

**Minutes of the Meeting of Warminster Town Council
on Monday 16th January 2023 at 7pm
held at the Civic Centre,
Sambourne Road, Warminster, BA12 8LB**

Membership:

Cllr Allensby (West)	*	Cllr Keeble (West) Vice Chairman of the Council and Deputy Mayor	*
Cllr Brett (East)	*	Cllr Macdonald (East)	A
Cllr Cooper (Broadway)	*	Cllr Macfarlane (West)	*
Cllr Davis (East)	*	Cllr Parks (North)	*
Cllr Fraser (West)	*	Cllr Robbins (East) Chairman of the Council and Mayor	*
Cllr Fryer (Broadway)	*	Cllr Syme (Broadway)	A
Cllr Jeffries (North)	*		

Key: * Present **A** Apologies **AB** Absent

In attendance:

Officers: Tom Dommett, (Town Clerk and RFO), Judith Halls (Deputy Town Clerk),
Stuart Legg (Parks and Estate Manager)

Unitary Councillor: 0

Police: 2

Press: 0

Members of the public: 2

FC/22/092 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Macdonald and Syme.

FC/22/093 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest under Warminster Town Council's Code of Conduct, issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

FC/22/094 Minutes

FC/22/094.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th November 2022, were approved as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.

FC/22/094.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th November 2022.

FC/22/095 Chairman's Announcements

FC/22/095.1 Cllr Robbins thanked the staff for their hard work with the successful Christmas events.

FC/22/095.2 Members noted the Mayoral engagements.

FC/22/096 Correspondence Circulated

The correspondence list was noted.

FC/22/097 Questions

There were no questions raised by members prior to the meeting.

FC/22/098 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

FC/22/099 Reports from Unitary Authority Members and the Police

Cllr Parks advised the members that Wiltshire Council had published their draft budget which was to be discussed by the relevant committees.

Inspector Kevin Harmsworth and Acting Sergeant Vicky Howick both gave a verbal report and answered questions about Policing in the Warminster area.

Members noted the police report.

FC/22/100 Proceedings of Committee

Minutes from the following meetings were approved and adopted:

FC/22/100.1 Finance and Audit Committee meeting held on 7th November 2022.

FC/22/100.2 Parks and Estate Committee meeting held on 24th October 2022.

FC/22/100.3 Town Development Committee meeting held on 12th September 2022.

FC/22/100.4 Planning Advisory Committee meeting held on 21st November 2022

FC/22/101 Dark Skies.

Steve Tonkin FRAS, Dark Skies Adviser, Cranborne Chase AONB gave a presentation on retaining the status of International Dark Sky Reserve (IDSR) and what further action the Town Council can take to support the designation.

Members Noted and thanked Steve Tonkin for his presentation. They noted that the teams working on the new Neighbourhood Plan were already drafting policies that development should be designed to conserve and enhance the intrinsic quality of dark night skies.

FC/22/102 Precept and Budget 2023 – 2024

Members resolved for a 2023 - 2024 precept of £1,338,548. This represents an increase to the precept of £19,256 (an increase of 1.46%) in order to maintain a balanced budget. The tax base has increased by 1.1 % so this represents an increase (per Band D Equivalent charge) of 0.0% (equal £0 per annum or 0 pence per week).

FC/22/103 Splash Pad – recommendation from Parks and Estate Committee

FC/22/103.1 The Splashpad Working Group recommended the addition of six play panels to be installed along the fence by the splashpad which would add significant play value and improve its visual appearance.

Members resolved that six play panels should be installed along the fence by the splashpad at a cost of approximately £6,000 plus VAT and funding should come from General Reserves.

FC/22/103.2 The Splashpad Working Group recommended the additional installation of a capping stone to be put on the retaining wall to discourage people from sitting on it and to help preserve the wall. Members had concerns that the capping stone could be removed and vandalised. It could also be regarded as a trip hazard. They requested something fixed to the wall in stainless steel or similar.

Members resolved for the small blue retaining wall by the splashpad to have the existing render removed, new render applied and painted and for a fixed capping to the wall with a budget of up to £4,000 with funding from General Reserves.

FC/22/104 Switching Warminster Town Council's (WTC) bankers from HSBC to Lloyds

Members resolved not to proceed with switching from HSBC to Lloyds and to review the decision in the future when the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) has completed working with the banking sector to improve the provision of bank accounts for councils.

FC/22/105 Communications

Members agreed to a press release about Warminster's precept and budget for 2023 – 2024. Councillor Robbins and Cooper were appointed as spokespersons if required.

Meeting closed 8:00pm

Minutes from this meeting will be available to all members of the public either from our website www.warminster.uk.com or by contacting us at Warminster Civic Centre.

Next Full Council meeting to be held on Monday 27th March 2023