

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

27 November 2023

Present: The Mayor (Councillor A. Chisholm) and Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, A. Canning, L. Fry, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, G. Jones, S. Jones, D. Leaper, R. Potter, K. Reid, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors T. Harries, S. Hosford, F. Kent-Ledger, R. Major and M. Rennie.

The Mayor reported on the death of Sue Cheeseman who worked for the Council for over 25 years. Members stood in silent memory.

34. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 25 September 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

35. Declarations of Interest

Councillor D. Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Minute No. 37 as he was a Dorset County Hospital Governor.

36. Police Matters

There was no report from the police at the meeting.

37. Presentations, Communications, Questions and Motions

The Council received a presentation from James Vincent and Serena Davis, Project Managers at NHS Dorset on the economic impact of opening the new NHS outpatient facility at South Walks House scheduled for 29 January 2024.

The representatives responded to Members detailed questions and the Mayor thanked them for attending the meeting.

The Mayor reported on a number of events and communications as follows:-

- Making Cities Liveable Conference which had been held at Poundbury.
- Judges Service with a procession and service at St Peters Church.
- The Council's annual Democracy Day.

In respect of the Judges Service Members felt that this event could be made more of by briefly closing High West Street for the procession. The Chairman of the Heritage Committee confirmed that the Committee would look at whether a more high profile event could be arranged in 2025.

No motions or questions had been submitted.

38. Planning and Environment Committee – 2 October 2023

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 2 October 2023 be adopted.

39. Planning and Environment Committee – 6 November 2023

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. It was noted that Councillor S. Jones was not present at the meeting and should therefore be deleted from those that had declared an interest at Minute No. 13.

Resolved

(1) That, subject to the amendment set out above, the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 6 November 2023 be adopted.

(2) That Councillors F. Hogwood, G. Jones and R. Potter be appointed to the Strategic Employment Land Task and Finish group.

40. Management Committee – 13 November 2023

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. In respect of Minute No. 22 it was reported that only one free parking day would be considered and that it was also agreed by the Committee that any donation to the Council from the Dorset Artisan Markets Ltd would be allocated as grants to the local community via the Dorchester Car Boot Grants Panel.

Resolved

That, subject to the amendments above, the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 13 November 2023 be adopted.

41. Policy Committee – 20 November 2023

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

Resolved

(1) That the assessed high level Strategic and Operational risks included in the Risk Register be approved and that the Risk Registers, as a whole, be approved.

(2) That the Mayor and Councillors J. Hewitt, S. Jones and D. Taylor be appointed to the Town Crier Appointments Panel.

(2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 20 November 2023 be adopted.

42. **Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee – 17 October 2023**

The minutes of the Joint Committee meeting were noted.

43. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- A review of the National Grid electricity infrastructure policy for Dorset. No new infrastructure until 2036 other than a plan for a new supply to the fields north of Dorchester.
- A review of the Treasury Management Plan and how to deal with a current estimated £12 million overspend.
- A Devolution Deal for Dorset and the implications for changing to a Committee System of decision making which was not recognised as valid by the Government.
- The urgent need for more foster carers across the county.
- Attendance at a Licensing Conference.
- Alternative waste recycling sites for Dorchester.
- Still no funding forthcoming for the Dorchester Youth and Community Centre.

The Council expressed concern regarding utilities apparently being provided in fields north of Dorchester when the land had not been allocated for housing in any approved Local Plan. Members requested the Town Clerk to write to Dorset Council asking if this was in fact the case.

The Deputy Mayor requested that a Coronation Plaque be placed where the new replacement trees had been planted at fiveways junction.

The Deputy Mayor also reported that a young Dorchester resident had won 4 gold medals and 1 silver medal at the recent British Down Syndrome Swimming Championships. The Council felt that this achievement should be recognised with a certificate to be presented at a future Council meeting.

Council rose at 8.35pm.

Mayor