

WIMBORNE MINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the **ANNUAL MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL** held on **TUESDAY 10 MAY 2022 at 7.00 pm** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, West Borough, Wimborne Minster.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OFFICERS PRESENT

Acting Town Clerk
Committee and Administration Officer

Cllr K F Webb presiding:

1 **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL 2022/2023**

Cllr C L Butter was proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED that Cllr C L Butter be elected Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

2 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Cllr Butter 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 2022/2023**

Cllr D J March was proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED that Cllr D J March be elected Deputy Town Mayor and Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

5 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED that Standing Order Number 16 (Order of Business of the Annual Meeting of the Council) be suspended.

6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensations had been received.

8 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN 2022/2023

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

9 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SPECIFIC POSTS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS 2022/2023

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

10 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Acting Town Clerk submitted a report on Members' Allowances, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as **Appendix D** to these Minutes.

The Town Council was asked to decide its policy on Members' allowances for 2022/2023

RESOLVED that no Members' allowances be paid during the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.

11 OUTGOING MAYOR'S SPEECH

See **Appendix E** to these Minutes.

The meeting closed at 7.26 pm

SignedDate.....
Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council

MAYORAL SPEECH Cllr Carol Butter

10th May 2022

Distinguished guests, fellow Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for coming to this evening's Mayor making ceremony. It is a great honour and privilege to be elected as Mayor of this lovely town and I am so pleased that you could all join me tonight.

I thank all my fellow Councillors for their support and especially Cllrs Shane Bartlett and Bill Richmond for your kind words. A special thank you to my family and friends who are here tonight for your encouragement and support, I wouldn't be here without you.

I was originally elected on to Wimborne Minster Town Council in May 2015 having retired from Banking and Finance. It's fair to say it's a totally different world and I have learnt a lot about local Government over the past 7 years, some good and some questionable. I never imagined being elected into this position but with encouragement from a few of you..... and you know who you are! here we are

Whilst this evening is about the Mayor Making, I don't consider it to be all about one person. The Town Council is a team embracing the Town Clerk supported by our lovely Office staff, the groundsmen and last but not least our Councillors. We all have an important role to play and we need to remember that our Councillors are volunteers, willingly giving their own time for the good of the Town and our residents. I thank you all for your commitment.

Covid has a lot to answer for, every single one of us in the Town has been affected in so many ways, not least our residents. We have all been through very difficult, unprecedented and challenging times over the past two years. There has been a lot of trauma, stress and uncertainty but I think we have come through it in the main with positivity and determination. We have learnt a lot, how to work remotely and to continue our operation by making changes to our working practices. This coming year will also have its challenges no doubt, but I am hoping that we can build on our achievements and with your support I am sure we will.

With our long-standing Town Clerk Laurence Hewitt now retired, Holly Burton has stepped in as Acting Town Clerk and I would like to take this opportunity to wish her well and to thank her and her staff, Shelagh, Genny and Jam for their continued support during this challenging transition period. Already I have noticed the Office returning to some normality with the professionalism and smiley faces that existed pre Covid. My thanks also go to Glen and the Groundsmen for all their hard work around town and to Karen the Clerk at the Wimborne Cemetery.

Holly and her team have done well to get us where we are today but we must be mindful of the challenges that we still face. There is still a lot to do before we get back to full complement and I hope that we manage our expectations realistically.

We have so much enthusiasm, knowledge and a wide range of experience between us. I don't imagine that the journey will be a piece of cake and I'm sure we will make mistakes along the way but ever the optimist, to me that's one of the ways of learning and growing. There may be difficulties, differences of opinion and frustrations no doubt but hopefully compromises will be made along the way. We are a team and I very much look forward to working with you all.

Looking forward, the town is gradually returning to its previous vibrancy. Events are being planned for our residents and visitors to enjoy. We are fast approaching the Queen's Jubilee celebration in June and I thank Shelagh and the organising committee for all their hard work in arranging this.

Never underestimate the amount of work involved behind the scenes in pulling together events such as these. I have already been reminded that once the Jubilee is over, we need to start planning for other events throughout the year including Christmas and New Year celebrations. It never stops!

This year my charities will be:

1) Vision Wimborne Dial a Ride: I experienced first-hand the struggles of a neighbour who was a double amputee. This organisation changed her life enabling her to have trips out helping to reduce her isolation and providing her with transport to her vital hospital appointments and doctors visits.

2) My second charity is Walford Mill Education Trust: I have been their Town Council representative for several years and experienced first-hand their ups and downs. I have been impressed by their survival instincts and particularly the way they have emerged post Covid. They have transitioned into a successful organisation helping others to develop their skills.

And last but not least few of you will be surprised that my third charity is animal related

3) The UK Wild Otter Trust: Some of you may remember a couple of years ago that I contacted them for help to rescue our Wimborne Otter that had a tie round its neck. They came down week after week tirelessly setting up traps in the River Allen and getting soaked in the process. Over the many many hours I spent with them down by the river, I learnt a lot about their organisation and just how sneaky Otters can be. We never did catch him but neither did we find a body so I like to believe that the tie worked its way off and it was a happy ending

In closing thank you to Holly, Jam and Shelagh for organising this event tonight and to Laurence for his invaluable guidance.

AND thank **you** all for helping to make this a very special evening and the start of what I am sure will be a good year for all of us.

In keeping with tradition, it's now my pleasure to present the Wimborne Militia with it's new commission for the forthcoming year. I understand that Wimborne Minster is now the only town in the UK to have a Militia so we are extremely honoured. Could I ask Chris Brown, The Town Mayor's Sarjent to come forward please.

Subject: Agenda Item 4 - Appointment of Standing Committees,
Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen 2022/ 2023
Date: 10 May 2022
Author: Acting Town Clerk

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Shane Bartlett
Cllr Mike Hopkins
Cllr Bill Richmond (Vice-Chairman elect)
Cllr Ann Roberts
Cllr Francesca Shirley
Cllr Kelly Webb
Cllr Simon Wheeler (Chairman elect)

Vacancy

Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio
Vice-Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio

RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Cllr Shane Bartlett (Chairman elect)
Cllr Derek Burt
Cllr Carole Chedgy
Cllr Louise Hinks
Cllr Bill Richmond
Cllr Ann Roberts (Vice-Chairman Elect)

Vacancy

Vacancy

Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio
Vice-Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Cllr Derek Burt
Cllr Carole Chedgy (Chairman elect)
Cllr Mrs Louise Hinks
Cllr Mike Hopkins (Vice-Chairman elect)
Cllr Francesca Shirley
Cllr Kelly Webb
Cllr Simon Wheeler

Vacancy

Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio
Vice-Chairman of the Council - Ex-Officio

PERSONNEL, POLICY & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Chairman of the Council (Chairman)
Vice-Chairman of the Council
Chairman Planning & Environment Committee
Chairman Recreation & Leisure Committee
Chairman Resources Committee

Subject: Agenda Item 5 – Appointment to Specific Posts and Outside Organisations 2022/ 2023
Date: 10 May 2022
Author: Acting Town Clerk

Allendale Community Centre Management Committee	Cllr C Chedgy Cllr C Butter (Reserve)
Citizens Advice	Cllr D Burt
Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils	Cllr S K Bartlett Cllr D J March
Dreamboats	Cllr S K Bartlett
East Dorset Environment Partnership	Vacancy
Fairtrade Steering Group	Cllr F Shirley
Museum of East Dorset	Cllr D J March
Planet Wimborne	Cllr F Shirley
St Margaret's & Stone's Charity (until 2026)	Cllr A E Roberts
Vision Wimborne	Cllr S K Bartlett
Walford Mill Board of Directors	Cllr Ms C L Butter
Wimborne BID	Vacancy
Wimborne in Bloom	Cllr A Roberts
Wimborne Cemetery Joint Management Committee (until 2024)	Cllr K Webb Cllr L Hinks
Wimborne Minster Folk Festival	Cllr S Wheeler
Wimborne Militia Management Committee	Town Mayor Deputy Town Mayor
Wimborne/Ochsenfurt Twinning Association	Cllr M Hopkins
Wimborne/Valognes Twinning Association	Cllr L C Hinks
Wimborne War on Waste	Cllr F Shirley
1069 Squadron Air Training Corps Civilian Committee	Vacancy

Specific Posts

Civil Protection representative

Town Mayor

Community Resilience Officer

Town Mayor

Flood Wardens

Cllr W J Richmond
Cllr A E Roberts

Rights of Way representative

Cllr A E Roberts

Tree Warden

Cllr W J Richmond

Subject: Agenda Item 9 – Members’ Allowances 2022/ 2023
Date: 10 May 2022
Author: Acting Town Clerk

The Local Authorities (Members’ Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 came into force on 1st May 2003.

