

At the **ADJOURNED ANNUAL MEETING** of the **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Dorchester on Tuesday, 21st May, 2013:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor E.S. Jones) in the Chair.

Councillors V.J. Allan, K.E. Armitage, D.J. Barrett, A.J. Canning, T.C.N. Harries, T. James, G.M. Jones, Trevor Jones, F.E. Kent-Ledger, A.J. Lyall, P.G. Mann, R.B. Potter, M.E. Rennie, D.S. Roberts and D. Taylor.

In attendance:
Inspector S. Marsh, Dorset Police

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors C.S. Biggs, R.M. Biggs, S.C. Hosford and T. Loakes.

5. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th March, 2013, copies of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor thanked Members for attending the Mayor Making Service held on the 20th May, 2013. She also reminded Members that there was a reception for La Chorale Gourmande from Bayeux at 5.00pm on 31st May, 2013 and that the Thomas Hardy Wreath Laying would take place at 5.30pm on 1st June, 2013.

7. **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received in accordance with Standing Order 12(3).

8. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 2nd APRIL, 2013**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 2nd April, 2013 be adopted.

Minute 75(b) – Car Parking Issues – Lower Section of Alice Road – In response to a question from a Member the Town Clerk confirmed that a response had been received from Dorset County Council which would be reported to the next meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee.

Minute 77 – Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan – In response to a question from a Member the Town Clerk stated that a special meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee would only be arranged when there was something new to discuss about the Dorchester Transport Environment Plan.

Minute 80 – A-Boards – In response to a question the Town Clerk confirmed that he had circulated the information on the outcome of Dorset County Council's Cabinet considerations in respect of the issue of A-Boards in the town centre. He agreed to provide hard copies of the information to Members without an e-mail facility.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 2nd April, 2013 be adopted.

9. **SELECTION COMMITTEE – 18th APRIL, 2013**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Selection Committee held on 18th April, 2013 be adopted.

Minute 3 – Representation on Outside Bodies – Councillor D. Taylor volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Dorchester Association for Research into Local History and Archaeology, Councillor K.E. Armitage volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Dorchester Community Nursery School, Councillors V.J. Allan and T.C.N. Harries volunteered to fill the vacancies on the Dorchester Crime Prevention Panel, Councillor G.M. Jones volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership and Councillor R.B. Potter volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Promote Dorchester Community Interest Company.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That Councillor D. Taylor be appointed to represent the Council on the Dorchester Association for Research into Local History and Archaeology for the 2013-14 Council Year.
- (2) That Councillor K.E. Armitage be appointed to represent the Council on the Dorchester Community Nursery School for the 2013-14 Council Year.
- (3) That Councillors V.J. Allan and T.C.N. Harries be appointed to represent the Council on the Dorchester Crime Prevention Panel for the 2013-14 Council Year in addition to Councillor K.E. Armitage.
- (4) That Councillor G.M. Jones be appointed to represent the Council on the Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership for the 2013-14 Council Year.
- (5) That Councillor R.B. Potter be appointed to represent the Council on the Promote Dorchester Community Interest Company for the 2013-14 Council Year.

It was also

RESOLVED

- (6) That the Minutes of the Selection Committee held on 18th April, 2013 be adopted.

10. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 29th APRIL, 2013**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 29th April, 2013 be adopted.

Minute 82 – Queen Mother Square – Members asked that the Duchy of Cornwall be requested to provide further information regarding whether or not the traffic issues previously identified would be likely to be helped when the surface finishes had been applied to the shared space at Queen Mother Square and what the likely timescale was for the completion of works in this area.

Minute 85(a) – Dorset County Council – 20mph Areas – Members expressed their dismay at the response from Dorset County Council regarding the implementation of 20mph speed restrictions. It was reported that the guide produced by a partnership led by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents entitled Road Safety: A Guide for Local Councillors in England clearly stated that 20mph schemes not only reduced the risk of crashes, but also pedestrians had a much greater chance of surviving if they were hit by a vehicle at 20mph or less, rather than 30mph. Members wished to know why Dorset County Council appeared unaware of the guide and why the Town Council had received such tendentious correspondence from the County Council which had stated that a 20mph speed limit would not always reduce collisions and the impact of collisions. The Town Clerk confirmed that additional information on this matter would be provided at the next meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee but that no officer from the County Council would be in attendance. It was also reported that the introduction of 20mph areas did increase the level of road pollution.

