

MINUTES
of the Town Development Committee
held on Monday 26th February 2024 at 7pm
at
Warminster Civic Centre, Sambourne Road,
Warminster, BA12 8LB

Membership:

Cllr Allensby (West)	*	Cllr Macfarlane (West)	*
Cllr Davis (East)	*	Cllr Robbins (East) Chairman	*
Cllr Fraser (West)	*	Matt Towl (Adviser)	*
Cllr Jones (East)	*	Len Turner (Adviser)	*
Cllr Keeble (West)	*		

Key: * Present A Apologies AB Absent

In attendance: Cllrs Jackson and Parks – Wiltshire Council

Officers: Tom Dommett, Town Clerk and RFO, Judith Halls, Deputy Town Clerk, Patsy Clover, Committee Clerk, Will Bradley, Communications Officer

Members of the public: Two

Members of the Press: Three

TD/23/055 Apologies for absence
There were no apologies for absence.

TD/23/056 Declarations of Interest
Cllrs Jones and Robbins declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12, as members of the Warminster Business Network. They would stay in the meeting and vote.

TD/23/057 Minutes
TD/23/057.1 The minutes of the Town Development Committee meeting held on Monday 4th December 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

Signed.....Date.....

TD/23/057.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Town Development Committee meeting held on Monday 4th December 2023.

TD/23/058 **Chairman's Announcements**

Cllr Robbins has attended a meeting of residents in Carsons Yard about issues with parking, vermin, and the state of buildings in the area.

Cllr Robbins and two fellow councillors are carrying out a work through of the town centre identifying projects on a spreadsheet.

TD/23/059 **Questions**

There were no prior questions submitted from members.

Standing Orders were suspended at 7.06pm

TD/23/060 **Public Participation**

Cllr Parks advised the council that Wessex Water would need to undertake works in Weymouth Street in the next few months to enable to reline a mains sewer. This would necessitate a three-day road closure. The town council will be consulted nearer the time as to whether they would prefer a nighttime or a daytime closure. Information would be passed to the Clerk.

Standing Orders were reinstated at 7.09pm

TD/23/061 **Reports from Unitary Authority Members**

Cllr Jackson advised members that he had attended a police liaison meeting where he had suggested that action should be taken to prevent problems which could occur when 40 flats in Alcock Crescent are vacated later this year.

Cllr Jackson mentioned his concerns about the maintenance of the leisure centre in Warminster by Wiltshire Council. He considers the leisure centre to be an important asset and focal point both for the town and the many neighbouring villages. He has long pushed for the second squash to be reopened. He mentioned that the Wiltshire Council budget included £3m for leisure centres throughout Wiltshire and he would like to see some of this spent in Warminster.

Cllr Robbins asked the Town Clerk to write to the leisure centre asking about their short-term plans.

TD/23/062 **Tynings Allotments**

Members received and noted the minutes from the meetings held on 11th October 2023, 15th November 2023, and 13th December 2023.

TD/23/063 **Adviser Vacancy**

Members resolved to ask the Warminster Business Network to nominate a representative to be appointed as a non-voting member of the Committee.

TD/23/064 Warminster Business Network Report

Members received and noted the report from the Warminster Business Network (WBN).

Mr Towl referred members to the report. He reiterated the idea by the WBN to trial the pedestrianisation of the High Street and Market Place for a day/ weekend emphasising the creation of a street scene at the same time.

There has been an increase in people viewing empty shop premises in Warminster helped by Wiltshire Council's current Vibrant Wiltshire grants' programme.

Cllr Robbins mentioned that membership of the WBN was growing and welcomed further events being held.

Cllr Keeble suggested that a councillor become a representative on the WBN committee, being appointed at the annual meeting in May as part of outside bodies. Mr Towl indicated the WBN would consider the suggestion.

TD/23/065 Rights of Way Volunteers' Report

Members noted the update provided by Mr Linge on the work carried out by volunteers on the maintenance and clearance of Rights of Way in the Warminster area, the installation of signage and how the grant of £3,000 awarded by the council had been spent.

Mr Linge explained the responsibilities of landowners and the need for education and advice. Experience had shown that residents/landowners could be encouraged to maintain their hedges by sending an advisory letter in the first instance. These were 90% successful in securing action. If no action was taken a more formal approach could be adopted by Wiltshire Council as the body with enforcement powers. Currently advisory letters were sent either by the town or Wiltshire Council. Mr Linge was working on a template for a joint letter which would come from both the town and Wiltshire Council under the banner of the Warminster Rights of Way Maintenance Group.

It was noted that should the proposed joint letter approach progress it would be taken to Full Council for ratification.

TD/23/066 Replacement of the Warminster Parking Partnership

Members debated the proposal to create a promotional scheme involving a prize draw to replace the Warminster Parking Partnership (WPP) which ends at the end of March 2024.

The Town Clerk advised members that an advantage of the proposed scheme would be that it would be open to everyone, not just motorists parking in Town. He explained that the grant would be for one year, with regular reports back to the Committee and with the option to monitor the scheme and adapt it if necessary.

The motion to replace the WPP scheme with a promotional scheme for town centre shops and businesses and to award a £4,000 grant to the Warminster Business Network (WBN) was defeated with 2 votes in favour and 5 against.

The Committee would continue to investigate a replacement for the Warminster Parking Partnership.

TD/23/067 Wiltshire Council Car Parks in Warminster

Members resolved to create a working group to bring forward proposals to change parking changes in Warminster to encourage a longer dwell time without a loss of revenue to Wiltshire Council.

Members nominated the following individuals to the working group:

Cllr Allensby

Cllr Keeble

Cllr Robbins

Matt Towl

Jon Ellis

TD/23/068 St George's Day Parade 2024

Members noted that Warminster District Scouts will not be holding a parade and events to celebrate St George's Day but that The Cross of St George will be flown throughout the town centre.

TD/23/069 100 years of the Lake Pleasure Grounds Celebration

Members were reluctant to issue tickets or charge for the centenary event which is seen as a one-off celebratory occasion. They were also concerned about any restrictions on access to the Park.

The Town Clerk explained that the issue was about Health and Safety and controlling numbers to avoid overcrowding, particularly as the event was being held over a shorter period, and not about closing the Park or charging to raise money. He strongly advised ticketing was necessary even if the tickets were no charge.

Members resolved to employ a street artist at a cost of £1,500. Funding to come from 210/ 4085 Town Park Events.

Members resolved that the Centenary event would be a free unticketed event with management of the site for crowd control.

TD/23/070 CCTV Sub-Committee

Members noted the minutes of the CCTV Sub-Committee meeting held on 13th June 2023.

TD/23/071 Operational Flood Working Group South

Mr Turner referred to the creation of a new subterranean storage facility by Wessex Water on Weymouth Street. This would reduce the amount of overflow released when there was heavy rainfall.

Members received the notes of the Operational Flood Working Group South meeting held on 6th December 2023.

TD/23/072 Communications

Members agreed to press release relating to the celebrations planned to mark the Centenary of the Lake Pleasure Grounds and the replacement of the Warminster Parking Partnership.

Meeting closed at 8.39pm

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.

Date of next meeting: Monday 29th April 2024.

Signed.....Date.....