



VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

25th July 2023

Council Offices, 28 Vicarage Rd, Verwood BH31 6DR

PRESENT: Councillor Toni Coombs (Mayor)
Councillor Matthew Parker (Deputy Mayor)

Councillor Alan Biggs	Councillor Andy Maw
Councillor Charmaine Crossley	Councillor Rev'd Julian Macro
Councillor Lindsey Dedden	Councillor Philip Mann
Councillor Spencer Flower	Councillor Pat Morrow
Councillor Simon Gibson	Councillor Tony Smith
Councillor Martyn Hudson	Councillor Carol Traves
Councillor Elizabeth Ingram	

In Attendance: Carrie Lloyd, Town Clerk, Jan Sebire, Assistant Town Clerk
Public: 3

082/23/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors: Jane Russell and Kate Stephens.
Apologies for absence were received and accepted for Councillor Sandra Grove.

083/23/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

084/23/24 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A resident asked about the demise of the LAG and its replacement. They were advised to contact any one of their Town Councillors in the first instance for help. The member of the public further asked about an overgrown hedge which had been reported in June. Officers undertook to look into the issue and update the resident.

085/23/24 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 28th June 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record.

086/23/24 UPDATES ON ACTIONS ARISING

Members noted the updates.

087/23/24 POLICING UPDATES

Members noted the updates from the Police. Councillor Crossley and Councillor Mann as Police Liaison Councillors undertook to discuss the reporting time frames with the Police to achieve consistency for comparison purposes. They further undertook to discuss parking issues and details on number of ticket issued on a monthly basis.

(Action: Police Liaison Councillors)

088/23/24 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Community & Planning Consultative Committee 5th July 2023 – Committee RECOMMENDED that Council set up a Working Group to look into the feasibility of a Youth Council for Verwood. **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Maw, Gibson and Smith constitute the Working Group and report back in due course.

Finance & Policy Committee 11th July 2023 – Committee RECOMMENDED that the draft Standing Orders be approved. **RESOLVED** that the Standing Orders as circulated to Council (including Terms of Reference for Risk Sub Committee and Budget, Accounts and Audit Sub Committee be approved.

089/23/24 PHARMACIES IN VERWOOD

The owner of Verwood Pharmacy, gave Members a brief background history and details of the problems they have encountered with obtaining a licence to issue prescriptions.

Members were concerned at the negative impact on local residents, usually the most vulnerable or elderly, by a flawed decision taken by NHS England.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Cllr Flower continue his pressure on the NHS Pharmaceutical Committee, Health and Wellbeing Board of Dorset, ICB and PCSE for a successful outcome;
- (ii) The Clerk also contact the NHS Pharmaceutical Committee, Health and Wellbeing Board of Dorset, ICB and PCSE expressing this Council's concerns and should a further application or an appeal be necessary, to issue this Council's support for a Pharmacy at Bank Court; and
- (iii) Councillor Gibson liaise with the local MP and the owner of Verwood Pharmacy to hopefully press for a positive outcome.

(Action; Councillors Flower and Gibson, Town Clerk)

090/23/24 REPORT FROM THE MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor advised that her Civic Duties had included Rotary President's Night and congratulations were given to Cllr Andy Maw as the new President, Yeovil Civic Service, Twinning meeting, Fayrewood Singer's Music Festival, the Friendship Club, Wimborne Civic Day, Shaftsbury Civic Day and the Council's own Freeman Event.

The Deputy Mayor advised that he had also attended the Freeman event and would be attending Weymouth's Civic Service in August.

091/23/24 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Churches Together - Cllr Rev'd Macro	No meetings had been held recently
Bournemouth International Airport Consultative Committee – Cllr Biggs	Next meeting was 27 th July

D.A.P.T.C. Eastern Area & D.A.P.T.C Larger Councils – Cllr Dedden	No meetings had been held recently but minutes from June 2023 would be circulated
Environment Councillor – Councillor Mann	There had been an additional 3 documents uploaded on Purple Haze which would be looked at shortly
Flood Warden – Cllr Maw	No floods recently
Highways Liaison Councillor – Cllr Biggs	Raised the issue of unofficial parking on the road and suggested that he may produce an article for the Vista.
Potterne Park User Group – Cllr Coombs	No meetings had been held recently
Verwood Heathland Heritage Trust – Cllr Dedden	Cllr Dedden had attended the “Have Your Say” event. Many suggestions had come forward to help the Heritage Centre increase its income. Loss of key personnel was also an issue.
Verwood Business Councillor (BID) – Cllr Maw	Cllr Maw saw a need to promote his role particularly in Ebblake Industrial Estate
Verwood Memorial Hall Trust Committee – Cllr Crossley	No meetings had been held recently
Verwood in Bloom – Cllr Morrow	Cllr Morrow was considering joining the Horticultural Society again to help push this along
Town Twinning – Cllr Morrow	Due to technical problems, Cllr Morrow had not received any details of their meetings