Minute 86 – Stop the Drop – It was reported that future activities of Dorchester Stop The Drop would be managed through the Dorchester Area Community Partnership group and Members agreed that the Council should no longer appoint a representative to the group.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Duchy of Cornwall be requested to provide comment on the likelihood of the traffic issues previously identified being resolved when the surface finishes had been applied to the shared space at Queen Mother Square and on the anticipated timescale for the carrying out of this work.
- (2) That Dorset County Council be informed of the publication ‘Road Safety: A Guide for Local Councillors in England’ and requested to explain why it had not taken notice of the

information provided in that guide in the response sent to the Town Council.

- (3) That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 29th April, 2013 be adopted.

11. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 7th MAY, 2013**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 7th May, 2013 be adopted.

Minute 81 – King’s Road Playing Field – Arising from the consideration of this Minute the Mayor informed Members that a narrow footpath was being created along the river bank on the opposite side of the river to King’s Road Playing Field. The path would be delineated by a wire fence and behind that there would be a barbed wire fence so as to contain cattle which were to be grazed in the field.

Minute 82 – Future Maintenance Arrangements for Fordington Fields and Max Gate Roundabouts – The Chairman of the Committee informed Members that himself, the Mayor and the Deputy Town Clerk had met with the officer from Dorset County Council responsible for the roundabout sponsorship initiative who had stated that he was content for the Town Council to continue maintaining the roundabouts at its own expense and that if this was agreed the sponsorship signs would be amended to say ‘In Partnership with Dorchester Town Council’. Future maintenance of the roundabouts would be discussed again at the next meeting of the Management Committee. It was noted that some maintenance work had been undertaken by the County Council to the Fordington Fields roundabout.

It was

RESOLVED

That, subject to Councillor D.J. Barrett being included in the list of Members who had apologised for non-attendance at the meeting, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee held on 7th May, 2013 be adopted.

12. **POLICY COMMITTEE – 14th MAY, 2013**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 14th May, 2013 be adopted.

Minute 58 – Living Wage – Members wished to discuss this matter and it was agreed that this discussion should take place after the period for public questions as it was likely that the matter would need to be considered with the press and public excluded from the meeting.

It was

RESOLVED

That, with the exception of Minute 58, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 14th May, 2013 be adopted.

13. **CHEQUE SIGNATORIES**

It was

RESOLVED

That the Mayor (Councillor E.S. Jones) and Councillors R.M. Biggs, A.J. Canning, T.C.N. Harries, F.E. Kent-Ledger, R.B. Potter and M.E. Rennie be authorised to sign cheques issued on behalf of the Council during the period ending with the Annual Council Meeting in 2014.

14. **CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES – 2013-14**

In accordance with Standing Order 39 it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That Councillor R.B. Potter be appointed Chairman and Councillor K.E. Armitage be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee.
- (2) That Councillor F.E. Kent-Ledger be appointed Chairman and Councillor S.C. Hosford be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee.
- (3) That Councillor Trevor Jones be appointed Chairman and Councillor G.M. Jones be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Policy Committee.

15. **POLICE MATTERS**

Inspector Marsh reported on the crime statistics for Dorchester and updated Members on current police issues and initiatives.

16. **ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING**

It was

RESOLVED

That the Meeting stand adjourned to enable the period for public questions to be held.

17. **RECONVENING OF THE MEETING**

Following the period for public questions the Council reconvened.

18. **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

It was

RESOLVED

That, in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matter, the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this Meeting during its discussion.

19. **POLICY COMMITTEE – 14th MAY, 2013 – MINUTE 58 – LIVING WAGE**

The Chairman of the Policy Committee informed Members of the reasoning behind implementing the Town Clerk's report with effect from 1st October, 2013. As an amendment it was proposed and seconded that the implementation date should be changed from 1st October, 2013 to 1st April, 2013.

On being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST** and it was

RESOLVED

That Minute 58 of the Policy Committee held on 14th May, 2013 be adopted

The Council rose at 7.51pm.

Mayor