



Dear Councillor

27 November 2020

You are summoned to join a virtual meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** via video link on **FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2020 at 10 am.**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lawrence Hart'.

Town Clerk

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Members of the public are invited to submit questions to the Council in writing by **9.30 am on the day before this meeting** (i.e. Thursday, 3 December 2020) is due to be held using the following email address: [office@wimborne.gov.uk](mailto:office@wimborne.gov.uk) or by delivering a hard copy of the question to the Town Hall, West Borough.

### **AGENDA**

- 1** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2** To confirm the Minutes of the **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** held on 25 September 2020 (pages 7499, 7500 and 7501– copy herewith).
- 3** To confirm the Minutes of the **EXTRAORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** held on 23 October 2020 (pages 7506 and 7507 – copy herewith).
- 4** To confirm the Minutes of the **EXTRAORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** held on 20 November 2020 (pages 7514 and 7515 – copy herewith).
- 5** To receive the Minutes of the **PERSONNEL, POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE** held on 9 October 2020 (pages 7502 and 7503 - copy herewith).
- 6** To receive the Minutes of the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held on 23 October 2020 (pages 7504 and 7505– copy herewith).
- 7** To receive the Minutes of the **RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE** held on 6 November 2020 (pages 7508, 7509, 7510 and 7511 - copy herewith).
- 8** To receive the Minutes of the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held on 20 November 2020 (pages 7512 and 7513 – copy herewith).
- 9** **EXTERNAL AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2019/20**  
To receive the External Auditor's Certificate and opinion for the financial year ended 31 March 2020 (copy herewith).

**10 THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE – STANDARDS  
MATTER 2: PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

To consider the Town Clerk's suggested response to NALC's survey (copy herewith).

**11 DORSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**12 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**

**LOCALISM ACT 2011 and CODE of CONDUCT**

Members are reminded to comply with those elements of the Localism Act and the Town Council's Code of Conduct in respect of disclosable pecuniary interests.

**GENERAL CONDUCT**

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety, Human Rights and Data Protection (General Data Protection Regulation).

**PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

Members of the public and press will be allowed to listen *and watch* the meeting in audio mode only using Zoom. To avoid disruption the public and press will not be displayed on video or be able to be heard by the meeting.

**Please choose one of the following options to observe and / or listen to the meeting from 10am:**

**To access online via Zoom website:**

1. Access the Zoom Video and Teleconferencing website by the following link: <https://zoom.us/>
2. Click to 'Join a Meeting'
3. When prompted, insert Meeting ID and Password as below:  
**Meeting ID: 920 8030 0594**  
**Password: 267701**

*\*Please note, you may be asked to register and sign into your Zoom user account. This will require a personal email address and password\**

**To access audio only by telephone:**

1. Dial United Kingdom: +44 330 088 5830; or +44 131 460 1196; or +44 203 481 5237; or +44 203 481 5240; or +44 208 080 6591; or +44 208 080 6592.
2. When prompted, insert Meeting ID and Password as below:  
**Meeting ID: 920 8030 0594**  
**Password: 267701**

Any questions which members of the public wish to put to the Council or Committees must be in writing and received by 9.30 am on the preceding working day before the meeting using the following email address: [office@wimborne.gov.uk](mailto:office@wimborne.gov.uk). Alternatively, a written question can be delivered to the Town Hall by 9.30 am on the preceding working day before the meeting. Every effort will be made to answer the question at the meeting but there may be a need to obtain information from other sources and in those circumstances a written response will be provided at a subsequent time.

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a **MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** via video link held on **FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2020 at 10.00 am**

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

Cllr S K Bartlett – Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council  
Cllr D Burt  
Cllr C L Butter  
Cllr C A Chedgy  
Cllr L C Hinks  
Cllr D J March  
Cllr W J Richmond  
Cllr A E Roberts  
Cllr F Shirley  
Cllr M R Tidd  
Cllr S Wheeler

Dorset Councillor M Roe

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Cllr K F Webb – Deputy Town Mayor & Vice-Chairman of the  
Council  
Cllr M J Hopkins

**OFFICERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

Town Clerk  
Administration Officer

**295** **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2020**

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

**296** **EXTRAORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2020**

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

**297** **EXTRAORDINARY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

Town Council – 25 September 2020

**298**                    **CONFIRMATION OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 JULY 2020**

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

**299**                    **CONFIRMATION OF RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

**300**                    **CONFIRMATION OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

**301**                    **DORSET COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Dorset Cllr M Roe – see **Appendix A** to these Minutes.

