

## WEST MOORS TOWN COUNCIL

### REPORT of the ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY

held on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024** held at 7pm In St Anthony's Church Hall

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs R Burke – Chair		
Cllr C Way – Vice Chair		
Cllr A Clarke	Cllr D Green	Cllr M Hawkes
Cllr Mrs C Holmes	Cllr T Salt	Cllr Mrs N Senior
Cllr D Shortell	Cllr P Yeo	Cllr J Randall

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mrs Judi Weedon (Clerk to the Council)  
Mrs Amie Fawcett (Assistant to the Clerk)  
PCSO James Marsh and Adam Fitzwalter  
45 members of the public  
30 members of public across the information stands;

West Moors Flower Group  
West Moors Drama Society  
West Moors Youth and Community Club  
Castleman Community Larder  
Home Start Wessex  
West Moors Women's Institute  
West Moors Lunch & Friendship Club  
Parley Ability Counts Football Club  
Community Speed Watch  
Citizens Advice  
Grange Football Club  
Towns Women's Guild  
Painting for Pleasure  
DC Trading Standards/ Friend against Scams  
Ferndown Watch Community  
Dementia Action Group

The Town Clerk welcomed those present and explained the order for the evening:

The Town Councillors were thanked for having been in office for the past 12 months, in this voluntary, unpaid and sometimes challenging role. Their support has been appreciated.

Unlike all Annual Town meetings gone by, the Committee Chairs did not read out any statistics or reports, but the public were invited to visit the council website, or just ask the office staff or Councillors, if they needed to know anything.

The annual meeting was about bringing different groups and individuals together, whilst focusing on the recent achievements of the Community and the Council, and providing an overview of what can be expected for the next 12 months.

The evening commenced with guest speaker, Jamie Falinsky, Youth Leader for West Moors Youth Club. A power point presentation highlighted the developments made within the Youth Club since Jamie joined last year, and the activities and sessions hosted by the Youth Club, for which ages when and why. The importance of the Youth Club was emphasised.

Next the Clerk presented West Moors Town Council's achievements in the past year, in addition to the 'Achievement Poster' which was made available to everybody on arrival, this was slightly expanded on, via the power point presentation. A copy of this poster is available on the council website: [https://www.westmoors-tc.gov.uk/Full\\_Council\\_31051.aspx](https://www.westmoors-tc.gov.uk/Full_Council_31051.aspx). The achievements included:

- Bi-monthly litter picks with a wonderful group of volunteers and even received recognition from Buckingham Palace for all the volunteers.
- Outdoor adult exercise equipment at Fryer Field is a great success with lots of people seen using it regularly.
- Some volunteers have carried out work to improve and tidy The Spinney greenspace, which now looks much improved with a bug hotel and bat boxes to invite wildlife into the area.
- We have tidied up the Jubilee Copse located behind the Skatepark and the tree saplings are doing well. It is a peaceful place to go and sit especially when the sun is shining.
- We have had to increase the CCTV coverage at Fryer Field to assist the youth club with some anti-social behaviour that was occurring in 2023. All has been good in the area for some time now.
- One major project that has come to fruition, is the Community Speed Watch Initiative, this group have been up and running to try and keep peoples speed in check since October 2023. They have reported 54 speeding vehicles in this time, all of which will receive letters from Dorset Police. The Police road safety camera team has also been out and about in West Moors issuing enforcement letters to speeders.
- We have also introduced a Speed Indicator Device which you will see in different locations around West Moors. This reminds drivers of their speed and does appear to have an impact, people tend to slow down when they see them.
- In other road related issues, a pedestrian crossing near St Marys School on Station Road has been approved but we have no idea when the installation will commence.
- We have persistently investigated options to resolve parking issues in Park Way and Farm Road and we are working with all those involved to try and improve the situation.
- The Town Council continue to operate the public toilets at Park Way, this is very costly, and the facility is often misused; however, we have no plans to close this public facility.
- This year has seen an unprecedented amount of rain, which has affected the Fryer Field recreation ground. This has created problems for the football clubs that play their matches there, but we have done our best to keep football going and to accommodate requests from the football clubs. The use of the football pitches and the Artificial Grass pitch generates around £14,500 income each year.
- The main room in the pavilion has been refreshed with fresh paint and carpet, making a much nicer venue for hirers to use.
- The allotments located at Gulliver's Farm continue to be a success with a long wating list of people who would like to 'grow their own'.
- We had a great Westival in 2023 and are looking forward to an ever better one this year, thanks to our employee Amie Fawcett who puts in lots of hard work organising this free event.
- As ever the Remembrance Day Parade was well attended with residents showing their support for all to those who have served. We have a couple of our long-term marshals handing in their yellow high viz this year, so if you would like to help to make sure this important event in West Moors continues without a hiccup, please let us know.
- The Town Council finances are in good shape but as with everything we have had to put up our budget to accommodate increases in costs. If you live in a Band D household, the cost you pay to the Town Council is £59.43 a year.
- All our accounts can be inspected if you wish, just make an appointment with the Town Clerk.
- We financially support the youth club with a grant of up to £20,000 and we have also awarded grants in the past 12 months to Home Start Wessex, Citizens Advice, West Moors Youth# Football Club and Vision Wimborne Dial-a Ride, who all support residents of West Moors in various ways.
- The Citizens Advice Bus now visits West Moors every Tuesday, you can find it in the Park Way car park from 1pm to 3pm. This service is proving to be invaluable to lots of residents.

