

**MINUTES of the MEETING of
WARMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

held on MONDAY 16th January 2012 at 7.00pm

The Mayor, Councillor Pip Ridout, in the Chair

Present: Councillors P Batchelor, V Burden, A Davis, A Field, S Fraser, K Fryer, R Fryer, K Humphries, C March, A Nicklin and P Ridout

388. Apologies: None

389. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st November 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

390. Mayor's Announcements

Councillor Ridout advised the Members that due to the unfortunate death of Martin Baker a by-election may be called to find a replacement. The relevant notice had just been issued.

It was requested that Items 24, 25 and 26 be brought forward on the agenda and then the public would be requested to leave in order that Item 22 can be discussed in private. Councillor Ridout welcomed Councillor Kate Fryer to her first Full Council meeting.

A one minutes silence was held in remembrance of Martin Baker and it was recorded that his contribution to the Council had been significant.

391. Questions – None

392 Mayor's Engagements

NOTED after the addition of 26 December 2011, Carol Service at St Lawrence Chapel.

393. Public Participation –

Lt Col (Retd) Bill Common, Warminster Garrison, Imber Road, – The Armed Forces Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces community. It is intended to complement the national Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces at a local level. I am requesting that the Mayor sign the Covenant on behalf of the Town Council. There are three areas which we would like to improve and these are:

- 1) the area around the military housing estate close to the camps,
- 2) the facilities for riding for the disabled at the Saddle Club
- 3) the sporting links between the military and the town.



SIGNEDDATE.....

Pam Goodger, The Old Coach House, The Close, – I would like to express my feelings with relation to the way some people in Warminster are constantly moaning. A campaign should be started with the message asking people to think positive. We need to celebrate the good things in our town. The owners of properties in the High Street all the way to East Street have been decorated in some places and look good.

394. Acceptance of Petitions and Deputations

None

395. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ridout declared that as a Unitary Member she is dual-hatted.
 Councillor Davis declared that as a Unitary Member he is dual-hatted.
 Councillor Keith Humphries declared that as a Unitary Member he is dual hatted and advised that with reference to item 13 on the agenda, Dog Control Orders he would probably sign this off under his delegated powers as a Cabinet Member so would not be voting on this item but would stay in the Chamber for the debate.

396. Proceedings of Committees

The Chairmen of the following committees adopted the minutes previously circulated.

Planning Advisory Committee	held on	5 th December 2011 3 rd January 2012
Finance & Assets Committee	held on	9 th January 2012
Town Development	held on	28 th November 2011
CCTV	held on	14 th December 2011
HR	held on	7 th December 2011

397. Reports from Unitary Members which are relevant to this committee.

Councillor Humphries advised the Members that the present Standards Board code is being withdrawn and will be replaced following the new Standards Framework introduced within the Localism Bill. Wiltshire Council will be drafting a code of conduct which will fulfill statutory requirements and if the Town adopts this, we will be fulfilling ours. More information will follow as it is produced.

Councillor Humphries went on to explain that with reference to the agenda item relating to Dog Control Orders, where previously there had been four different district Councils, each having a different policy, harmonization was being introduced to bring together one policy. The Members are being asked if there are any additional areas they would like to have included and that if there were they would have to take on the enforcement of these areas.



SIGNEDDATE.....

398. Police Report

Inspector Lindsey Winter reported that crime figures in Warminster and the surrounding area were quite good. It was pleasing to be able to report that the figures show a reduction in crime of 16% for the period January – December 2011 against the previous year. This reduction is made up of 204 less crimes, which in turn, is made up of 52 less people injured, 75 less reported damages and 16 less reports of vehicles damaged. The period over Christmas and the New Year was reasonably peaceful with no nasty incidents. There were incidents of vehicle damage over this time which appeared to be mindless and the work continues with anti social behaviour problems. These seem to be with small regular groups of young people. We also continue to tackle metal thefts. Inspector Lindsey advised that the working relationship between the police and Warminster Town Council is a good one and she thought it would be beneficial to communicate to the rest of the community all of our successes experienced and help improve peoples perception of safety.

399. Community Covenant

The Members were all in agreement that this is an enormous step forward. Councillor Batchelor proposed that it is agreed that the Covenant is signed by the Mayor on behalf of Warminster Town Council, Seconded Councillor March, Voting unanimous in favour.

400. Dog Control Orders

The Members discussed the enforcement of the control orders and Councillor Humphries advised that that this is very difficult to monitor. It requires a member of the public to see and identify the dog fouling incident and then report it to the authorities who will then fine the culprit. However, if the culprit does not pay the fine they will then be taken to court which means that both parties then have to attend court which is not the wish of the informer. This is a common problem across the country. One of the most effective ways of dealing with dog fouling seems to be the targeting of schools and students passing on the message to parents.

Councillor Ridout proposed that no additional areas are required to be added, Seconded Councillor Rob Fryer, Abstentions 1, Voting unanimous in favour.

401. Boreham Road LDO Steering Committee

Councillor Rob Fryer advised the Members that he had attended a meeting on behalf of the Council and that the residents of Bishopstrow were concerned that building on this land would have an adverse effect as this is deemed flood plain. The land has been built up so this should not present further problems. The plans are for a self build project which means there is less profit and therefore no S106 contribution. Wiltshire Council will be looking at the proposal this month and a response from them is awaited. Councillor Fryer will report when there is any further information. NOTED

402. Mayoral Allowance

The Mayor informed members that she had submitted this proposal to set up a change to the payment of an annual allowance paid to the Mayor and replace it with a budget and quarterly claimed relevant expenses to the Mayor or Deputy. The budget would be set as a maximum of £1000 and invoices



SIGNEDDATE.....

would need to be presented for expenses and details of mileage which would be paid at a net rate of 45p.