Dorset Cllr S K Bartlett reported on the asset management methodology currently being carried out by officers at Dorset Council. Dorset Council currently owned 118 assets in Wimborne Minster.

Cllr Bartlett also reported that a webinar had been held yesterday on the Government's Planning Consultation White Paper. Dorset Council was keen that every town and parish council and residents within Dorset respond to this consultation. He added that some of the proposals in the White Paper were a cause for concern for Dorset Council as they would reduce the involvement of the Local Planning Authority in the planning process whilst at the same time place a financial burden on it to produce reports which were currently the responsibility of developers.

Dorset Cllr D Morgan – see **Appendix B** to these Minutes.

**302**                    **TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**

Walford Mill – Cllr Butter reported that she had attended a recent meeting of the Board of Directors and that business was progressing quite well.

DAPTC – Cllr C L Butter – See **Appendix C** to these Minutes.

Wimborne BID – Cllr C A Chedgy – see **Appendix D** to these Minutes.

Town Council – 25 September 2020

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

Wimborne Valognes Twinning Association – Cllr Hinks reported that at the present time all events had been cancelled due to the Covid crisis. There was concern as to the future of the Brittany Ferries route to Cherbourg and a petition had been instigated.

Allendale Centre – Cllr March reported that the only meetings that had been held recently were confidential and had not been open to general members. However, she reported that the Allendale Centre was open to the public and reminded Members of the market held there on Friday mornings.

Wimborne Ochsenfurt Twinning Association – Cllr Roberts reported that at the present time all events had been cancelled although the two twinning towns were maintaining contact with each other.

Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Tidd reported that the neighbourhood plan questionnaire had been finalised and was awaiting printing.

Air Training Cadets 1069 Squadron – Cllr Wheeler reported that he had attended a virtual committee meeting but at the present time it was not possible for the ATC centre to be open to the cadets.

The meeting closed at 10.19 am

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

7506

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of an **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** via video link held on **FRIDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2020** at **11.00 am**

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

**Cllr S K Bartlett – Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council**  
**Cllr K F Webb – Deputy Town Mayor & Vice-Chairman of the Council**

**Cllr C L Butter**  
**Cllr C A Chedgy**  
**Cllr L C Hinks**  
**Cllr M J Hopkins**  
**Cllr W J Richmond**  
**Cllr F Shirley**  
**Cllr S Wheeler**

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

**Cllr D Burt**  
**Cllr D J March**  
**Cllr A E Roberts**  
**Cllr M R Tidd**

**OFFICERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

**Town Clerk**  
**Assistant Town Clerk**

**310** **GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER – ‘PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE’**

The Town Clerk submitted a report, 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 report set out suggested responses to the questions posed in the Government’s White Paper.

Members considered the response to each question in turn and agreed changes and additions. Following discussions, it was

**RESOLVED** that the amended response to the White Paper, attached as **Appendix B** to these Minutes, be approved for submission to the Government.

**311                    DORSET ASSOCIATION OF PARISH & TOWN COUNCILS –  
AGM 14 NOVEMBER 2020**

The Town Clerk submitted five 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 C** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Town Council considered the motions with a view to indicating how its representatives should vote on each one.

**RESOLVED that the representatives be required to vote on each Motion as follows:**

**Motions 1 and 2: Do not support**

**Motions 3, 4 and 5: Support**

**312                    CHRISTMAS CLOSURE OF OFFICE**

The Town Clerk submitted a report, 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.

The Town Clerk sought a decision from the Town Council on the closure of the office over the Christmas holiday period.

**RESOLVED that in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the local community, the Chairman of the Council discuss the issue with the Town Clerk with a view to arranging suitable cover over the Christmas period.**

The meeting closed at 12.29 pm.

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

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of an **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** via video link held on **FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2020** at **11.00 am**

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

**Cllr S K Bartlett – Town Mayor & Chairman of the Council**  
**Cllr K F Webb – Deputy Town Mayor & Vice-Chairman of the Council**

**Cllr D Burt**  
**Cllr C L Butter**  
**Cllr C A Chedgy**  
**Cllr L C Hinks**  
**Cllr M J Hopkins**  
**Cllr D J March**  
**Cllr W J Richmond**  
**Cllr A E Roberts**  
**Cllr F Shirley**  
**Cllr M R Tidd**

**MEMBER NOT PRESENT**

**Cllr S Wheeler**

**OFFICERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

**Town Clerk**  
**Assistant Town Clerk**

**322** **DORSET COUNCIL DOG RELATED PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2020 (Min 313 – 06.11.20)**

The Town Clerk submitted a report, 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 report set out details of the Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2020 which would come into effect on 1 January 2021.

The Chairman indicated that following a straw poll of Members there was a clear majority in favour of giving a general consent in respect of Sections 3 and 5 of this Order so that the status quo on the Town Council's recreation grounds could be maintained.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that all Members of the Council had received copies of emails and letters from concerned residents about the effects of this Order.

Cllr Chedgy proposed a motion that the Town Council give general consent in respect of Sections 3 and 5 of the Order to disapply the prohibition of dogs entering or remaining on marked pitches or requiring them to be on leads within 5 metres of a marked pitch. She added that, in her view, Dorset Council had not fully complied with the statute or the Government’s guidance when making this Order. She therefore felt it was unlawful.

The Town Clerk agreed with Cllr Chedgy and he would be writing to the Head of Legal Services at Dorset Council to express this view.

Upon the motion being put, Cllr Webb proposed an amendment that the consent should be time-limited to 12 months so that the Town Council could carry out its own survey to assess whether the responses were similar to Dorset Council’s data collected earlier this year from a consultation exercise which Dorset Council had used to justify making the Order. She felt that in view of the high response rate to Dorset Council’s consultation exercise it should not be ignored. Upon being put to the meeting, the amendment was declared lost.

The original motion by Cllr Chedgy was then put to the meeting and a recorded vote was requested the result of which was as follows:

For the motion: Cllrs Burt, Chedgy, Hinks, Hopkins, March, Richmond, Roberts and Tidd.

Against the motion: Cllr Webb.

Abstentions: Cllrs Bartlett, Butter and Shirley.

The motion was declared to be carried.

**RESOLVED that in accordance with sections 3.3.2 and 5.2.2 of The Dorset Council Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2020 dated 23 October 2020 this Council gives general consent under those sections to enable the status quo on its recreation grounds to be maintained in relation to the use of those recreation grounds by users in control of dogs and that Dorset Council be advised accordingly.**

(Note: Cllr Bartlett asked it to be recorded that he had abstained from voting on this item because as Chairman of Dorset Council’s Scrutiny Committee he did not wish to be barred from fulfilling his role if the Order came before his Committee.)

The meeting closed at 11.33 am.

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

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **PERSONNEL, POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE** via video link held on **FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2020** at **10.00 am**.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Cllr S K Bartlett (Chairman of the Council – in the chair)**  
**Cllr K F Webb (Vice-Chairman of the Council)**  
**Cllr C A Chedgy (Chairman Resources Committee)**  
**Cllr W J Richmond (Chairman Recreation & Leisure Committee)**  
**Cllr M R Tidd (Chairman Planning & Environment Committee)**

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

**Town Clerk**  
**Assistant Town Clerk**

**303** **PROJECT PROGRESS OVERVIEW REPORT**

The Assistant Town Clerk submitted a Project Progress Overview Report, 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.

It was agreed that urgent consideration needed to be given to any new or existing projects or priorities that would require funding and therefore have implications on the Council's budget for 2021/22.

Cllr Webb requested that this included some small-scale projects from the Biodiversity and Climate Change project and also the potential growth of the grounds maintenance team.

**304** **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (Min 204 – 28.01.20)**

The Town Clerk submitted a Report, 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.

Comprehensive discussion followed on this item. Members agreed that given the current COVID-19 pandemic and implications on the budget for 2021/22, a formal decision on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan should be delayed.

