

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

14 November 2022

Present: The Mayor (Councillor J. Hewitt) and Councillors A. Canning, L. Fry, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger (Chairman), D. Leaper, A. Lyall, R. Major, M. Rennie, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

In Attendance

Councillor F. Hogwood

J. Halsall, M. Noble and six others in respect of Minute No. 25

Apologies: Councillor R. Potter.

23. Minutes

The Minutes of the informal Meeting of the Committee held on 12 September 2022, adopted by Council on 26 September 2022, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

24. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

25. Castle Park Proposed BMX Trail

The Committee welcomed Jonathan Halsall, and those others in attendance, to the meeting. A proposal for a BMX trail at Castle Park had been circulated to the Committee and those in attendance at the meeting spoke enthusiastically about the project.

Members were very supportive of the project and suggested that it might be worth exploring whether any additional space could be available, funding options, future and ongoing maintenance and parking.

The Committee congratulated the group and offered ongoing support to the project.

Resolved

- (1) That the proposal for a BMX trail at Castle Park be supported.
- (2) That, if required, consideration be given to assisting the project financially from the play area reserve.

26. The Great Field -Trail

The Committee considered a report from the Outdoor Services Manager which included a proposal from People Need Nature to create a trail around the northern part of the Great Field so as to enable visitors to understand the various zones and to provide some

interpretation by way of oak posts with QR codes. Members felt that this was a good project which should be supported and requested that the Town Council's Seal be included on the posts.

Resolved

That the proposal be supported and People Need Nature be thanked for their work in creating the trail.

27. Management Arrangements

The Committee considered a report from the Outdoor Services Manager updating it on the work undertaken and the achievements made by the Outdoor Services Team since the last meeting of the Committee.

In respect of the trees to be removed from South Gate it was noted that five multi stemmed trees would be planted in their place. Members requested that information about what was happening to the trees should be posted on site as soon as possible.

Members requested that consideration be given to the location of the Service presently held at the German War Memorial.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

28. Town Council Tree Stock

Members had before them a report by the Outdoor Services Manager which summarised the findings of the latest survey of Council owned trees. The Committee was concerned about the three tree diseases currently in circulation and which would certainly have an impact of the town's trees. The report set out some general proposals for replanting at Sandringham Sports Centre and Frome Terrace Green and allotments which were welcomed. Detailed proposals for both areas would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

It was noted that the TPO layer on Dorset Explorer had been removed and Members asked whether it could be reinstated. The Committee felt that important trees should have TPO's even when in the Conservation Area and that the status of some of the trees at the County Hall campus should be ascertained.

Members requested that information be sought from Dorset Council in respect of replanting trees after a tree had been felled.

Resolved

- (1) That the future tree management proposals set out in the report be agreed.
- (2) That the need for a budget for felling and replanting be considered during the 2023-24 budget setting process.

29. **Low Carbon Heating Options for the Borough Gardens House and Nursery**

The Committee considered a report from the Outdoor Services Manager on the low carbon heating options available for the Borough Gardens House and Nursery. Air source heating had been identified as the most suitable option for both locations the cost of which was in the region of £28,000 for the Borough Gardens House and £43,000 for the nursery.

Members felt it important to continue its move towards low carbon heating options. It was noted that consideration would need to be given to any noise that might be created from converting to air source.

The Outdoor Services Manager confirmed that a further report would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee which would give further details and costings of the projects.

Resolved

- (1) That the principle of moving towards low carbon heating for the Borough Gardens House and the greenhouses be supported.
- (2) That a further report be presented to a future meeting of the Committee giving further details in respect of energy savings, costings and payback of the projects.
- (3) That funding for the projects start to be considered during the 2023-24 budget setting process.

30. **Extension to Borough Gardens Staff Accommodation**

Members had before them a report on the staff accommodation and facilities at the Borough Gardens. The Committee felt that the existing building was not suitable in its present form and that a small extension to the side would create sufficient additional space. This would also mean that the Borough Gardens House would once again become available for community hire.

Crickmay Stark Architects already had plans and details of the building due to them being the Architects appointed as part of the Lottery refurbishment of the Gardens. If agreed it was proposed to appoint them to design the extension and seek the necessary approvals for a fixed fee of £3,000. The anticipated cost of the extension was £40,000.

Resolved

- (1) That the extension to the Gardeners staff accommodation building be agreed and that the Policy Committee be requested to agree to fund the project from the Parks Premises Reserve.

- (2) That, subject to funding, Crickmay Starks be appointed to design the extension and seek all the necessary approvals for it on a fixed fee as reported to the Committee.

31. Coronation of HM King Charles III

The Committee noted that the Coronation of HM King Charles III was to take place on Saturday 6 May 2023 with a bank holiday on Monday 8 May 2023.

Members felt that a task and finish group should be established to consider whether an event should be held and if so what type of event it should be.

Resolved

That Councillors J. Hewitt, S. Jones, R. Major and M. Rennie, plus a representative from Policy Committee, form a task and finish group to consider whether an event should be held and if so what type of event it should be.

32. Allotment Fees 2023

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk which set out the cost of the various elements of the allotments service and gave recommendations for fee increases in 2023.

Resolved

- (1) That, as from 1 January 2023, the allotment rent and the water fee both be increase by £1.00 each no matter the size of the allotment plot.

- (2) That there is no increase in the administration charge in 2023; the fees will therefore be:-

Rent - Full plot on any site	£40.00
Rent - Half plot on any site	£24.00
Rent – Quarter plot on any site	£16.50
Water Charge – Full plot	£12.50
Water Charge – Half plot	£10.50
(excludes Frome Terrace – no water)	
Administration Fee for new tenants	£50.00

- (3) That the practice of charging double fees for non-Dorchester residents continues.

33. Grant Applications

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance. Members were informed that the Deputy Mayor and previous Deputy Mayor had indicated that if the Committee agreed to support the applications in respect of the Dorchester Community Church, Dorchester Family Support, STARS Dorset and the Dorset Carers Hub they would fund them from their unspent Mayoral allowances.

Resolved

- (1) That the grant application from the Brewery Square Residents Group in the sum of £100 be agreed.
- (2) That the grant application from the Dorchester Community Church in the sum of £500 be agreed.
- (3) That the grant application from Dorchester Family Support in the sum of £500 be agreed.
- (4) That the grant application from Sexual Trauma and Recovery Services (STARS) in the sum of £250 be agreed.
- (5) That the grant application from the Dorset Carers Hub be not agreed on this occasion.

34. Continuation of Meeting after 9.00pm

The Committee considered whether to continue the meeting for longer than the maximum two hours as specified in Standing Orders and it was

Resolved

That the meeting continue so as to be able to conclude the small amount of business as set out on the Agenda.

35. Cemetery Matters

(a) Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes

The report which detailed the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces and the number of interments and burials of ashes together with South Chapel usage at Dorchester Cemetery, since the last meeting of the Committee had been circulated with the agenda.

Resolved

That the report on the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(b) Headstones and Inscriptions

The Committee received and noted applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions.

Members also considered a memorial application for a specific headstone design proposed for a grave space at Weymouth Avenue Cemetery.

Resolved

(1) That the action of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 5298 to 5313 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(2) That the memorial application presented to the Committee be approved.

36. Salisbury Fields Picnic Table

Members were informed of a recent meeting held with the Police, Ward Councillors and local residents in respect of anti-social behaviour focussed in the area of the picnic bench at Salisbury Fields.

Resolved

That the picnic bench at Salisbury Fields be removed.

Chairman.....