The Town Clerk welcomed comments and questions.

There was an interval for refreshments and networking.

After the interval, the Town Council's plans for 2024//25 were relayed;

- Those present were reminded about Elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and how West Moors Town Council will not be going to election, as only 11 people stood for 12 available positions, therefore all those who have stood for election will be elected unopposed.  
The Town Council tried very hard to promote an election, by echoing the message wherever we could: "Please stand for Council, we need you".  
An information evening was held in February to try and encourage more people to become involved, but unfortunately, there was only one interested person, who did not proceed with his nomination.  
It was also explained that when you go to vote on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May you will require photo ID, without it you will not be able to vote.
- WESTIVAL (Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July this year) was mentioned, listing the various features of the day. Please see further details on our website: [https://www.westmoors-tc.gov.uk/WESTIVAL\\_43962.aspx](https://www.westmoors-tc.gov.uk/WESTIVAL_43962.aspx)
- Electric Vehicle chargers should be installed within the next 6 months in Park Way Car Park and there are no plans to make remove the free parking available here.
- An event has been planned to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day. The event will be in Pinehurst Community Church Hall with fish and chips and old time singers, The Land Girls. It will be advertised nearer the time and tickets will be on a first come basis. The Land Girls will also visit the local care homes and perform for the residents, which will hopefully bring back some memories for them, and enjoyment.

A wonderfully proud moment followed, as the Town Clerk surprised the Councillors and those present, with the announcement, that on the 10<sup>th</sup> April West Moors Town Council received a Foundation Award Certificate. This is a prestigious award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme, and not many other Councils have achieved it.  
This award recognises that the Council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and Council improvement. Moreover, it shows that WMTC goes above and beyond the legal obligations, leading the community and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop even further. This award also recognises that the Town Council meet the high standards set by the parish council sector, as assessed by peers.

Within the next 12 months it is hoped that the next level of this award: QUALITY: will be achieved, by improving even more, and working harder for the local community.  
It's very rewarding to be recognised for such hard work put in by Council staff and Councillors, for the community.

The Town Clerk again, welcomed comments and questions, and a few matters were discussed;

- Drivers using the pavement by the ATM round the corner from TESCO Express, and the possibility of bollards being positioned there to stop this happening.
- Should there be parking charges applied to Park Way car park, if staying longer than 3 hours, to prevent vehicles abusing the short stay aspect.
- The need for the lines to be remarked in Park Way car park, and when this will happen.

The meeting then heard from another guest speaker, Michelle Bennett, the founder of the Castleman Community Larder who wowed everybody with evidence of how the Community Larder has impacted so many people's lives. The number of families helped, the amount of waste saved from landfill, the different partnerships made during her journey so far, and the different initiatives that are currently active thanks to CCL.

The last part of the evening was the Good Citizen Award presentation.  
The Chair of the Council, Cllr Mrs Rita Burke, called out the nominees;  
Wendy Osborne – for her community fundraising  
Mary Male - West Moors Memorial Hall Trustee & Secretary – volunteer  
Roger Male - West Moors Memorial Hall Trustee – volunteer.  
Michelle Bennett – Castleman Community Larder  
Ian Linehan - West Moors Memorial Hall Trustee & Chair - volunteer

Andrew Risby - West Moors Memorial Hall Trustee & Treasurer - volunteer  
Jamie Gaskins – West Moors Youth Club event volunteer.

The winner was announced as Michelle Bennett.  
A big round of applause and photos of all those nominated, followed.  
Michelle was presented with her trophy and all 6 nominees received recognition certificates.

There was note of thanks and the meeting was closed at 20.12 hrs

SIGNED ..... DATE .....  
Chair of the Council

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