Out of the discussion on this item, Members considered that the methods by which the Council currently engaged and consulted with the local community needed to be reviewed and improved.

**RECOMMENDED to Council**

- a) **that a decision as to whether to proceed with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan be deferred until October 2021;**
- b) **that the Town Clerk produce a report on the options for improving communications with and consulting the public.**

305

**ICT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

The Assistant Town Clerk submitted a draft policy on ICT Acceptable Use, 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.

Members were of the view that the Policy needed to be further refined to include a definition of the word ‘data’, details on issues such as the method of storage and location of information saved on Council-owned equipment and the differences in use of IT between Officers and Members.

**RESOLVED that the Assistant Town Clerk update the policy to incorporate the issues raised and report back.**

306

**SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

The Assistant Town Clerk submitted a draft Social Media Policy, 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 discussed this draft policy in detail and requested that it be expanded to include all communications and renamed a ‘Communications Policy’ to cover a broader range of issues including response times to enquiries.

Members also felt that, in future, the public relations role, including posting on social media, should be the responsibility of the Town Clerk (since 2015 the role had been undertaken by a Councillor).

**RESOLVED that the Assistant Town Clerk expand the policy as discussed and report back.**

The meeting closed at 11.17 am.

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

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE** via video link held on **FRIDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2020 at 10.00 am.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

Cllr C A Chedgy (Chairman)  
Cllr C L Butter (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr L C Hinks  
Cllr S Wheeler  
Cllr S K Bartlett – Ex-Officio – Chairman of the Council  
Cllr K F Webb – Ex-Officio – Vice-Chairman of the Council

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Cllr D Burt  
Cllr M J Hopkins  
Cllr F Shirley  
Cllr M R Tidd

**OFFICERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

Town Clerk  
Assistant Town Clerk

**307** **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

The schedule of payments for October 2020 was submitted for information – see **Appendix A** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

**308** **MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

The Town Clerk submitted for information the accounts for the month of September 2020, 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.

Cllr Webb asked whether overhead costs such as printing, and utilities had reduced since the Office was closed. The Town Clerk would speak with the Finance Administrator and would advise Cllr Webb accordingly.

**309** **APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID – CITIZENS ADVICE (Min 294 – 18.09.20)**

The Town Clerk submitted an application for grant aid received from Citizens Advice, a summary of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** to these Minutes in

the Minute Book. This application had been deferred from the previous meeting.

In light of further information received after the agenda had been published, the Chairman proposed to the Committee that this grant aid application be deferred again, for the following reasons:

- To allow further discussions to take place between the Chairman of the Council and neighbouring parishes.
- To await the outcome of the possible merger between the East Dorset and Purbeck Citizens Advice branches.

**RESOLVED that this grant aid application be deferred until the November 2020 meeting.**

The meeting closed at 10.10 am.

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

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE** via video link held on **FRIDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2020 at 10.00 am.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

**Cllr W J Richmond - Chairman**  
**Cllr A E Roberts – Vice-Chairman**  
**Cllr C A Chedgy**  
**Cllr L C Hinks**  
**Cllr M J Hopkins**  
**Cllr D J March**  
**Cllr S K Bartlett – Ex-Officio – Chairman of the Council**  
**Cllr K F Webb – Ex-Officio – Vice-Chairman of the Council**

**OFFICERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

**Town Clerk – for the item contained in Min 313**  
**Administration Officer**

**313      **PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – DOGS (Min 218 – 11.02.20)****

The Administration Officer submitted a report, 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 report informed the Committee of the making by Dorset Council of a Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order and the impact this would have on the Council's recreation grounds.

The Town Clerk added that when the Agenda was issued it was understood from Dorset Council that the provisions of the Order were mandatory and had to be accepted by the Town Council.

However, a copy of the Order dated 23 October 2020 had since been received. The Order contained provisions which allowed the owners of land to which the Order would apply to give consent to allow dog owners to avoid compliance with certain provisions.

The Town Clerk stated that this was a matter for the Town Council as a whole. The Committee could not make the decision. Therefore, the item was being referred to the Council without discussion at this meeting. The Town Clerk confirmed that all emails and letters received from concerned residents about the proposals contained in the Order had been copied to all Members and would be taken into consideration when the issue came before Council at an Extraordinary meeting to be held on 20 November 2020 at 11 am.

