

WEST MOORS TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT of the ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY

held on **Thursday 10th April 2025** held at 7pm In St Anthony's Church Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs R Burke – Chair
Cllr D Green Cllr M Hawkes Cllr Mrs C Holmes
Cllr J Randall Cllr T Salt Cllr Mrs N Senior
Cllr J Staig Cllr K Wilkes Cllr P Yeo

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs Judi Weedon (Clerk to the Council)
Mrs Nadine Hancock (Assistant to the Clerk)
Lord Lieutenant Michael Dooley Esq LVO
42 members of the public
31 members of public across the information stands;

APOLOGIES: Cllr Way Cllr Shortell Dorset Councillor Skeats

East Dorset Craft Club
Home Start Wessex
West Moors Bowls Club
Dorset Council Trading Standards
West Moors Dementia Action Group
West Moors Horticultural Society
Citizens Advice Bureau
West Moors Flower Group
West Moors Football Club
Castleman Community Larder
West Moors Scouts
West Moors Slingers

The Chair, Cllr Rita Burke 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.

The evening commenced with guest speaker, Maria Gayton, from the Dorset History Centre (DHC). Maria gave an interesting presentation on the archives held at the DHC and some information relevant to the history of West Moors.

Next the Clerk presented information about West Moors Town Council's activities in the past year, These included:

- Bi-monthly litter picks with a wonderful group of volunteers.
- The Speed watch initiative continuing to make an impact on road safety
- EV Chargers in Park Way car park
- Volunteers maintaining and improving The Spinney
- Bollard install outside Tesco
- Issues of vandalism at the public toilets
- Increase income from sports fees
- Increased security at Fryer Field
- Introduction of pickleball courts
- Event held for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day
- Improved Christmas lights
- Westival
- Explanation of the budget and council tax cost for the Town Council
- Support for the Youth Club

- Training of staff and councillors
- Public surveys to help inform the council

There was an interval for refreshments and networking.

After the interval, the Town Council's plans for 2025//26 were relayed;

- WESTIVAL being held on Saturday 12th July
- An event has been planned to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE-Day
- New goals posts at Fryer Field
- Additional Christmas lights
- New IT in council office
- West Moors TC being awarded the Silver Award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme. This is a prestigious award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme, and only 4 councils in Dorset have this award.

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

- Persistent parking on zig-zag lines outside Oakhurst School. Could Dorset Council/West Moors Town Council or anyone else help to fund the purchase of removable aluminium bollards?
This proposal will be discussed in the next full council meeting on the 24th April.
- Following the Highways survey results showing residents felt Community Speedwatch sessions were less important than implementing traffic calming measures, resident spoke in support of the effectiveness of the Community Speedwatch Group, offering thanks to Cllr Salt for his hard work and asking the community to support the initiative.
- When relining takes place in Park Way car park, could the spaces be made wider? Cllr Holmes added that if cars are parked too close the Samaritans donation bank cannot be accessed.
Spaces will be made a little wider and the charity bin has been moved to allow for more disabled spaces. Hatching will be painted around the bin to improve accessibility.
- Resident mentioned excessive water issues becoming increasingly problematic on Glenwood Road, and wondered whether anyone else had similar issues.
It was noted resident has already been in touch with West Moors Town Council, Dorset Council and Wessex Water, and should continue as they are doing.
- Resident mentioned recent works had left the pavements in a terrible state on Pennington Close.
It was noted that Dorset Council have specific criteria that must be met in order to repair footpaths. Clerk encouraged residents to come into the office to report pavements in need of repair and take photos of affected areas so we can escalate to Highways team.
- Resident raised issue of amount of roadworks in West Moors, particularly where no-one is manning or operating in the area. Who is controlling this and is there anything the Town Council can do?
It was noted Dorset Council contract the works but also have limited control. Clerk explained there are examples where inaction is necessary e.g. during gas works where ground must be left to vent.
- 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, Jane Hutchins, from Trading Standards. Jane gave presentation about scams and how to protect yourself against them.

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;
Michelle Bennett – Castleman Community Larder
Sylvia Barrett – from the lunch and friendship club
Sarah Parrett – from Pinehurst Community Church
Pete Osborne – Community volunteer
Steve Leach – from West Moors Scouts
Wendy Osborne – for her community fundraising

The winner was announced as Steve Leach for his dedication of over 50 years to the West Moors Scouts.

A big round of applause and photos of all those nominated, followed.

Lord Lieutenant Michael Dooley Esq LVO presented Steve Leach with his trophy and all the nominees with their certificates of recognition.

Lord Lieutenant Michael Dooley Esq LVO informed those present of his role and what he can do to assist local communities. The Lord Lieutenant spoke about a fund being set up in association with Dorset Community Foundation.

There was note of thanks and the meeting was closed at 20:55 hrs

SIGNED DATE
Chair of the Council