

# **Dorchester Town Council**

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

**25 September 2018**

- Present:** Mayor D. Taylor and Councillors A. Canning, A. Chisholm, G. Duke, T. Harries, S. Hosford, G. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, A. Lyall, R. Potter, M. Rennie and P. Stein.
- Apologies:** Councillor B. Armstrong-Marshall, C. Biggs, R. Biggs, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, T. Jones and. K. Rice
- Interests:** Councillors A. Canning, G. Duke, T. Harries, S. Hosford, R. Potter and M. Rennie (Item 27, Planning & Environment Committee Local Plan Review Policy Committee, as member of WDDC Ward Boundaries Panel), Councillor S. Jones (Item 21, Policy Committee, as board member of Dorchester Youth and Community Centre).

### **22. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 July 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

Further to the note of the Public Questions at the end of the meeting a Member advised that Damers School had recently been awarded several national awards for their plastic free initiative. The Mayor confirmed he would be attending a school assembly in the near future.

### **23. Communications & Questions**

The Mayor thanked all those involved in the delivery of the summer programme of events. A Member advised Council regarding the holding of the third interfaith service on 7 October.

The Town Clerk advised Members of arrangements for an Informal Briefing on 16 October to receive a presentation from Thomas Hardy School and to discuss Affordable Housing. He also identified arrangements for Remembrance Sunday in November.

The Council considered a request from Councillor Duke for further information from Dorset County Council regarding the potential to introduce charging for vehicles that use centre Dorchester as a short cut to avoid using the road network already provided on the outskirts of the town.

The question received support from the Council and the Chairman of the Dorchester Transport and Environmental Plan Stakeholder Group, Councillor Canning, agreed to

raise the matter at its next meeting, likely to be in the new year. A Member asked that the report cover the wider impacts that might arise as a result of any changes.

**24. Updates from Partner Authorities**

Councillor A. Canning provided an update regarding the work of Dorset County Council. He noted the appointment of Matt Prosser as Chief Executive of the new Dorset Council. He also noted work being undertaken to reduce the overspend on the County Council's Children and Adult Services budgets. At a local level Councillor Canning confirmed that all of the statutory authorities had now confirmed their support for the implementation of new traffic measures at Lubbecke Way; new traffic calming measures would also be introduced in Victoria Road.

Councillor R. Potter confirmed that the focus of West Dorset District Council was also on Local Government Reorganisation; he noted new regulation for Houses in Multiple Occupation and highlighted progress on the Local Plan Review.

**25. Planning and Environment Committee – 6 August 2018**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes be adopted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 6 August 2018 be adopted.

**26. Planning and Environment Committee – 3 September 2018**

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 3 September 2018 be adopted.

**27. Special Planning and Environment Committee – 10 September 2018**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. The meeting considered three recommendations from the Committee regarding the Council's formal response to the Local Plan Review, particularly in relation to Policy DOR15 North Dorchester. The Chairman referred to a letter received from a prospective developer in the Woodsford area.

Members discussed the proposals in detail and agreed some amendments to the response to DOR15 including a further challenge to the number of houses required to be built during the plan period, reference to the Woodsford opportunity, the strengthening of the section on Landscape and Heritage and a comment about the process for public engagement.

Commenting on the proposed response to other parts of the consultation a Member asked that the close physical relationship between housing and employment sites be emphasised in the response to SUS1.

The Chairman agreed to invite West Dorset District Council to a future meeting of the Committee to respond to the Council's comments.

### **Resolved**

- i) That the Town Council submits a formal objection to Policy DOR15, recognising that this specific site carries a significant level of risk that it will fail to address the local needs of the Town, nor will it produce a comprehensive, relevant, viable and sustainable development that supports the area's future rather than destabilising it.
- ii) That the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee and supported by the Council's advisors, Fera Urbanism, be authorised to make further textual changes to the detailed response document to reflect the views expressed at Council, prior to its submission to WDDC by 8 October.
- iii) That, noting the comment made regarding SUS1 at Council the Town Councils submits comments included as Appendix 2 to the Minutes of the Committee regarding various policies and plans in WDDC's Local Plan Preferred Options document.
- iv) That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3 September 2018 be adopted.

### **28. Management Committee – 11 September 2018**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. The Chairman expressed his thanks to those who had engaged with the development of the Biodiversity Statement and Action Plan.

### **Resolved**

- i) That the revised Biodiversity Statement and Action Plan 2018-2023 be adopted
- ii) That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 11 September 2018 be adopted.

### **29. Policy Committee – 18 September 2018**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. The Chairman introduced a proposal to undertake a review of governance arrangements.

**Resolved**

- i) That during the November cycle of meetings each Committee appoints two Members to take part in the review, to be concluded by the March 2019 cycle of meetings.
- ii) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 18 September 2018 be adopted.

The Council rose at 8.20pm.

Mayor

At public question time after the meeting the Town Clerk responded to a question regarding the process for the adoption of the Local Plan.