

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

21 JANUARY 2020

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 21 January 2020:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	S. Biles F. Hogwood G. Jones (Chairman) F. Kent-Ledger R. Major
In Attendance		S. Hosford
	Officers:	S. Newman T. Hedger
Dorset Council	Councillors:	A. Canning L. Fry S. Jones
Ancient & Honorary Guild of Town Criers		A. Chisholm
Blue Badge Tourist Guides		T. Loasby
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
National Trust (for Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage)		M. Stephen

16. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Taylor (Dorset Council), M. Woodgate (Dorchester Chamber for Business), A. Bright (Shire Hall) and L. Gardner (The Keep Military Museum).

17. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2019, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

In respect of Minute No. 11 Members were informed of the proposed Town Council project to make street scape improvements to the Cornhill area of town. Specialist consultants, who would help in designing the scheme had been interviewed and it was anticipated that an appointment would be made in the near future. It was noted that there was presently no sign giving information about the Town Pump.

In respect of Minutes No 14 it was noted that work had commenced on improvements to the Roman Town House and the Chairman confirmed that he had written to Dorset Council regarding the Committee's concerns regarding its draft Corporate Plan.

18. **RESIGNATION FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Members were informed that Kate Hebditch has resigned from the Committee. Kate had been a long standing member of the Committee and had given much of her time for free to the Committee in respect of the town's interpretation panels, lotter bids, policy papers and more.

The Committee wished to formally record its grateful thanks for all the work that had been undertaken by Kate, over many years, for the Committee.

19. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

20. **MOULE INFORMATION BOARDS – SALISBURY FIELDS**

The Committee welcomed local resident Mark Chutter who presented a proposal to the Committee in respect of an information board about Reverend Henry Moule and the vicarage. It was proposed that the board be located in Salisbury Fields.

Members were supportive of the proposal and Mr Chutter confirmed that he would be happy to provide text and some images of which he had a selection and showed to the Committee.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that he would liaise with Mr Chutter regarding producing the board in the style of the other information boards provided by the Committee and to also look for funding opportunities.

RESOLVED

That the idea for an information board be supported and that progress in developing the board be reported back to the Committee in due course.

21. **THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

The Committee had before it a report, which appended the notes of the Steering Group meeting and a first draft Heritage Tourism Strategy prepared by the Heritage Tourism Project Manager. Background papers to the report and draft strategy had also been placed on the Town Council's website for Members to view prior to the meeting. It was noted that any reference to 'stakeholder group' should read 'steering group'.

The background papers included information on The Heritage Role in Tourism, The Impact of Tourism in Dorchester, Development and Delivery of Tourism in Dorchester and Local Context and Issues.

The Heritage Tourism Project Manager introduced the report and gave a presentation on the draft strategy and responded to Members many detailed questions.

Members firmly stressed the importance of heritage and culture being the main thrust of the strategy and not drifting away from that, it was also felt important that the community support, and be involved in, the development of the strategy and that it be a sustainable one. It was noted that a heritage audit would be undertaken and that branding was a key part of the strategy.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the terms of reference, representation and purpose and focus of the steering group, as set out in the report, be agreed subject to the strategy focusing on heritage and culture which should appeal to the widest cross section of visitors.
- (2) That the engagement proposals set out in the report, to include a facilitated workshop, be agreed.
- (3) That the funding proposals for visions and brand development, as set out in the report, be agreed.

22. **THOMAS HARDY VICTORIAN FAIR – 7 JUNE 2020**

The Chairman updated the Committee on progress with the arrangements for the second Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair to be held on 7 June 2020 which included the appointment of an events officer and a sponsorship fundraising officer. Members were supportive of the progress made and requested that information about it be included within the next Town Council Newsletter.

RESOLVED

That the progress made in developing the 2020 Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair be welcomed and supported.

23. **QUESTIONS**

The representative from the Dorchester Association asked what action could be taken with regard to the Thai Restaurant at the top of High West Street having unsightly advertising hand painted on its upper floor frontage. It was noted that the building was Listed and within the Dorchester Conservation Area.

Councillor L. Fry agreed that he would take the matter up with the Dorset Council Planning Enforcement Officers and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

24. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

Chairman: