S A Bell  
Cllr Ms C L Butter (Vice-Chairman Elect)  
Cllr Mrs C A Chedgy  
Cllr R D Cook  
Cllr Mrs P A Hymers (Chairman Elect)  
Cllr Mrs D J March  
Cllr W J Richmond  
Cllr Mrs A E Roberts  
Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio  
Vice-Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio

**RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE**

Cllr Mrs S A Bell (Chairman Elect)  
Cllr J Burden  
Cllr Mrs S A Cook  
Cllr Mrs P A Hymers  
Cllr Mrs D J March  
Cllr R P Nunn (Vice-Chairman Elect)  
Cllr Mrs A E Roberts  
Cllr T F Wheeler  
Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio  
Vice-Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL****APPOINTMENTS TO SPECIFIC POSTS AND  
OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS 2018/2019**

Allendale Community Centre Management Committee (observers)	Cllr S K Bartlett Cllr T F Wheeler (reserve)
Citizens Advice Management Committee	Cllr Mrs S A Bell
Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils	Cllr S K Bartlett Cllr Ms C L Butter
Dorset Cyclists Network	Vacancy
Dreamboats	Cllr S K Bartlett
East Dorset Environment Partnership	Cllr Mrs C A Chedgy
Fairtrade Steering Group	Cllr Mrs P A Hymers
Partners & Communities Together (PACT)	Cllr S K Bartlett Cllr Ms C L Butter
Priest's House Museum and Garden	Cllr Ms C L Butter
St Margaret's & Stone's Charity (until 2021)	Mrs Margery Ryan
Town Centre Liaison Group	Cllr Ms C L Butter Cllr Mrs C A Chedgy Cllr Mrs P A Hymers Cllr T F Wheeler
Vision Wimborne	Cllr S K Bartlett
Walford Mill Board of Directors	Cllr Ms C L Butter
Wimborne BID Board	Cllr R P Nunn
Wimborne in Bloom	Cllr R P Nunn
Wimborne Cemetery Joint Management Committee (until 2019)	Cllr T F Wheeler Cllr Mrs C A Chedgy
Wimborne Minster Folk Festival	Cllr Mrs P A Hymers

Wimborne Militia Management Committee	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
Wimborne/Ochsenfurt Twinning Association	Cllr Mrs P A Hymers
Wimborne/Valognes Twinning Association	Cllr T F Wheeler
Youth Café	Cllr Mrs S A Bell Cllr Mrs P A Hymers
1069 Squadron Air Training Corps Civilian Committee	Cllr Mrs S A Cook

### **Other Appointments**

Civil Protection representative	Town Mayor
Community Resilience Officer	Town Mayor
Flood Wardens	Cllr S K Bartlett Cllr W J Richmond
Rights of Way representative	Cllr J Burden
Tree Warden	Cllr W J Richmond
Public Relations Co-ordinator	Cllr Mrs K F Webb

Good evening Ladies & Gentlemen.

'Have you enjoyed your year as Mayor'?

If I've been asked that question once in the past month, I must have been asked it a hundred times. It's usually followed by the question, 'Will you miss it when it's all over'?

The answer to the first question is of course yes. Those here tonight who have been Mayor before will not be surprised that the answer to the second question is yes & no. Yes, it has been a great honour to be Town Mayor again and Pauline & I have enjoyed attending the many civic events both in town and around the county. Being Chairman of this Council has been an altogether different challenge. It was clear to me before the year even started that it wasn't going to be a walk in the park, so I was prepared for it. But despite that, I was still surprised to be having to deal with the fallout from events of six years ago even in my final week as Chairman. I don't see the pressures on the Chairman role easing up either. At the end of the coming civic year we shall see the new unitary authorities coming into being. There will be increasing demands on the Council, which my successors will have to deal with, which will make it increasingly difficult for one person to carry out the two roles. In fact, two towns in Dorset this year separated the roles of Mayor and Chairman, even though I'm not sure it's strictly legal to do so. One thing is for certain. We as councillors are going to have to get more professional. This Council has never rewarded its Councillors in a financial sense, something we are proud of. However, if we are to attract the right people, who will need to commit increasing amounts of time to council work, then this might have to be revisited sometime in the future.

My charities this year have as you know been The Friends of Victoria Hospital, The National Garden Scheme, Walford Mill Education Trust and Wimborne in Bloom. When I was Mayor the first time, I said in my outgoing address that I had found fundraising stressful, because of the desire to raise as much money as possible for those charities. Disappointingly it hasn't been the case this year, simply because I haven't been able to give it the time I should have liked. Increased family commitments, as well as the pressures of being Chairman, have distracted me from giving my charities the fundraising they deserve. Having said that Councillors are not rewarded financially, there is an exception, which is that the Mayor receives an allowance. I have decided to award this allowance to my local charities, to make up for my lack of fundraising.

This is the tenth year that Pauline and I have opened our garden for the National Garden Scheme, always an enjoyable experience. This charity currently gives away more than £3 million each year to nursing, caring and gardening charities, including Macmillan Care and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Funds raised for the scheme have to be paid over soon after the opening days, so we have already paid £740 over to them from our open days in 2017. Our first open day this year, which was last Sunday, was one of most successful ever and they will receive a further £252 in due course. Now for the advert. Our open garden days extend beyond my civic year and we have further open days with one tomorrow and then on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, as well as the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June. If you are interested in visiting gardens do come along.

At my open garden days, I have been assisted by volunteers of another of my charities, The Friends of Victoria Hospital, who have sold teas and home-made cakes and therefore earned a proportion of the takings. They too have received some fundraising already, £247 from last year's openings and



will benefit further from this year's openings. I am delighted, in the meantime however to hand over further cheques totalling over £1321. So, could I ask Rae Cotton to step up to accept them.

My next charity is Wimborne in Bloom. This charity means so much to me and if I hadn't gotten involved with them, then I probably would never have become a councillor. Could I please therefore ask Chairman Richard Nunn to step up to receive cheques totalling £1411.

MY final charity is the Walford Mill Education Trust. The past 12 months have been traumatic ones for the Mill, having lost Arts Council funding after 30 years. There was a time when the trustees even considered closing the charity. However, we have restructured, the District Council have demonstrated their faith in us by warding us with a considerable one-off package and we are moving forward with renewed enthusiasm. I am delighted therefore to ask CEO Anne Hitchcock to step up to receive cheques totalling £1416.

It has become a tradition for the Mayor to have a Mayor's Scout and Guide, to support him at civic events in the Town. Adam and Lucy have supported me throughout the year at the major events in town and I would like to say thank you to them both for their support. So, could I ask Lucy and Adam please to step up and collect a small token of my appreciation and their Certificates of service.

I cannot finish without saying a few words of thanks. To Rae Cotton for her help at my Open Gardens, Wimborne Rotary for inviting me to be an honorary member of their organisation during my term as Mayor. Spencer Hare for organising the flags at my civic service and on remembrance Sunday. Anthony Oliver for organising the Chain Gang at my civic service and Carols in the Cornmarket. The Dorset Youth Marching Band for turning out for me and helping with my fundraising.

I'd like also to thank Kate and Jenny here at the Town Hall for keeping me on the straight and narrow. Kate especially has been excellent and we were delighted to have stolen her from Ferndown Town Council. Unfortunately, they appear to have stolen her back and I am so sorry to see her go. I would ask her if she could just step here for a moment to receive a small token of my appreciation for all the hard work she put in on my behalf, especially those events at weekends. To Laurence for his guidance and looking after me so well and being a professional Town Clerk, which keeps this council moving forward. I'd like to thank the other members of the Council for their support during my year as Chairman and for not giving me too hard a time. In particular, I'd like to thank Cllr Robin Cook who has been my deputy, and Cllr Sue Cook who have stood in for me on occasions when I have been double booked or absent.

I must also thank my family, Alex, Corinne, James and Helen and especially my wife Pauline, who has worked incredibly hard to be a good Mayoress and ambassador for the town, despite increasing discomfort with her hip. We come as double act and I am very proud of what she has done for the town this past year.

There are many others I'd like to mention but we still need to get to the first item on the agenda, so I'll just say thank you to everyone who has helped to make this a most memorable year for Pauline & myself.

Thank-you.