A parish or town council is able to pay a parish basic allowance for each year to its chairman only or to each of its elected members.

The allowance is not a salary. It is a figure, which is calculated to cover the expenses, which are normally associated with the basic duties of being a local councillor. Travelling and subsistence allowances are treated separately.

Under the 2003 Regulations, a Parish Remuneration Panel may be established by a responsible authority (which is defined as a district or unitary authority) to make recommendations as to:

- a) the amount of parish basic allowance payable to members of the parish or town council (the council must take this into account in setting the agreed level);
- b) the amount of travelling and subsistence allowance payable;
- c) whether the parish basic allowance should be payable only to the chairman of the council or to all of the members;
- d) if to be paid to all members whether the level to be paid to the chairman should be higher and if so, what that higher figure should be;
- e) the responsibilities or duties in respect of which members should receive the travelling and subsistence allowance.

The Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration Panel final report with recommendations was published in November 2021 for the 2022/ 2023 financial year. The Panel recommended that the maximum basic allowance payable per member of parish and town councils for 2022/ 2023 is £520.

However, town and parish councils are not under any obligation to consider the question of allowances for their elected members.

It has been customary at Wimborne Minster Town Council for Members to forego any paid allowances since the introduction of the Regulations in 2003 and in this regard, no provision has been made in the Town Council’s budget for the 2022/ 2023 financial year.

Should Members wish to change this policy, then a further report will need to be written and brought back to a future Council meeting with the implications of paying Members’ allowances and have regard to the recommendations from the Dorset Parish Independent Remuneration Panel report.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that Wimborne Minster Town Council continues to not pay Members' allowances for the 2022/ 2023 Municipal Year.

Evening everyone.

Well the end of another Mayoral year for me. I think I was the first Mayor to be elected over Zoom – perhaps that should be engraved on the board!

There have been no Mayor making evenings like this since 2019, so it is nice to be able to be in this lovely room – the refurbishment was completed just a few weeks before the first Lockdown in 2020. We're now just starting to be able to appreciate it!

During 2021, our Council and Committee meetings were still being conducted online as we had to consider the health and wellbeing of both our staff, Members and of course any public that may have wanted to observe meetings. They were conducted with the same professionalism as 'in person' meetings and were well attended. As they were on line, we also live streamed them to facebook which meant they were more accessible to many members of the public.

Well done to the staff that were able to jump quite quickly onto the 'tech' required. Whilst we are now back 'in person', we are prioritising ensuring we learn lessons from our time on-line and make the most of any efficiencies identified.

So all round a much quieter year with far less travelling to other parts of the County for civic events. It was nice though to start to return to normal before Christmas which thankfully has continued with events throughout town this year.

It was a shame that the year started with a vexatious complaint about the Town Council. I can confirm that Dorset Council have upheld our position as in confirming that the Town Council did nothing wrong. But it took quite a long time to get to that point and was a distraction for the staff and many Councillors. Some projects we would like to have worked on, have not had as much progress as they should have which is frustrating.

It is however all behind us now and we can move forward in a much more positive way for the next civic year.

Some of you may know that this week is Mental Health Awareness week. We have all been affected in different ways by the pandemic – with it's lockdowns and isolation - and it will take some time for the lasting effects on us all to be fully known and understand. What we must all do is be understanding and

patient with each other and above all treat each other with respect. This is particularly important for us Members whilst working in public office, respect for each other, our staff and of course our residents.

Some final thanks then - to thank Jam the Mayoral PA for being super organised this year, I could do with you at home!

And a final thanks and farewell goes to Laurence Hewitt, the Town Clerk for this Council for the past 27 years. Laurence is retiring, although there will be a gradual departure as he helps us wean ourselves off him with some casual support over the coming months.

And just to say good luck with those Members taking on new positions this year.

Cllr Kelly Webb