

**SHADOW WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL  
EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER  
2018**

**5. Functions and Assets**

The Head of Financial Service introduced Jane Biscombe, the Weymouth Town Clerk Designate.

Following the introduction of the report by the Head of Financial Services members considered the proposals for the transfer of functions and assets to the Weymouth Town Council from April 2019.

Cllr I Bruce expressed his concern regarding arrangements for income from car parks, he felt that the distribution of income from car parks required careful consideration as the town council would not be restricted on how income was spent from car parks. Cllr I Bruce also commented on the proposal for the crematorium moving across to the new Dorset Council whilst the functions around cemeteries would remain with the town council, highlighting that a new management structure would need to be created if the 3 functions were split them up. Cllr I Bruce asked that the Shadow Executive Committee should look very carefully at these issues.

In respect of paragraph 34 Cllr G Taylor expressed a preference for the transfer of assets to be freehold rather than leasehold and that this be recommended to the Management Committee. The Assistant Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service set out the principles behind freehold and leasehold issue and explained that members were being asked to consider whether the new town council should be in the same position of other town councils in Dorset by having freehold assets rather than leasehold with the unitary councils as the landlord.

Cllr J Farquharson expressed concerned about the transfer of the Weymouth Museum Collection, he felt that it might be better for the collection to go to the unitary and then be past back down to the town council at a later date.

Cllr J Orrell highlighted that the town council needed some revenue raising assets, in the same way that other town councils owned car parks, he also asked about the loss of the hotels, who would pay for repairs on the esplanade and who would be responsible for enforcement officers. In response the Leader explained that the meeting was just a consultative meeting and the time for Cllr J Orrell to raise these issues was at the Management Committee.

At that point the Chair put to the vote the issue of freehold or leasehold of assets

**Decision**

That the Management Committee be advised that the legal basis for the transfer of assets be freehold.

In response to a question regarding the formal decision process Cllr J Cant explained that the S151 officer would check compliance regarding the transfer of assets and that the transfer would be considered by the Shadow Executive. The Management Committee would negotiate to get the best possible outcome for the new town council but it was unlikely that there would be wholesale agreement on the transfer of all assets.

At that point the Chair dealt with the paragraphs 13 of the report in turn and members made the following comments for consideration by the Management Committee.

**Greenspace** – general agreement for the transfer of allotments, Tumbledown Farm and parks and gardens. Cllr T Roos raised an issue regarding Lodmoor Country Park and concerns over boundaries of the nature reserve that required some consultation prior to a decision being take. Cllr G Taylor suggested that the unitary council should look to sub contracting the crematorium function to the parks and gardens team to avoid splitting up the current team. Members agreed that the town council should run the crematorium on a lease agreement.

#### **Public Conveniences**

General agreement that the town council should run public conveniences, including maintenance. Cllr I Bruce suggested that town council be taking some income from the car parks to run the toilets.

#### **Beach and Esplanade**

No comments.

#### **Community Development**

Members were advised that there would be opportunities for the town council to carry out some community development activities at a local level.

#### **Property**

Cllr I Bruce asked whether the unitary council would be providing a public office in Weymouth and that there would be a need for an income stream to maintain the Commercial Road office. Cllr A Weaving suggested that the Commercial Road Council Chamber could be used as a marriage room. Cllr K Wheller asked if the Commercial Road building would be called the Town Hall. There was overall agreement with the proposal for the Crookhill building. There was general agreement on the proposals for clocks and monuments. In response to a question regarding the Pavilion building the Leader confirmed that the freehold of the building would pass to the unitary.

#### **Civic Activities**

There was general agreement that the town council should continue with a Mayor and twinning arrangements.

Members discussed whether the Weymouth Museum Collection should remain with the town council or be passed to the unitary council. Cllr Wheller agreed to discuss the matter with Cllr Farquharson after the meeting.

**Decision**

That the comments of the Shadow Weymouth Town Council be passed to the Management Committee.