

## **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**17 JULY 2017**

At the Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 17 July 2017:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors: C. Biggs G. Jones
	Officer: S. Newman
West Dorset District Council	Councillors: A. Canning (Chairman)
Dorset County Council	Councillor: R. Biggs
Blue Badge Tourist Guides	T. Loasby
Dorchester Association	J. Smith
Dorchester Civic Society	P. Mann
Dorchester Chamber for Business	A. Chisholm
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve	C. Hebditch

#### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Dunseith and S. Jones (West Dorset District Council), J. Murden (Dorset Natural history and Archaeological Society), A. Bright (Shire Hall) and C. Copson (The Keep Military Museum).

#### 2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

#### **RESOLVED**

That Councillor A. Canning be elected Chairman for the remainder of the 2017-18 Council Year.

#### 3. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

## **RESOLVED**

That Councillor G. Jones be elected Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the 2017-18 Council Year.

### 4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2017, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

### 5. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

### 6. **THOMAS HARDY TRAIL**

Members were reminded that at the last meeting of the Committee it was resolved:-

*“That enquiries be made as to which organisation was responsible for the implementation and ongoing maintenance of the Hardy trail.”*

The Committee was informed that West Dorset District Council was responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the trail – if Members knew of any information boards that were missing or needed updating they should be reported direct to the District Council or via the Deputy Town Clerk.

## **RESOLVED**

That the position be noted.

### 7. **PEDESTRIAN WAYFINDING SIGNS**

The Committee was informed that the full grant application to the South Dorset Local Action Group Leader Rural Development Programme for a grant towards a new pedestrian wayfinding scheme for Dorchester had been approved. It was proposed that an outline design and scheme would be worked up over the summer and it was hoped that the draft scheme would be available for Members consideration at its next meeting.

It was noted that the Committee had previously identified a Group to work on the wayfinding scheme and it was agreed that this Group continue so as to enable progress of the scheme between formal meetings of the Committee should the need arise.

It was reported that Officers from Dorset County Council had been invited to attend a meeting to see if it was possible to take advantage of this opportunity to do something about the proliferation of ‘A’ boards in the town. Members felt that this opportunity should not be missed and noted that Chichester had been successful in reducing the number of ‘A’ Boards.

Members also discussed what should be signed as a part of the wayfinding scheme and agreed that a policy should be established. The Committee also considered whether a CityScape map could be incorporated into the scheme or whether that map could be provided independently.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the grant received towards a pedestrian wayfinding scheme for Dorchester be welcomed.
- (2) That the group previously established to discuss the detail of the scheme continue. The Group comprised of the Chairman of the Committee and Councillors S. Jones, A. Chisholm, J. Dunseath, F. Kent-Ledger and Kate Hebditch.
- (3) That a policy for what should be included within the signing be established.
- (4) That information be sought from Chichester regarding how that town had dealt with the issue of 'A' Boards.

#### **8. THE REAL TOWN TOURS – DORCHESTER APP**

Members received a presentation on a new town trails App which had been developed by Dorchester BID. The Committee felt that the App was good and could be developed further with additional trails, being available in other languages etc.

The Committee felt that it would be beneficial to invite a BID representative to the next meeting to see how the Committee could work with the BID to develop the App further.

In respect of the content already included within the App it was noted that there was reference to 'Poundbury New Town' which it was not.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Real Town Tour App be welcomed.
- (2) That a representative from the BID be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to discuss how the Committee could work with the BID to develop the App further.
- (3) That the reference to 'Poundbury New Town' be changed.

#### **9. 2016-17 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members considered the Committee's Statement of Accounts for 2016-17.

In regard to the sales of 'Let's Explore Dorchester' it was felt that it might be worth contacting 'Roving Books' and have the title included within its stock.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the 2016-17 Statement of Accounts be received.
- (2) That 'Roving Books' be contacted to see if the 'Let's Explore Dorchester' would be suitable for inclusion in its stock line.