**314**                    **RECREATION GROUNDS INSPECTION REPORT**

The Chairman submitted a report, 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.

The report covered in detail all current issues pertaining to the recreation grounds. Cllr Chedgy requested that no further action be taken on the line marking for the basketball court until it was established as to whether this met the definition of a 'sports pitch', as defined in the Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order.

(Note: Cllr Bartlett asked it to be recorded that he was grateful to the grounds staff for moving the table tennis table into the play area at Leigh Park.)

**315**                    **LEIGH PARK ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND - SWING**

The Administration Officer submitted a report 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.

Quotations had been received for replacing the tall swings in the Adventure Play Area which were difficult to inspect for faults in view of their height. The swings had been decommissioned pending a decision by the Committee.

Cllr Webb expressed surprise that a suitable method of inspecting tall equipment was not available and Cllr Hinks wondered whether a drone could assist with inspection. The Administration Officer responded to say that a cherry picker would be required and that this was expensive and would be difficult to manoeuvre into the play area. The Chairman believed that it would be difficult for a drone to inspect the small moving parts that required safety inspection.

**RESOLVED that the quotation in the sum of £2,940 be accepted provided that the Administration Officer is satisfied that it includes removal of the old equipment and installation of the new equipment and that the new equipment can be moved to a new site if necessary.**

**316**                    **OUTSIDE FITNESS EQUIPMENT**

The Administration Officer submitted a report 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.

The report detailed previous work carried out by a working party in 2017 when the possibility of installing outside fitness equipment at Redcotts Recreation Ground was first investigated.

Cllr Webb favoured a holistic approach being taken as, with the new housing developments, it might be desirable to have more far-reaching changes to the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Bartlett requested that the matter be deferred due to the cost, likely reduction in precept collection rate and the potential acquisition of additional assets from Dorset Council which would need upkeep and maintenance.

Cllr Chedgy requested a full investigation and cost analysis. She confirmed that she would be asking the Town Clerk to produce a summary report for the budget including details of how much had been spent on each of the recreation grounds in recent years.

**RESOLVED that the matter be deferred pending decisions on the budget and precept early next year.**

317

**REDCOTTS RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA– CRAWLING TUNNEL**  
**(Min 287 – 04.09.20)**

The Administration Officer submitted a report 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.

The report suggested that a decision as to whether to carry out significant repairs at considerable cost could be deferred until the next financial year as the Play Inspection Company had highlighted in the annual inspection of the equipment that the risk of any injury to its users was low.

The Head Groundsman had removed the rotten timbers pending a further inspection by the Play Inspection Company later this month.

**RESOLVED that the Play Inspection Company be asked to confirm that the removal of the rotten wood will suffice to enable the equipment to be used safely.**

318

**DOG WARDEN PATROL REPORTS**

The Administration Officer submitted for information the Dog Warden Patrol Reports for August and September 2020, copies of which had been circulated to each Member and copies of which appear as **Appendix F** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The meeting closed at 10.52 am.

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

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **RESOURCES COMMITTEE** via video link held on **FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2020 at 10.00 am.**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

Cllr C A Chedgy (Chairman)  
Cllr C L Butter (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr D Burt  
Cllr L C Hinks  
Cllr M J Hopkins  
Cllr M R Tidd  
Cllr S Wheeler  
Cllr S K Bartlett – Ex-Officio – Chairman of the Council  
Cllr K F Webb – Ex-Officio – Vice-Chairman of the Council

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Cllr F Shirley

**OFFICERS PRESENT VIA VIDEO LINK**

Town Clerk  
Assistant Town Clerk

**319** **SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS**

The schedule of payments for November 2020 was submitted for information – see **Appendix A** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Cllr Webb requested clarification on the monthly costs for IT support which were higher than the amount provided in the budget. The Assistant Town Clerk would report back at the next meeting.

**320** **MONTHLY ACCOUNTS**

The Town Clerk submitted for information the accounts for the month of October 2020, 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.