092/23/24 REPORT FROM THE YOUTH WORKER

None available for this meeting

093/23/24 REPORT FROM THE INTERNET COUNCILLOR

None

094/23/24 REPORT FROM THE PRESS & P.R. COUNCILLOR

Cllr Gibson advised that he had been approached by Verwood Today regarding a Verwood podcast. He would keep Members updated.

095/23/24 REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLORS

Cllr Flower reminded Councillors that Dorset Council produced regular updates which were circulated by email. He highlighted the following points;

- Local Government Review Benefits - £96m had been saved due to creating the Unitary Authority, this had all be put back into Services;
- Lobbying – Through Lobbying Government, Dorset Council had received £121m towards specific projects. The Secretary of State, Right Hon. M

Gove MP had met several times with the Leader as Dorset's case for more funding was lobbied;

- Devolution Deals – This meant that services were provided at the best level for users and service providers;
- Apprenticeships – These had increased by 52% in Dorset Council;
- Children in Care Services – had received an “Extremely Good” rating by OFSTED;
- Care Dorset – By 2026/27 it was anticipated that an 80 place Rehabilitation Centre would be completed adjacent to Dorset County Hospital;
- National Service Awards – had been given to several Officers of the Council;
- Housing Strategy – Public Consultation would be starting shortly with discussion on the Strategy taking place in September.

096/23/24 APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Members approved the payments made in June 2023 and the Quarter 1 against Budget out turn Report.

097/23/24 MAKING HEADSTONES SAFE

Members noted the Report of Officers. Concern was expressed at the cost involved with no discernible movement on many of the headstones. Matters of affecting relatives, desecration of graves, publicity of works to be carried out, liability and insurance were also raised.

Members **RESOLVED** that;

- (i) The cost of a second survey be brought back to the next meeting of the Council; and
- (ii) Interested Members meet informally prior to the next meeting to discuss concerns raised.

(Action: Town Clerk)

098/23/24 MOVING FUNDS

Members agreed to transfer £100,000 from Unity Trust Savings Account to the Council's CCLA Public Sector Deposit Account.

(Action: Town Clerk)

099/23/24 CORONATION WORKING GROUP UPDATE

A de-brief had been held on 17th July and the notes circulated. Members expressed their thanks to the Mayor and Town Clerk for a very successful event. Concern was expressed that performers on Ferrett Green had not been well sited nor had sufficient amplification. Members were advised that better running of Ferrett Green on all counts had been noted as a de-brief item. Cllr Maw offered Rotary's support for marshalling and Stage Management at future events, if needed.

The Working Group had considered a legacy for the event and were looking into the provision of some artwork near to the entrance of Potters Wheel Car Park. Members were advised that Cllr Stephens had offered to look into funding sources for this. A report would be brought back to Council in due course for decision. It

was noted that the Town would celebrate its 40th Anniversary in 2028. The Mayor also advised Members of the Shaftesbury Fringe Festival [Home - Shaftesbury Fringe](#) which would be an interesting project to emulate in future years.

(Action: Coronation Working Group)

100/23/24 INVITATION TO PRESENTATION AT TIDWORTH CIVIC CENTRE

Members noted that all Councillors had been approached and **RESOLVED** that the invitation would be declined.

101/23/24 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Concern was expressed at the increase in strangles at Three Legged Cross and the proposed Horse Fair at the end of August. This also coincided with the Rustic Fayre. Members were advised that the Safety Advisory Group had been advised;
- A Community Litterpick would be taking place 29th July meeting at 10am at Potterne Skate Park;
- It was noted that the area along the Ebblake Footpath was full of litter and was overgrown;
- A report on the Policy on Benches be brought to the next Community and Planning Consultative Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.

Next meeting is 26th September 2023 at 7.30pm at the Town Council Offices.

.....Mayor