#### 10. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Members had before them correspondence received from a local resident regarding the location of Thomas Hardy Statue and Frink Statues and suggestions for ideas to improve South Street.

The Committee welcomed the interest of the local resident and gave consideration to the matters raised. With regard to the Thomas Hardy statue Members agreed that the location was not ideal. However, the cost of moving the statue had been investigated some year ago and the cost at that time was approximately £40,000 and it was therefore felt that this would not be feasible at the present time. With regard to the Frink Statue Members felt that the present location was the correct one as it was the old Dorchester Gallows, it was also noted that the statue was now Listed and approval to move it was therefore highly unlikely.

The Committee agreed that it would be good to have additional public art in and around the town centre to add to what was already in place. It was felt that a sculpture trail could be developed, maybe via the new Town Trails App.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the correspondent be thanked for the interest he has shown in the Town but that for the reasons given above his suggestions not be pursued at the present time.

#### 11. **ST OSMUND'S MIDDLE SCHOOL – WW1 EVENT**

The Committee was informed that St Osmund's Middle School was researching Dorchester and The Great War. The school pupils were working with local historians and musicians to present their findings in the form of a play, open to all, which would include music and singing. The play was to be performed at Thomas Hardy School in March 2018. The research and play was very much a community project and was very Dorchester based – it was bringing the history and heritage of the town to life for the young people working on the project. The pupils were looking for financial support to help with the cost of sound, lighting, scenery etc.

Members felt that this was a very worthwhile project and should be supported subject to a DVD of the play being passed to The Keep Museum and the Committee being acknowledged as a funder of the project.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to give a grant of £750 to the project, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

### 12. **DORCHESTER BOUNDARY STONE**

Members were reminded that at the last meeting of the Committee it was agreed that investigations be made into whether it would be possible to directly engrave the Dorchester boundary stone which had recently lost its cast iron plaque. Following discussion with a local stonemason it would seem that this was not going to be possible due to the quality of the stone. The stonemason had proposed an engraved stone plaque which could then be attached to the stone.

It was suggested that a 3D plastic print of the plaque might be a solution and the Vice-Chairman agreed to investigate this possibility.

It was also reported that local historian Jo Draper had recently died and the Committee felt that consideration be given, at the next meeting, as to whether there was an opportunity for some form of memorial or plaque for Jo.

## **RESOLVED**

(1) That the Vice-Chairman of the Committee investigate whether a 3D render of the Boundary stone plaque would be appropriate.

(2) That that consideration be given, at the next meeting, as to whether there was an opportunity for some form of memorial or plaque in respect of Jo Draper.

### 13. **INFORMATION SIGNS - UPDATE**

#### Maumbury Rings

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Committee that the new 'Welcome to Maumbury Rings' and 'Looking After Maumbury Rings' signs had now been installed and had received favourable comments.

#### Frink Sculpture

Members had before them the draft new information board for the Frink Sculpture. The Committee felt that the information board was good but that it could be changed to reduce the amount of information about Chideok, increase the information about Elizabeth Frink and link to other related sites. It was noted that the board would have a QR tag included and that a significant amount of additional information could be included on the website. It was agreed that the board would be revised taking into consideration the points raised by the Committee.

14. **QUESTIONS**

No formal questions had been submitted.

15. **URGENT ITEMS**

The representative from the Dorchester Chamber of Business reported that he had booked a table at the Portland Port Trade Fair on 19 October 2017. If any Member wished to promote their activity please contact him. It was noted that the TIC did have a good video of some of Dorchester's many attractions.

The Vice-Chairman queried whether a 'heritage audit' of the town had ever been completed. It was noted that Historic England had a large amount of information with regard to Listed building and monuments, there was a significant amount of archaeological information and the Dorset County Museum held the Thomas Hardy archive. It was also noted that the County Council historic towns project would have collected data but that this had yet to be put into a report due to a lack of funding.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to have a comprehensive audit at some stage.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 16 October 2017 commencing at 7.00pm.

Chairman:

Dated: