

**Minutes of the Meeting of Warminster Town Council
on
Monday 25th September 2023 at 7pm
held at the Civic Centre,
Sambourne Road, Warminster, BA12 8LB.**

Membership:

Cllr Allensby (West) Vice Chairman of the Council and Deputy Mayor	*	Cllr Keeble (West) Chairman of the Council and Mayor	*
Cllr Brett (East)	*	Cllr Jones (East)	*
Cllr Cooper (Broadway)	*	Cllr Macfarlane (West)	*
Cllr Davis (East)	*	Cllr Parks (North)	*
Cllr Fraser (West)	*	Cllr Robbins (East)	*
Cllr Fryer (Broadway)	A	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), Patsy Clover (Committee Clerk)

Police: One

Press: Two

Members of the public: 16

FC/23/063 Apologies for Absence

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr Fryer and Cllr Syme.

FC/23/064 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Brett declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11, as a patron of Sustainable Warminster.

Cllr Jones declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11, as an attendee at meetings of Sustainable Warminster.

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

FC/23/065 Minutes

FC/23/065.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th July 2023, were approved as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.

FC/23/065.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th July 2023.

FC/23/066 Chairman's Announcements

FC/23/066.1 The Town Mayor, Cllr Keeble, advised members about the very successful twinning visit by a delegation from Warminster, Pennsylvania, noting that both towns were keen to strengthen links between them.

FC/23/066.2 The Mayor's engagements were noted.

FC/23/067 Correspondence Circulated

The correspondence list was noted.

FC/23/068 Questions

There were no questions submitted in advance by members of the council.

Standing Orders were suspended for public participation at 7.04pm.

FC/23/069 Public Participation

Cllr Tony Jackson, Unitary Councillor, Mr Michael Turner, and Mr Chris Roberts spoke to agenda item 12, requesting that Warminster Town Council lobby Wiltshire Council to reopen the second squash court at the Leisure Centre, emphasising the health benefits of playing squash and the need for two courts for team events.

Cllr Tony Jackson, Unitary Councillor, Mr Iain Perkins, and Mrs Harriet James spoke to agenda item 11, requesting that Smallbrook Road be closed both day and night from just beyond the nature reserve car park to Turnpike Cottage each year from 14 February for one month to protect the toads as they migrated to their natal pond to breed.

Mr Steve Bond spoke to agenda item 14 explaining that, in his opinion, the land at Folly Lane should not be designated as a Local Green Space in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.25pm.

FC/23/070 Reports from Unitary Authority Members and the Police

Cllr Davis informed members that Wiltshire Council's Local Plan was now out for consultation.

Acting Sergeant Tom Newman detailed:

- The actions taken to tackle anti-social behaviour in the Park.
- E scooters remain an issue; legally, they are not allowed in the public domain, only on private land.
- Multiple arrests have been made for shoplifting, but not all of these have led to convictions.

- FC/23/071** **External Audit**
Members noted the External Auditor's Report and approved the Notice of Conclusion of Audit Dates for publication.
- FC/23/072** **Proceedings of Committee**
Minutes from the following meetings were adopted:
FC/23/072.1 Town Development Committee meeting held on 9th June 2023.
FC/23/072.2 Finance and Audit Committee meeting held on 26th June 2023.
FC/23/072.3 Planning Advisory Committee meetings held on 17th July and 21st August 2023.
- FC/23/073** **Possibility of overnight road closure of Smallbrook Road during the toad migration season**
Members resolved to ask officers to undertake further works, including carrying out an informal consultation with residents and local businesses, in order to understand local opinion, estimated costs and strategies, and to work with Wiltshire Council to pursue a possible temporary road closure from 14th February to 13th March 2025 and annually thereafter.
- FC/23/074** **Squash Courts at the Sports Centre**
Members resolved to approach Wiltshire Council requesting the reopening of a second squash court at the leisure centre.
- FC/23/075** **Councillor Laptops**
Members resolved that the provision of Council laptops would be phased out by the end of December 2023. Councillors would access and store their council emails and documents by logging into a cloud-based system on their own personal devices. The council would retain one laptop for use by Councillors in the Civic Centre.
- FC/23/076** **Warminster Neighbourhood Plan Update**
Members noted the update about progress to date on the new Neighbourhood Plan.
- FC/23/077** **Wiltshire Local Plan Consultation**
Members resolved to approve the response to the consultation.
- FC/23/078** **Warminster Rugby Club Floodlights**
Members noted the update.
- FC/23/079** **Warminster Town Council Civic Awards 2023**
Members noted the addition of an Environmental Award for businesses to recognise their contribution towards tackling climate change and working towards net zero, and that nominations for the 2023 Civic Awards were now open.
- FC/23/080** **Warminster Community Centre**
Members resolved to purchase a defibrillator for installation by Warminster Community Centre at their premises in Warminster Town Park.
Ongoing maintenance costs would be met by the Community Centre.

FC/23/081 Communications
No press releases were required.

Meeting closed 8:26pm.

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 27th November 2023