

**WEST MOORS TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the **TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 in  
The Pavilion, Fryer Field at 7.30pm.

**PRESENT:**

|                          |                 |                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Cllr Mrs R Burke - Chair |                 |                   |
| Cllr D Green             | Cllr M Hawkes   | Cllr Mrs C Holmes |
| Cllr J Randall           | Cllr D Shortell | Cllr J Staig      |
| Cllr C Way               | Cllr K Wilkes   | Cllr Mrs P Yeo    |

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mrs Judi Weedon, Town Clerk  
Dorset Councillor A Skeats

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr T Salt                      Cllr Mrs N Senior  
(reasons for absence were noted)

**24/275      QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**  
None

**24/276      TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR  
DISPENSATIONS – LOCALISM ACT 2011 – DISPENSATIONS FROM SECTION 31(4)**  
None

**24/277      TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024**  
Having been circulated, the minutes on pages 3263-3265 were agreed, adopted and signed.

**24/278      TO RECEIVE TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

1. The next litter pick is scheduled for the 8<sup>th</sup> February.
2. Arrangements for the Annual Town meeting: Confirmed speakers are: Dorset History Centre re West Moors history and Trading Standards re scams, with 10 community groups already confirmed as attending. A third speaker may also be attending but this has not been confirmed. Members are asked to consider giving a donation to the Dorset History Centre for their attendance.  
To date we have received 16 completed nomination forms for the Good Citizen Award, which will be presented at the meeting.
3. Local Government Award documents were submitted 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024, results are expected in April.
4. Flat 4A Park Way is on the market for sale. WMTC are the freeholders to this.
5. Complaint received about the external lights on the library being very bright and on most of the night. Clerk has contacted the library service for clarification.
6. The internal auditor is due to visit on the 12<sup>th</sup> February and the 1<sup>st</sup> May.
7. Beryl bikes are being removed from East Dorset for operational reasons.
8. Unproven reports of dogs getting ill after visiting Fryer Field and rumours that the Council is at fault for spraying mole hills. The Council has not sprayed any mole hills or used any kind of pesticide on the Fryer Field. A statement was put out on social media to alleviate concerns, but this created some very negative comments.

9. The clerk and Cllr Salt attended the funeral of local resident Colin Ellis who was tragically killed whilst crossing Station Road in December.
10. A local resident has offered to plant some snow drops in the Petwyn in memory of Mr Ellis, members felt this was a good idea.
11. Garden of Eden Project – Community Garden project on the Horton Road. The clerk explained the vision for this project being put forward by the owner of the site.
12. The clerk reported on attendance at a Dorset Council meeting with Town and Parish Clerks, including information on the chief executive vacancy, budget increase, strategic authority update, planning matters and street lighting.

**24/279 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

It was

**RESOLVED that the accounts for payment be approved as attached on page 3287 of these minutes. (Cllr's Yeo and Wilkes to authorise the electronic payments)**

*Voting: unanimous*

**24/280 BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2025/26**

After the budget and precept having been reviewed and agreed at committee level it was **RESOLVED that the budgets as previously agreed by the Environment committee as shown on pages 3270 to 3273 of the minutes and the Finance and GP committee as shown on pages 3282 to 3283 of the minutes be approved and that a precept of £221,148 for 2025/26 be requested from the billing authority, which equates to a Band D household cost of £71.03 for the year. (an increase of £11.60 from 2024/25)**

*Voting: 9 for, 1 abstention*

It is noted that the Band D payment equates to £1.36 per week

**24/281 STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS AND CONDUCT FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES – CONSULTATION**

Members having previously received the consultation agreed to submit a corporate reply. Members considered each question and advised the clerk on the reply.

The clerk to submit the response to the consultation.

Members were encouraged to also submit a personal response to this consultation.

**24/282 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING CONSULTATION**

Members received a presentation on the environment consultation and planning and development consultation.

Members requested that a 'thank you' message be published for the responses and that the reply will inform the strategic plan for the council.

It was noted that the response rate was very low.

**24/283 DORSET COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Members received a written report from Dorset Councillor's Shortell and Skeats regarding the job advert for a replacement Chief Executive at Dorset Council, increased parking charges across Dorset and discussions with a local resident about log burner issues.

A copy of the full report is available in the council office.

**24/284 WESTIVAL 2025 UPDATE**

Members received a brief update on the progress of the event to date.

Members agreed that a committee was not required to assist with the organisation of this event and the council staff could continue with the preparations.

Members felt that holding a cash raffle was a good idea and should be part of the event if funds allow.

Cllr Skeats suggested that people may be inclined to donate if card payments could be taken.

**24/285 INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

Cllr C Way supplied copies of youth club accounts and a report for the youth leader. Concern was raised by Cllr Wilkes about an item in the report about safeguarding issues, and that the Town council needs to be aware of such issues as they are funding the club. The Clerk informed members that the matter had been dealt with by the youth club and that the person related to the safeguarding issues no longer has any thing to do with the youth club.

Cllr Way went on to inform members that the youth club committee are looking at reconfiguring the inside of the club to make more space, repairing outside lighting, replacing the cooker and security camera. Cllr Way felt that the club is being run more professionally, and the finances were all in order.

Cllr Mrs P Yeo reported on her attendance at the Dementia Action group meeting and reminded members about the training scheduled for March.

Cllr J Staig reported that some branches had fallen into the river at Woolslope Farm and asked how to report this.

Cllr D Shortell reported on his attendance at the West Moors Memorial Hall meeting on 06.01.25. He reported that repairs to the building were draining their resources. A copy of the accounts were presented.

**24/286 CORRESPONDENCE**

All important and informative correspondence is emailed to Councillors as it arrives.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 21.09 hrs.

The next meeting of the Town Council will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 19:30hrs.

SIGNED ..... DATE .....  
Chair

| <b>Payment list dated 23.01.2025</b>         |                       |                     |  |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Payment method</b>                        | <b>Invoice amount</b> | <b>Invoice date</b> | <b>Details</b>   |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £35.00                | 22.01.25            | DAPTC - Procurement Act 2023 training - Judi Weedon  |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £36.00                | 22.01.25            | SLCC - Introduction to Biodiversity Net Gain - Judi Weedon                                     |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £192.00               | 22.01.25            | Elexta Solutions - install of additional socket on pavilion and 1x spur for Defib              |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £200.00               | 23.01.25            | Creative Kids Art Education Centre - Art Workshop for Westival - Deposit                       |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £357.60               | 17.12.24            | SafeZone Fire and Security - Call out and repairs to CCTV camera (replacement camera required) |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £50.00                | 21.01.25            | Cole Management Services - office Window cleaning and 2x bus shelters Dec and Jan              |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £1,500.00             | 23.01.24            | Citizens Advice Bureau - Grant for 2024/25 minute no 24/270c                                   |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £324.90               | 24.01.25            | Play Inspection Company - Annual Inspections of Play areas                                     |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £1,218.00             | 22.01.24            | Verwood Cleaning Services - Public toilet and pavilion cleaning Dec-Jan                        |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £1,400.00             | 23.01.25            | Mosaic - Grant minute no 24/270b   |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £1,880.00             | 23.01.25            | Homestart Wessex - Grant minute no 24/270a   |
| EB<br>30.01                                  | £11.71                | 27.01.25            | Business Supplies Group - Stationery   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                 | <b>£7,205.21</b>      |                     |  |
| <b>Direct Debits and Debit Card payments</b> |                       |                     |  |
| <b>Payment method</b>                        | <b>Invoice amount</b> | <b>Invoice date</b> | <b>Details</b>   |
| DD<br>25.01                                  | £128.01               | 01.01.25            | 1st Connect - Broadband and telephone changes for Jan  |
| DC<br>28.01                                  | £50.00                | 28.01.25            | Petty Cash - ATM withdrawal to top up petty cash   |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>£178.01</b>        |                     |  |