Councillor Batchelor proposed that in future expenses are claimed by the Mayor and deputy instead of an annual allowance with a maximum budget of £1,000, Seconded Councillor Nicklin, Voting unanimous in favour of acceptance.

403. Budget 2012/2013

The Members were advised that the Finance & Assets Committee had confirmed the budget and requested confirmation of the precept to be claimed from Wiltshire Council at £453,318 equivalent to £72.06 per Band D property. Councillor Nicklin & Humphries thanked the Town Clerk for the work involved in producing the budget. The members were pleased to advise that there will be no increase in the Band D householders cost but as there were now more houses within this Band it meant that an additional £6039 could be added to the precept without increasing the public contribution. Councillor Nicklin proposed acceptance of the precept to be requested from Wiltshire Council at £453,318. Seconded Councillor Rob Fryer, Voting unanimous in favour.

404. Warminster Parking Partnership

The Members NOTED the overall summary of ticket refunds claimed since the start of the program.

405. Civic Centre

Councillor Nicklin advised that this was at times a difficult subject and thanked the Town Clerk for bringing the project in on budget. We can all see what we have got for our money and hope that this will be a centre of excellence and shows that we are planning for the future. Councillor Nicklin proposed acceptance of the figures to date:

Income:	
PWLB	£500,000
Reserves Warminster Town Council	£105,000
Wiltshire Council	£145,000
WCR	£ 50,000
Insurance Claim	£ 4,000
Sale of Goods	£ 873
Total	£804,873
Expenditure	£798,660

Seconded Councillor Ridout, Voting unanimous in favour of acceptance.

406. Review of Committees

The Members discussed the suggested committee structure put forward in the agenda. Councillor Ridout recommended that the Planning Committee members should look to complete the training available to Councillors particularly in view of the new localism bill which will bring challenges and changes to the planning system.

Councillor Nicklin proposed that Councillor March Chair the Planning Advisory Committee and Councillor Fraser take the Vice Chair position until the end of the municipal year, Seconded Councillor Ridout, Voting unanimous in favour of acceptance.



Councillor Ridout proposed that Councillor Burden to join the CCTV Committee, Councillor March to become Vice Chair of CCTV Committee, Councillor Kate Fryer to join Town Development Committee and Councillor Rob Fryer to become a member of the Town Plan Working Group, Seconded Councillor Nicklin, Voting unanimous in favour of acceptance.

407. Boundary Review

Councillor Field stated that this would be a good outcome if it comes to fruition. Increasing the number of Councillors to 13 would mean that the area known as Copheap would have one Councillor and the remainder of the town would have 4 members to each ward equating to 1000 members of public to each Councillor. NOTED.

408. Action for Market Towns (AMT)

Councillor March advised the Members that it is important to do something towards the regeneration of our town. Councillor March proposed that the Town Council write a 250 word report outlining what is good about our town and forwarding this to AMT for inclusion in their web site. Seconded Veronica Burden, Voting unanimous in favour of acceptance of the proposal.

Item 22 was deferred to end of meeting to enable the discussion to take without members of the public or press present.

409. The Localism Act – New Standards Regime

Councillor Field proposed that this item is deferred until Full Council in March when there will be more detail available and a possible proposed Code written by the Principle Authority which can be given consideration. Seconded Councillor Davis, Voting unanimous in favour of the proposal.

410. Charity Collections

There was much debate about making the Civic Centre available for Charity collections which had been provided at Dewey House free of charge. The support would be worthwhile but it becomes a different proposition in the new Centre. Would it be possible to hand over the building to an organization without the need for staff? The Members discussed the feasibility of using the foyer but it was agreed that this could only be offered if the Centre was open, i.e. during office hours on a week day. It would also set a precedent for other organizations to come forward and request the same facilities. The Foyer is not really a suitable option and Members had already turned down the Festival Committee to have free use of rooms. Suggestions to open Dewey House were also discounted, the building had closed and all operations were being brought into the Civic Centre.

Councillor Nicklin proposed that we do not offer free facilities, Seconded Councillor Davis, Voting in favour 3, Against 7, Abstention 1, Proposal not carried.

Councillor Davis proposed that this Council investigates ways to find another venue for these collections. Seconded Councillor March Voting unanimous in favour.

411. Proposed new Working Group

Councillor Nicklin gave each of the Members a two page outline of the suggested new working group. He advised the Members that with the Town



Plan Working Group concluding its work later this year, it is a good time to focus on Warminster Town and support its entrepreneurial innovators and plan or provide for the economic stability of our community. The Members were in agreement that many people are doing a lot of positive things within the town and this needs to be communicated to the 'moaners' who need to be invited to come forward with their ideas for improvement instead of criticisms. Councillor Humphries advised that the Town Plan Working Group and Unitary Authority had worked well and now would be a good time to move forward as Unitary have funds for the regeneration of market towns and it would be ideal to dovetail from the start. Councillor Nicklin proposed creating a new Enterprise and Economic Partnership with full details being provided to Full Council at its March meeting. Seconded Councillor Davis, Voting unanimous in favour.

412. Communications

Councillor Ridout proposed that the Army Covenant (Agenda Item 12), the Budget (Agenda Item 16) and the new Working Group (Agenda item 16).

413. Tenancy Agreement for Dewey House

In view of the special nature of the business about to be transacted, the public and press were advised that they would be excluded from the meeting and were asked to withdraw.

Meeting closed 9.45pm



SIGNEDDATE.....