

WEST MOORS TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT of the ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY

held on **Thursday 16th April 2026** held at 7pm In St Anthony's Church Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Mrs R Burke – Chair
Cllr J Staig – Vice Chair
Cllr D Green Cllr J Randall Cllr T Salt
Cllr Mrs N Senior Cllr Way Cllr K Wilkes
Cllr P Yeo

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs Judi Weedon (Clerk to the Council)
Mrs Nadine Hancock (Assistant to the Clerk)
32 members of the public
35 members of public across the information stands

APOLOGIES: Cllr M Hawkes Cllr Mrs C Holmes Cllr Shortell

Information stands present:

East Dorset Craft Club
Home-Start Wessex
West Moors Memorial Bowls Club
Dorset Council - Trading Standards/Scams
West Moors Dementia Action Group
West Moors Horticultural Society
Citizen's Advice Bureau
West Moors Flower Group
West Moors Football Club
Castleman Community Larder
West Moors Singers
West Moors Scouts
Men's Shed
Dorset Waste
Community Switch
AfterReach Addiction Support Group
Lunch & Friendship Club
West Moors Girl Guides

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, Mary van Coller, who gave a presentation on insights into Local Rivers and stories surrounding them.

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 Charger damage in Park Way car park
- Event held for the 80th Anniversary of VE Day
- Remembrance Day Parade
- Improved Christmas lights
- Work in the Cemetery
- Photographic Competition

- New Benches on the Petwyn
- Westival
- Explanation of the budget and council tax cost for the Town Council
- Support for the Youth Club
- Grants to outside bodies
- Strategic Plan
- E-newsletters
- Training of staff and councillors

There was an interval for refreshments and networking.

After the interval, the Town Council's plans for 2026//27 were relayed;

- First ever Fun Run on the 10th May
- WESTIVAL being held on Saturday 11th July
- Volunteer Afternoon in June
- Transfer of land from Dorset Council to WMTC
- Possible installation of new pedestrian crossing in Station Road
- New refreshed website
- Men's Shed

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

- Question regarding the speed camera on Station Road.
Cllr Salt informed those present that when the cameras were updated there was not enough funding to replace all the cameras, so only 10 in the worst-affected areas were upgraded. They cost £85,000 each to install and there is no funding to purchase more.
- Question about the land transfer in Weavers Close and what plans WMTC had for it.
The current plan is to maintain it as public open green space.
- Question about how to sign up for the Fun Run
The process was explained – tickets can be purchased via the West Moors Town Council website, and there are various posters around the town with QR codes to scan.
- Question regarding MoreBus and if Zone B could be extended to cover West Moors.
Have spoken to MoreBus in the past about the service in West Moors, but it is not financially viable for them to extend it. The Council would be happy to contact MoreBus again to discuss issues.
- Question about overgrown hedges impeding the footpaths.
Residents can report to the Town Council who will take pictures and then report to Dorset Council, who are the enforcement authority for this. Residents were also encouraged to report themselves via Dorset Council website.
- Question about the large amount of HGV's coming through Station Road.
It was explained that Station Road is classed as a distributor road and therefore Dorset Council are very unlikely to consider placing a weight limit or any other restrictions, such as traffic calming, on the road. Signage on the A31 is not helpful and Sat Navs often direct vehicles through West Moors because it is the shorter route to get to the Verwood area. The Town Council remain committed to improving road safety along Station Road and will continue discussions with Dorset Council.
- Question about the 20 is Plenty scarecrows in 2025
It was explained that this was organised by local Dorset Councillor and received mixed comments from people. It is hoped that the proposed new crossing by St Marys school will have a positive impact on speed.

- Question about having another Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Station Road as they seem to be a deterrent.
It was explained that any SID location has to be approved by Dorset Council as they control all the highway land. The cost of a SID is around £4,000 to purchase. A representative for the Elephant and Castle pub suggested that the Town Council could use their pub sign pole to put one on. The Council will look into this.
- Question about the very poor phone and internet signal in West Moors
It was explained that any issues with the internet had to be directed to the supplier of that service. The Town Council have recently discussed the poor mobile reception in West Moors and found that there was not a lot they could do about it and suggested that residents contact their operator to complain. Dorset Council recently installed equipment in the waste trucks to test mobile signals and a map of their findings can be found on the DC website.
- Question about investing the income made from Fryer Field into improving the football pitches.
It was explained that at the present time there are no plans to make any major improvements to the pitches, but happy to discuss this with football club.

The last part of the evening was the Good Citizen Award presentation.

The Vice Chair of the Council, Cllr Jim Staig, called out the nominees;

Lee Long – For his garden displays in Station Road
 Noel Karpinski – For his dedication to the Community Larder
 Lynn Smith – for working with children and the elderly
 Jo Breen – for her work with the Dementia Action Group
 Ken Burke – for his volunteer work in the cemetery
 Lynne Morris – for her work with the Dementia Action Group.

The winner was announced as Ken Burke for giving his time generously to help care for the West Moors Cemetery

There was note of thanks and the meeting was closed at 20:35 hrs.

SIGNED DATE
 Chair of the Council