



**VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL**

**31<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Simon Gibson (Mayor)

Councillor Alan Biggs	Councillor Martyn Hudson
Councillor Toni Coombs	Councillor Rev'd Julian Macro
Councillor Charmaine Crossley	Councillor Jane Russell
Councillor Lindsey Dedden	Councillor Kate Stephens
Councillor Spencer Flower	Councillor Carol Traves
Councillor Sandra Grove	

In Attendance: Carrie Lloyd, Town Clerk

Public: 0

**222/22/23**      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors; Mark Thorpe, Andrew Maw, Pat Morrow, Philip Mann and Matthew Parker. For the purposes of the six-month rule, Members approved and accepted the reason for absence for Councillor Parker (ill health) and Cllr Mann (caring for a family member).

**223/22/23**      **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

It was confirmed that for the purposes of agreeing the Precept for 2023/24 that all Members had dispensation.

**224/22/23**      **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

**225/22/23**      **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

**226/22/23**      **ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Members noted the actions and updates from previous meetings.

**227/22/23**      **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**211/22/23**      **DRAFT BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENT 2023/24**

**RESOLVED** that the Budget for 2023/24 be approved and the Precept for 2023/24 be £383,600 representing 3.21% increase on a Band D Council Tax and the Fees and Charges be approved.

(Action: Town Clerk)

**212/22/23**      **REPAIR TO VERWOOD RECREATION GROUND ENTRANCE**

Members **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk's action of incurring £2,150 to repair the tarmac at the entrance to the Recreation Ground be approved.

**213/22/23 AUTOMATIC DOOR LOCKING – YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**RESOLVED** that the work by Croma Systems be approved at £2,517.58.

(Action: Town Clerk)

**228/22/23 POLICING UPDATE**

Members noted the report as circulated. Concern was expressed at the anti-social behaviour from some youths as Members entered the meeting and it was requested that the Police attend the next meeting to discuss the escalation of such behaviour in Verwood, particularly as it was a priority matter for the Police & Crime Commissioner.

(Action: Town Clerk)

**229/22/23 CHANGES TO THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED** that the changes at Appendix A be approved.

(Action: Town Clerk)

**230/22/23 HAMPSHIRE MINERALS PLAN RESPONSE**

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk's actions in supporting the East Dorset Environment Partnership' submission be approved.

Councillor Flower undertook to circulate Dorset Council's submission.

(Action: Councillor Flower)

**231/22/23 WARM SPACE REVIEW**

Members noted that take up of the Warm Space was not a great as expected, however, it was still being used on occasion. **RESOLVED** that the Warm Space continue to offered as a Community Resource.

(Action: Town Clerk)

**232/22/23 ALLOTMENTS**

Members considered the requests from the Allotment association but required further information to be able to take a decision. **RESOLVED** that the matter be referred to Amenities Committee to review and recommend to Council.

(Action: Town Clerk)

**233/22/23 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

Cllr Dedden advised that DAPTC were trying to recruit more Councillors to Area Committees. East Dorset was well represented but other Areas required encouragement. Councillors Dedden and Grove undertook to attend the DAPTC Councillors Conference.

(Action: Town Clerk)

**234/22/23 REPORT FROM THE YOUTH WORKER**

None available due to leave.

**235/22/23 REPORT FROM THE INTERNET COUNCILLOR**

None

**236/22/23      REPORT FROM THE PRESS & P.R. COUNCILLOR**

None

**237/22/23      REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Flower advised that Dorset Council would be setting its Precept on 14<sup>th</sup> February. It was expected that the Precept would be set below the Government Referendum Limit without cuts in services.

**238/22/23      APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS**

Members approved the payments made in November and December 2022.

**239/22/23      FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Confirmation of Internal Auditor – Mar 2023
- Presentation to Honorary Freemen – TBA
- Committee Structure for 2023/24 and Scheme of Delegation – Mar 2023
- Extension to Cemetery – referred to Amenities Committee
- Update on Ferrett Green Toilet Opening & Closing – to Finance and General Purposes Committee
- Coronation- all Members were requested to keep an eye on the Programme coming out of the Coronation Working Group. All Members' help on the day would be appreciated.

**240/22/23      FUTURE MEETINGS**

Members **RESOLVED** that the meeting scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> February be cancelled. The next meeting was scheduled for 22 March at Three Legged Cross Village Hall.

**241/22/23      EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature or debate of the business to be transacted;

- (i) Nominations as per Council Policy

**242/22/23      NOMINATIONS AS HONORARY FREEMAN**

**RESOLVED** that Hilary Chittenden and Adrian Wareham be conferred the title of Honorary Freeman at a Ceremony to be arranged later in 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

.....Mayor

		VENUE
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
7	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
15	PLANS CONSULTATIVE	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
<b>MARCH</b>		
8	PLANS CONSULTATIVE	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
14	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES & AMENITIES	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
22	COUNCIL	THREE CROSS VILLAGE HALL
29	PLANS CONSULTATIVE	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
<b>APRIL</b>		
17	INFORMAL	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
18	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES*	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
19	PLANS CONSULTATIVE*	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
25	COUNCIL	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
<b>MAY</b>		
7	ANNUAL ASSEMBLY	Coronation Celebration
10	PLANS CONSULTATIVE	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
22	COUNCIL (MAYOR MAKING)	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES
23	COUNCIL	TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Meetings after May 2023 will be decided once the Committee Structure has been decided by Council.