

SHADOW WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 10 JANUARY 2019

Present: Cllrs C Huckle (Chair), R Hope (Vice-Chair), K Brookes, H Bruce, I Bruce, M Byatt, J Ellis, J Farquharson, T Ferrari, L Hamilton, C James, R Kosior, R Nickinson, P Nixon, J Orrell, A Reed, T Roos, G Taylor, M Tewkesbury and K Wheller

Apologies: Cllrs A Blackwood, J Cant, O Kanji, C Page-Nash and A Weaving

Also present:

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Jane Biscombe (Town Clerk (WTC)), David Brown (Head of Assets & Infrastructure), Stuart Caundle (Head of Paid Service), Jay Ridsdale (Estates Surveyor), Julie Strange (Head of Financial Services) and Elaine Tibble (Democratic Services Officer)

8. Code of Conduct

There were no declarations of interest.

9. Public Participation

The Chairman announced that although there was not an agenda item for public participation, he wanted to allow any members of the public who wanted to speak to be allowed to do so.

Mr Whatley felt that Weymouth had been let down by the Unitary and that there needed to be more pride and more income for Weymouth. He asked if the resident parking permit scheme could be looked at with the possibility of season tickets for the Swannery car park in order to reduce the number of cars on the streets.

The Committee Chairman who was Brief holder for Transport and Infrastructure was aware of the comments and had a meeting with representatives from DCC the following week, he would pass the comments on.

Mr Barrow addressed the matter of the Southill play park and the Wellbeing Centre. Why was the play area being transferred leasehold and why had the centre not been mentioned at all. Could the 125 year lease be confirmed.

The Head of Assets and Infrastructure did not see any reason why a 125 year lease could not be granted, but this would be subject to final agreement by both the new Weymouth Town Council and Dorset Council members. The site was being transferred leasehold to protect the area for future development.

Mr Farn felt that the councils needed to be transparent and that Weymouth had been disadvantaged by getting the costs, while the Unitary received all the money making assets.

10. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2018 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

11. **Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**

The Town Clerk presented the report detailing the proposed Standing Orders and Financial Regulations that the Town Council were required to adopt in order to ensure good governance and legal operation. Both of the key policies were based on the National Association of Local Council's (NALC) model Standing Orders and model Financial Regulations. The documents reflected best practice and legal compliance. The members were able to amend or change if they wished.

In response to the following queries:-

Item 1.13 Currently the Mayor or Chair of the meeting have the power to decide if the mover of the amendment has the right to reply.

Item 3.7 In the past the time limit for public speaking had always been 3 minutes.

Item 3.19 Was just one person required to ask for a recorded vote.

And would there be a maximum number of years that a chairman could chair a committee without having to stand down.

The Town Clerk responded that there were no legal requirements and the standing orders would be within the gift of the Town Council to amend should they wish to.

Members were pleased to see in 12.1 that the minutes of previous meetings would be presented with the next agenda papers.

In relation to rules within the Borough Council whereby there were restrictions on what committee combinations councillors could sit on the Town Clerk was asked to look into this.

It was re-iterated amongst members that it would be up to the new Town Council to decide it's own constitution and look at timings of meetings, rules around public questions and other procedural rules.

In response to a concern from the Chair of Planning Committee regarding 6.1.1. and the frequency of Planning meetings, the Town Clerk advised that it would be for members to take a view once they start sitting as to how often they felt meetings were needed. The Chair of Planning Committee felt that this needed to be more robust.

Proposed by Cllr Reed, seconded by Cllr Brookes.

Decision:

- a. That the Shadow Town Council recommends the draft Standing Orders for Weymouth Town Council to WPBC Full Council to approve.
- b. That the Shadow Town Council recommends the draft Financial Regulations for Weymouth Town Council to WPBC Full Council to approve.