**321** **APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID – EAST DORSET CITIZENS  
ADVICE (E.D.C.A.) (Min 309 – 23.10.20)**

The Town Clerk submitted an application for grant aid received from E.D.C.A., a summary of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix C** to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that this grant application had been deferred on two previous occasions. Firstly, to enable the Chairman of the Council to negotiate additional funding for the E.D.C.A. from neighbouring local councils and secondly, because of the uncertainty surrounding the proposed merger of the East Dorset and Purbeck branches and the subsequent implication for any grant that might be awarded by Dorset Council. However, neither of these implications would have an effect until 2021/22 financial year.

The Chairman added that on 17 November 2020, the E.D.C.A and Purbeck C.A. had voted to merge with effect from 1 April 2021. The accounts of both branches would be merged at that time.

Whilst discussions with neighbouring local councils were ongoing, the Chairman raised the issue of the populations of parishes which either did already provide grant funding to E.D.C.A. or which should be encouraged to do so. Some Parish/ Town Councils, much larger than or comparable to Wimborne Minster, either did not provide grant funding or over recent years had provided far less than the Town Council. Nor did the Town Council have any information on how the Parish and Town Councils in Purbeck contributed to that branch. This issue had been raised over a couple or more years with E.D.C.A. and although some progress had been made there was still a large disparity with Wimborne Minster residents paying a much higher contribution than other residents in East Dorset.

The Chairman advised that a letter could be sent to E.D.C.A. to ask them to consider population size as a factor when determining the amount of grant funding being requested from each Parish or Town Council. This information would be required when considering any future application.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman’s recommendation was for a grant of £5,000 to be awarded to E.D.C.A. in this financial year. This reflected to a degree the population disparity compared to other Councils. It also took into account that no revised budget had been produced by E.D.C.A for the COVID-19 period, but grants had been received in addition to the budgeted income.

**RESOLVED:**

- a) **that a grant of £5,000 be awarded to the E.D.C.A. from the 2020/ 21 budget towards running expenses;**
- b) **that the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman write to the E.D.C.A. expressing the Committee’s view that the amount of grant requested from local Councils should reflect the size of population.**

The meeting closed at 10.22 am.

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

**WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**Date: 4 December 2020**

**Meeting of the Town Council – Item 10 - The Committee On Standards In Public Life – Standards Matter 2: Public Consultation**

**Town Clerk's suggested response to NALC's survey:**

**Question 1: Standards of Conduct in the UK**

- A. How well do you think ethical standards - as enshrined by the Seven Principles of Public Life - are upheld in public life today?

The Town Council believes that ethical standards are generally upheld in public life today.

- B. Do you believe that there have there been any notable shifts in approaches or attitudes to ethical standards in public life in recent years?

Yes. Individuals are more aware of ethical standards and equality.

- C. What do you see as the most significant threats to ethical standards in public life today?

Improper use of social media and failure to deal properly with those that do not comply with them.

**Question 2: The Seven Principles of Public Life**

- A. Do the Seven Principles of Public Life accurately describe the appropriate ethical responsibilities for those in public roles, including both political and non-political office-holders?

Yes.

- B. Would you amend or replace any of the principles or their descriptors? If so, how?

No.

**Question 3: The UK's arrangements for regulating standards**

- A. Are you confident that the UK's arrangements for regulating ethical standards are robust and effective?

No they are not.

- B. Are there any areas of public life where regulation on issues of ethical standards is not strong enough?

Yes, the local government sector. With the abolition of the previous Standards regime e.g. Standards Board and lack of effective consequences for councillors who act contrary to the ethical standards expected..

Question 4: Best practice in standards regulation

- A. What makes an effective standards regulator?

Applying the rules consistently and effectively whilst being impartial.

- B. Do the UK's standards regulators have the right powers and remit to act effectively?

No.

- C. Should the independence of standards regulators be enhanced and protected, and if so, how?

Yes refer to the answer in 3B above where they need to have the right powers and remit to act effectively.

Question 5: Creating ethical cultures

- A. How can the Seven Principles best be embedded within a public sector organisation's working culture?

Adequate Codes of Conduct for Members and Staff in Local Government. Continual Programme of Training and Personal Development.

- B. What are the most significant obstacles to embedding high ethical standards in a public sector organisation?

The lack of effective consequences for improper conduct. Lack of effective role models. Political bias.