

# **Dorchester Town Council**

## **Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council**

**27 September 2016**

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

**Also:** Reverend Canon T. Woodhouse, the Mayor's Chaplain.

**Apologies:** Councillors S. Jones, T. Jones and T. Loakes.

### **25. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 July 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

The Town Clerk advised that the Dorchester Bayeux Society had confirmed that they did not require an Outside Body Representative for the current year.

### **26. Communications and Questions**

Reverend Woodhouse addressed Council on the role of events such as the Paralympics and the Mayor's Service of Unity in October in bringing together different communities and commended the Mayor's motion of congratulations to Mr. Paul Blake on his recent achievements.

The Mayor provided the response of the Right Honourable Amber Rudd MP to the motion at minute 2016/18 related to Child Refugees. A member asked that the Mayor invites the Home Office to review its arrangements for assisting refugees against the process used to support Asian refugees from Uganda in the 1970's. Councillor Biggs identified that discussions were taking place at Dorset County Council relating to the arrival of the first child refugees to be settled in Dorset.

The Mayor thanked Members and officers for their support during a very busy summer period of events. He highlighted the forthcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ridgeway Radio and 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chamber of Trade in the town, the annual Tirah Memorial Service of Remembrance on 26 October and the Service of Unity to be held on 9 October.

### **27. Motion**

The Mayor proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Potter

Following on from his medal-winning performances at the London 2012 Paralympic Games, on 16 September 2016 Mr Paul Blake, born in the town in 1990, won the Gold Medal in the Men's 400M, T36 category, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He also won the Silver Medal in the Men 800M, T36 category, later in the week.

Council resolves to congratulate Mr Blake on behalf of the town for achieving this personal milestone and looks forward to an occasion where it might welcome him to the town.

The motion was carried unanimously.

## **28. Updates from Partner Authorities**

Councillor R. Biggs provided a verbal update of recent work at Dorset County Council, covering Local Government Reorganisation and its possible impact on elections to Dorset County Council, parking issues at headquarters, the northern residents parking zone and the planned zone in Monmouth Road, the Ofsted report on Children in Care and the continuing success of the Dorset History Centre.

He answered a question relating to the lack of consultation with the Town Council about the decision on charging for parking at headquarters and its knock on to parking in residential streets.

In providing a verbal update regarding the work of West Dorset District Council Councillor Duke highlighted progress on the development of Charles Street, consultation on the TIC and the limited progress on dealing with the Land Charges search backlog.

He responded to questions regarding the selection of an appropriate archaeologist for the peer review of past studies of Charles Street, while another Member added further information regarding the Land Charges backlog.

## **29. Local Government Reorganisation**

Councillors A. Canning, G. Duke, T. Harries, S. Hosford, R. Potter, M. Rennie and D. Taylor identified non-pecuniary interests as members of West Dorset District Council and Councillors R. Biggs and A. Canning identified a non-pecuniary interest as members of Dorset County Council; they would take part in the debate but not vote on any proposal regarding the options provided by the upper tier authorities.

The Town Clerk gave a short presentation on the request by upper tier authorities for a response to their proposals for reorganising local government, taking the opportunity to highlight the potential impacts of the process on the Town Council and the town.

Members were concerned at the lack of thought that had been given to the impact

of the changes on services relevant to Town and Parish Councils and the lack of recognition of the role that the tier played and how that will evolve.

Members felt unable to choose between the three options that involved a rural and urban unitary due to a lack of information about the difference each would have for the Town Council. They asked that the Town Clerk give some thought to what the Town Council should look to achieve as a result of the reorganisation process.

**Resolved**

That the Town Council does not support option 1 (No change) but does not feel that sufficient information has been made available regarding the impact of options 2a, 2b or 2c on the Town Council to be able to choose from them

**30. Queen Mother Statue**

The Town Clerk explained that the Duchy of Cornwall had asked if the Town Council would take on the maintenance and management of the Queen Mother statue. Members were supportive of the idea but raised some questions about the protective globes that surrounded the statue.

**Resolved**

That, subject to receipt of satisfactory answers regarding the replacement of the protective globes, the offer made by the Duchy of Cornwall is accepted.

**31. Planning and Environment Committee – 1 August 2016**

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

Regarding Minute 18 Councillor Canning identified that the bus stop and car parking spaces would now remain in place.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 1 August 2016 be adopted.

**32. Planning and Environment Committee – 5 September 2016**

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

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 5 September 2016 be adopted.

**33. Management Committee – 13 September 2016**

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

**Resolved**

- a) That with regard to a proposal for a new Sports Arena in the area of the Hawthorne Road allotments
  - i. the appropriate consultations be undertaken with regard to a sports arena only in the first instance
  - ii. consideration be given to a wider scheme at a later date
- b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 13 September 2016 be adopted.

**34. Policy Committee – 20 September 2016**

Noting that the first “Resolved” item at minute 12 should read “Recommended to Council” it was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. Councillor Chisholm declared a non-pecuniary interest as a user of the TIC.

Members debated an amendment to the Recommendation at Minute 12, then confirmed a new resolution.

**Resolved**

- a) That an additional £70,000 is made available to improve paving in South Street, with options for its use to be presented back to the Committee
- b) That the Town Council supports the proposal of the District Council to transfer the TIC to Dorchester Library, but regrets the limited options for change made available by the District Council for this valued service
- c) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 20 September 2016 be adopted.

The Council rose at 8.46pm.

Mayor

Following the meeting, during an open democratic session residents commented on Local Government Reorganisation and the lack of a funding plan by the District Council for the TIC.