

**Minutes of the Meeting of Warminster Town Council
on
Monday 13th January 2025 at 7pm
held at the Civic Centre,
Sambourne Road, Warminster, BA12 8LB**

Membership:

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

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), Patsy Clover (Committee Clerk).

Attendees:

Members of the press: Nil

Members of the public: One

Police: One

FC/24/109 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Fraser and Macfarlane.

FC/24/110 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Jeffries, Jones and Keeble declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 re The Athenaeum; Cllrs Jones and Keeble as trustees of The Warminster Athenaeum Trust and Cllr Jeffries as the town council representative.

- FC/24/112** **Minutes**
FC/24/112.1 The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024, were approved as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.
FC/24/112.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 25th November 2024.
- FC/24/113** **Chairman’s Announcements**
FC/24/113.1. There were no Chairman’s announcements.
FC/24/113.2 The Mayor’s engagements were noted.
- FC/24/114** **Correspondence Circulated**
The list of correspondence circulated was noted.
- FC/24/115** **Questions**
There were no questions submitted in advance to the Clerk by Members of the council.
- FC/24/116** **Public Participation**
There was no public participation.
- FC/24/117** **Report from the Police**
Police Sergeant Lyndsey Smith advised that she was in Day 6 of her new role. She reported on the following current priorities:
1. Retail crime – the success of the CCTV partnership’s work with the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) was praised; recent examples have seen the apprehension of individuals following two incidents of high value thefts from B&M and Waitrose resulting in convictions. The NPT have several operations focussing on shoplifting soon.
 2. Youth work and ASB – there have been growing successes from youth outreach work funded by the town council; the building of relationships through the creation of a safe space has resulted in action on safeguarding issues. Drop-in sessions are being arranged at the library to deter ASB in the locality. Targeted funding has been received to increase engagement with young people in dedicated areas.
- FC/24/118** **Reports from Unitary Authority Members**
Cllr Davis explained that Wiltshire Council had voted to join Dorset and Somerset councils to consider the creation of a new Heart of Wessex combined authority which would be overseen by a Mayor. This would not be a merger of the three councils.
Cllr Parks commented that any decision would require public consultation.
- FC/24/119** **Proceedings of Committee**
Minutes from the following meetings were adopted:
FC/24/119.1 Finance and Audit Committee meeting held on 11th November 2024.
FC/24/119.2 Highways Advisory Committee meeting held on 1st October 2024.
FC/24/119.3 Planning Advisory Committee meetings held on 18th November 2024 and 16th December 2024.
FC/24/119.4 Town Development Committee meeting held on 9th September 2024.

- FC/24/120** **Budget 2025-2026**
Members resolved to approve a precept of £1,422,450 for 2025 – 2026. This represents an increase to the precept of £39,620 (an increase of 2.8%) to maintain a balanced budget. The tax base has increased by 1.85% so this represents an increase (per Band D Equivalent charge) of 1.0% (equal to £2.17 per annum or 4 pence per week) bringing the charge for a Band D property to £218.67 per annum.
- FC/24/121** **Requests for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Money**
In line with the recommendations of the CIL Working Group, Members resolved:
i) to give The Athenaeum £35,000 of CIL Money; £30,000 to upgrade and modernise three elements of the stage technology, match funded by a grant of £30,000 from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and £5,000 for emergency roof repairs.
ii) to ask The Athenaeum to report back to the town council about the completion of the project.
iii) to give Warminster Rugby Club £22,500 of CIL Money for the purchase of new tower lights and a second-hand generator.
iv) to ask Warminster Rugby Club to report back to the town council about the completion of the project.
Cllr Keeble abstained from the vote on the Athenaeum.
- FC/24/122** **Wiltshire Towns’ Programme – Grant Agreement**
Members approved the sealing of the Wiltshire Towns’ Programme Grant Agreement for 2024- 2025 (Y3) and 2025-2026 (Y4), by the Mayor, Cllr Stacie Allensby. The agreement will see Wiltshire Council give the town council £50,000 to be spent in line with the Grant Agreement.
- FC/24/123** **Changes to the Committee Calendar**
Members approved the following changes to the calendar of meetings:
Finance and Audit Committee scheduled for 1st April 2025 to be held on 17th March 2025 at 6pm.
The Annual Town Meeting scheduled for 7th April 2025 to be held on 31st March 2025 at 7pm.
- FC/24/124** **Communications**
Members agreed press releases to be issued with the following spokespeople:

Budget 2025 - 2026 – Cllr Cooper.
Requests for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Money – Cllr Jeffries.
Future of the Road Sweeper – to be issued nearer the delivery date with a competition to name the new sweeper.

Confidential session pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; the Council, by resolution, may exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings.

FC/24/125 Future of the Road Sweeper

Members resolved to continue with the inhouse sweeper service and approved the acquisition of a 7.5 tonne Scarab Merlin Sweeper through a five-year lease agreement.

Meeting closed at 7.36pm.

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 24th March 2025.

DRAFT