

# **Dorchester Town Council**

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

**26 September 2022**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor J. Hewitt) and Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, R. Biggs, S. Biles, A. Canning, A. Chisholm, L. Fry, T. Harries, F. Hogwood, S. Hosford, F. Kent-Ledger, G. Jones, S. Jones, A. Lyall, R. Major, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Apologies: Councillors D. Leaper, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

### **24. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 July 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **25. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest reported.

### **26. Police Matters**

There was no representative from the Police in attendance at the meeting.

### **27. Presentations, Communications, Questions and Motions**

The Mayor reported that Alistair Chisholm had been Dorchester's outstanding Town Crier for 25 years and presented him with a glass goblet on behalf of the Council.

The Council agreed that the Mayor should write to Prince of Wales School to thank them for all their help in collecting and distributing items for Ukraine. Members felt that the Mayor could also make a presentation to the school in robes.

It was reported that Damers First School had been awarded a national eco award and Members agreed that the Mayor should write a letter of congratulations on this achievement.

There were no Questions or Motions.

### **28. Planning and Environment Committee – 1 August 2022**

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

The Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee reported that the Committee would be giving consideration as to whether the Council should offer funding to support the Dorchester South accessibility project at its next meeting.

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 1 August 2022 be adopted.

#### **29. Planning and Environment Committee – 5 September 2022**

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

In respect of the introduction of 20mph speed limits it was reported that Dorset Council was about to consider a new policy on this matter. Concern was expressed that the policy was likely to include a requirement for a community speed watch group to be established for a year prior to any consideration being given by Dorset Council to the implementation of a 20mph area.

It was agreed that the Planning and Environment Committee should give initial consideration to the draft policy at its next meeting. Consideration to the final draft of the policy should also be given when it was in a position to be presented to Dorset Council Cabinet.

In respect of Minute No. 25 the Council expressed its deepest concerns regarding the untruths which appeared to be emanating from the Dorset Council's Leader and Planning Portfolio Holder in respect of reported agreements with Government, which had not been agreed by Government, in respect of the Local Plan process and timescale. Members also consider a report by the Town Clerk proposing that questions be prepared after the Dorset Council Cabinet meeting on 4 October 2022 when the Local Plan process and timescale was due to be discussed again. Members were encouraged to send any questions they would like asked to the Town Clerk.

### **Resolved**

(1) That the Planning and Environment Committee give initial consideration to the draft 20mph speed limit policy at its next meeting and that consideration to the final draft of the policy should also be given when it was in a position to be presented to Dorset Council Cabinet.

(2) That the Planning and Environment Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Town Clerk be authorised to prepare questions for the next Full Dorset Council meeting on the Local Plan process and timescale following the meeting of the Dorset Council Cabinet to be held on 4 October 2022.

(3) That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 5 September 2022 be adopted.

#### **30. Informal Management Committee – 12 September 2022**

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

It was noted that a response had yet to be received in respect of the proposed radio base station at Lubbecke Way. The Town Clerk to chase a response.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Informal Management Committee held on 12 September 2022 and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

31. **Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee – 26 July 2022**

The minutes of the Joint Committee meeting were noted.

The Council wished to congratulate Miranda Woodgate for all her work in making the Heritage Open Day a success despite not having a road closure due to Ironman and the complications around whether the event would go ahead at all due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

32. **Town Council Communication Strategy**

The Council considered the third draft of the Council's new Communication Strategy and it was

**Resolved**

That the Communication Strategy, as circulated with the agenda, be adopted.

33. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- The many difficulties being experienced by residents trying to obtain parking permits through the Dorset Council online system.
- Dorset Council was considering installing lighting at Fairfield car park – the Mayor agreed to write in support of the proposal.
- Dorset's National Transfer Scheme quota for unaccompanied children had been increased which meant that there would be a need to establish a unit within the County.
- It was reported that there was likely to be a £5 million budget shortfall at Dorset Council due to the proposed 2022-23 pay award.
- Some local residents had been taken on a tour of the new multi-storey hospital car park and had an opportunity to speak with representatives from the hospital
- More work was to be undertaken to improve Damers Road railways bridge.
- It was reported that there was a webinar coming up in respect of the draft library strategy, the Town Clerk to circulate details and Members were encouraged to attend.

- There would be further consultations on Dorset's Integrated Care System which would be beneficial to attend.
- Dorset Council was purchasing new car park pay and display machines and it was hoped to get at least one in each car park that accepted cash.
- The digital Acland Road car park sign always stated that the car park was busy or full when it was not.

Council rose at 8.29pm.

Mayor