



Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 in the Cowie Room, Public Hall commencing at 7.00pm.

3276 Members present: Cllr Corbett, Cllr Gillings, Cllr Gunning, Cllr Wallbridge; Christine Bright (stand-in Town Clerk).

3277 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Richard Gunning was proposed by Cllr Nigel Corbett and seconded by Cllr Wendy Wallbridge.

There being no further nominations, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Gunning be elected Chairman for the municipal year 2026/27.

Cllr Gunning duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before proceeding with the remainder of the meeting.

3278 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr David Gillings was proposed by Cllr Richard Gunning and seconded by Cllr Nigel Corbett.

There being no further nominations, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Gillings be elected Vice-Chairman for the municipal year 2026/27.

Cllr Gillings duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3279 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Dawkins and Cllr Acton.

3280 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS

No declarations were received.

3281 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH MARCH 2026

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 24th March 2026 having previously been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3282 COMMITTEE SELECTIONS

RESOLVED that appointments to committees be deferred until a meeting of the Council when all councillors could be present.

3283 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED that appointments to outside bodies be deferred until a meeting of the Council when all councillors could be present.

3284 REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES

Members had previously been circulated with copies of the following policies for review:

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Freedom of Information
- Equal Opportunities
- Data Protection
- Code of Practice for Handling Complaints
- Procedure for dealing with public and press
- Risk Management

RESOLVED that all policies be adopted without amendment.

3285 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STANDING COMMITTEES

Members reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Council's standing committees:

- Planning Advisory & Highways Committee
- Town Amenities Committee
- Finance & General Purposes Committee
- Community Engagement Committee
- CB3 Management Committee

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for all standing committees be adopted without amendment.

3286 ASSET REGISTER

Members had previously been circulated with the Council's Asset Register as at 31 March 2026, showing a total value of **£1,209,672**. Cllr Gunning and Cllr Gillings to review the asset register and adjustments agreed within the current financial year.

RESOLVED to adopt the Asset Register without amendment.

3287 INSURANCE COVER FOR ALL INSURED RISKS

The Council is currently in a three-year insurance agreement with Aviva via James Hallam, which commenced on 1 September 2025 and expires in August 2028. The insurance will be reviewed in August 2026. **RESOLVED** that the current arrangements be noted.

3288 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The Town Clerk advised Members that guidance had been received from the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) regarding the General Power of Competence.

Members noted that Beaminster Town Council had formally resolved in May 2025 that it met the eligibility criteria to exercise the General Power of Competence. The advice received from DAPTC confirmed that, provided the Council had validly declared its eligibility at that time, it would continue to hold the General Power of Competence until the next ordinary elections in May 2029. It was also noted that there is no requirement for councils to re-declare their eligibility annually.

RESOLVED: To note the advice received from DAPTC and that no further action is required at this time.

3289 COUNCILLOR MEETINGS 2026/27

Members considered the draft Calendar of Meetings for 2026/27.

RESOLVED to adopt the Calendar of Meetings.

3290 COUNCILLOR SURGERY

Members considered the draft Calendar of Councillor Surgeries for 2026/27.

RESOLVED to adopt the Councillor Surgery timetable.

3291 COUNCIL'S AND EMPLOYEE'S MEMBERSHIPS OF OTHER BODIES

Members **RESOLVED** the following membership and subscription for 2026/2027

- Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) - £1,331.73
- Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) - £379

3292 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting which started at 7.00pm closed at 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN
May 2027