12. Functions and Assets

The Assistant Chief Executive presented the report which contained the proposals relating to the necessary operational assets that needed to be transferred to the Town Council in order to ensure its sustainability. These proposals had been shared with all members through a number of briefings. He explained that by law the successor to WPBC was the unitary and all assets would be passed to the new Dorset Council on 1st April 2019. The assets listed in the report would be passed to the new Town Council to enable it to be a fully functioning organisation from day 1.

The members had many concerns regarding the crematorium and its operations team being split into two, with one team looking after the crematorium and the other looking after cemeteries.

The Head of Financial Services explained that income relating to the crematorium had VAT implications and there were rules relating to the amount that could be re-claimed. The Town Council could incur additional costs due to this and therefore it was financially beneficial for the Unitary Dorset Council to run the crematorium. It was therefore proposed that the crematorium transfer to the new Dorset Council and the cemeteries transfer to the Town Council.

The members felt that the service was very efficiently run at the moment and splitting the operations team could make the service less efficient.

The Head of Assets and Infrastructure suggested that the Head of Community Protection and the Head of Financial Services would be best placed to consider this and members asked for some more detailed information to be circulated before Full Council meeting next week, including detailed figures of what the VAT amounts were and all associated costs.

In response to a request for a definitive answer on a 125 lease for Southill play area and the Wellbeing Centre, the Head of Assets and Infrastructure advised that the list before council members was indicative at this stage and was still work in progress. The Estates Surveyor advised that the proposed lease was for the play area only as the adjoining buildings, including the Wellbeing Centre, were proposed to be retained by the Unitary Authority. He felt the area could be improved in the future and this was more likely to happen if it was all under the same ownership. The Head of Assets and

Infrastructure was asked to find out who owned the access road to the car park and back of shops.

It was noted that development in the area was likely in the future and it was essential to retain this play area and secure a 125 year lease. The Head of Assets and Infrastructure advised that at this stage assets that were transferred to the Town Council had either been accounted for in it's budget for or would be on a peppercorn rent. Leases signed by both the new organisations would decide the finer details but at this stage the report was just for advice and guidance.

Members queried whether the asset list created in 2016 would be tidied up and whether there would be the resources available to deal with this.

The Town Clerk assured the members that any assets currently maintained by the Council would continue to be maintained and she was confident that the Town Council had the budget and personnel to accommodate.

The Head of Assets and Infrastructure responded to a query regarding the bowling greens at Greenhill and Melcombe Regis. He felt that the Greenhill would pass to the Town Council as a package alongside the Greenhill chalets, the Melcombe Regis green would be best left with the Dorset Council to potentially be incorporated within the re-development of Commercial Road and logically would stay with the Unitary.

It was suggested that the Town Council negotiate payment from the Unitary Council for the use of staff space in the Commercial Road office.

It was felt by members that there should be contributions from car parking revenue towards the cost of running events etc.

Proposed by Cllr I Bruce, seconded by Cllr James

Decision: to request to the Shadow Executive Committee on Monday 14th January 2019.

“That the Shadow Town Council wishes consideration to be made in terms of car park income being directed towards items that have always been funded by visitors parking cars, ie beach cleaning, toilets and running events etc.”

The Head of Financial Services reminded members that should they wish to make any amendments to the budget setting at next week's meeting, they have to be received 55 hours prior to the meeting, (12.00 Tuesday 15th January) in writing. There will be a recorded vote on the night and anyone not up to date with their council tax would not be eligible to vote.

Proposed by Cllr Reed, seconded by Cllr Kosior.

Decision:

- 1 That the Shadow Town Council recommends to Full Council the proposals set out in paragraphs 12 to 30 regarding the services and associated assets that it is proposed are transferred to the new Weymouth Town Council.
- 2 That the Shadow Town Council recommends to Full Council that reserves relating to functions transferring to the Town Council are transferred to Weymouth Town Council.
3. That the Shadow Town Council recommends to Full Council the 2019/20 budget and precept of £3,340,661.

Subject to taking into account the requests made in the minutes for this item.

13. **Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

14. **Exempt business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 8.35 pm

Chairman

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