

Dorchester Town Council

Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

19 May 2015

Present: Mayor R. Potter and Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, C. Biggs, R. Biggs, A. Canning, A. Chisholm, T. Harries, J. Hewitt, S. Hosford, S. Jones, T. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, T. Loakes, M. Rennie, K. Rice and D. Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors G. Duke, G. Jones, A. Lyall and P. Stein

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 March 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

6. Communications & Questions

The Mayor welcomed new and returning Members to the meeting.

The Town Clerk reminded Members of the Committee meetings to be held in June. He also confirmed that he would circulate election results and the new Member seniority list, and the rules regarding Member questions at Council.

The Town Clerk identified an urgent communication from a Councillor regarding support for the Carnival Junk Band. It was

Resolved

That the sum of £400 be reserved from the Events and Sponsorship budget to fund clothing costs associated with the Junk Band

The Town Clerk identified that no questions had been received in accordance with Standing Order 12(3).

Dr Jon Murden of Dorset County Museum joined the meeting and announced that the Museum had secured £10.4M from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards improvement of display, storage and research facilities, including the renovation of Reverend John White's house in Colliton Street. Dr Murden thanked the Town Council for their support, including loan assistance, but also identified that the Museum still needs to raise £3.2 M of match funding and would now focus on this as a priority. Members congratulated Dr Murden on the outcome of the bid.

7. **Planning and Environment Committee – 30 March 2015**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

A Member sought clarification on the latest position regarding an application for the Charles Street site.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 30 March 2015 be adopted.

8. **Planning and Environment Committee – 27 April 2015**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Questions were asked, and answers provided, regarding progress in relation to town centre parking and the siting of the Vodafone mast.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 27 April 2015 be adopted.

9. **Selection Committee – 19 May 2015**

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved

(1) That, for the 2015-16 Council year, Committee membership should be as laid out in the Minutes.

(2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee held on 19 May 2015 be adopted.

10. **Appointment of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees**

In accordance with Standing Order 39 Members considered the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to Committees.

Resolved

(1) That Councillor A. Canning be appointed Chairman and Councillor C. Biggs be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee.

- (2) That Councillor S. Hosford be appointed Chairman and Councillor R. Biggs be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee.
- (3) That Councillor G. Jones be appointed Chairman and Councillor B. Armstrong-Marshall be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Policy Committee.

11. **Bank Mandate Signatories**

Members gave consideration to the Council's Bank Mandate Signatures.

Resolved

That Councillors T. Harries, S. Jones, R. Potter, M. Rennie and D. Taylor be authorised to conduct business on the Council's Bank Accounts during the period ending with the Annual Council Meeting in 2016.

12. **End of Year Reports**

The Town Clerk presented the Financial Statement and Statutory Annual Return to Council, supplemented by the final Internal Audit report of the year and a report on the Performance Management Plan for 2014-15.

In response to questions the Town Clerk confirmed that consultation would commence in 2015 regarding the Bowls Green at the Borough Gardens, work on reducing the use of utilities to improve the Council's carbon footprint had commenced and that discussions were ongoing to stimulate new forums for Economic Development and Heritage.

Resolved

- (1) That the Financial Statement 2014-15 be noted
- (2) That the Annual Return 2014-15, together with the Annual Governance Statement, be approved and signed by the Mayor and submitted to the External Auditor
- (3) That the final report of the Internal Auditor for the 2014-15 period be noted
- (4) That the Performance Management Plan 2014-15 be noted

The Council rose at 7.55pm.

Mayor

On the conclusion of the meeting a democratic question time was held, with questions raised regarding disabled access to Dorchester West Railway Station, the Council's policy regarding illuminated shop signage in South Street and the possibility of Affordable Housing at the ex-prison site.

Councillors who had left the Council following the recent elections were presented with a small gift as a memento of their time on the Council.