

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE HELD VIA THE ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM

21 JULY 2020

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

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council

Councillors: S. Biles
F. Hogwood
G. Jones (Chairman)
F. Kent-Ledger
R. Major

Officers: S. Newman
T. Hedger

Dorset Council

Councillors: R. Biggs
S. Jones
D. Taylor

In attendance

Councillor S. Hosford and M. Chutter

Ancient & Honourable Guild of Town Criers
Blue Badge Tourist Guides
Dorchester Association
Dorchester Chamber for Business
Dorchester Civic Society
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve
Dorset History Centre
National Trust (for Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage)
The Keep Military Museum

A. Chisholm
T. Loasby
M. Rice
M. Woodgate
I. Gosling
L. Poulsen
S. Johnson
M. Stephen
L. Gardner

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Canning and L. Fry (Dorset Council) and A. King (Shire Hall Museum).

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That Councillor G. Jones be elected Chairman for the remainder of the 2020-21 Council Year.

3. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That Councillor A. Canning be elected Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the 2020-21 Council Year.

4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the special meeting held on 26 May 2020, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

5. **NEW MEMBER**

Members welcomed Linda Poulsen to the meeting who had been appointed as the Dorchester Local Nature Reserve representative to the Committee.

6. **DORSET HISTORY CENTRE**

The Committee considered amending the terms of reference of the Committee so as to allow a representative from the Dorset History Centre to become part of its membership.

RESOLVED

That the Dorset History Centre be included within the membership of the Committee.

7. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

8. **SALISBURY FIELDS - MOULE INFORMATION BOARD**

Members were reminded that the Committee had previously agreed to a proposal from local resident Mark Chutter for an information board in memory of his grandmother and regarding Reverend Henry Moule and the vicarage to be located at Salisbury Fields. Mr Chutter had produced some text and provided some images which had previously been shown to the Committee, that could be used to form the basis of the information board. The total cost of producing the board in the existing information board style would be around £2,200.

The Committee thanked Mr Chutter for his work and agreed that the text form the basis of an information board at Salisbury Fields but that the amount of text be reduced with additional detail being able to be found through a QR tag on the board. The Curator from The Keep and Councillor David Taylor offered to help revise the text to be agreed by the Dorchester East Members. It was also agreed that the £1,400 which remained in the Committee's reserves for information boards/blue plaques be contributed towards the

project with the remaining funds being provided by Mr Chutter.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the text provided by Mr Chutter form the basis of an information board at Salisbury Fields and that the Curator of The Keep Military Museum and Councillor D Taylor help revise the text to approximately 200 words.
- (2) That £1,400 be committed to the project from the Committee's information board / blue plaque reserve.

9. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

(i) Progress Report

Members received and noted the progress report of the Heritage Tourism Project Manager which had been circulated with the agenda.

(ii) Heritage Audit Progress and Update

The Committee considered a report by the Heritage Tourism Project Manager which updated it on the progress being made with the Heritage Audit being undertaken by Red Kite. The report also included a progress report from Red Kite.

Members felt that it was important to include information regarding Dorchester as a Market Town as well as the brewery within the work being undertaken.

The report set out a proposal for public consultation which included a mixture of direct email contact to those local individuals and organisations who had an interest in the project plus a Facebook survey which would capture views from people who had visited Dorchester as well as those who had not. There would be an additional cost of £1,275 to undertake the digital survey which could be accommodated from within the Heritage Tourism project budget. Whilst agreeing the consultation process the need to include young people within it was noted.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the progress report be noted.
- (2) That a digital survey be undertaken at a cost of £1,275.

(iii) Draft Heritage Tourism Strategy

Members received a presentation from the Heritage Tourism Project Manager on the draft Heritage Tourism Strategy which had been circulated to the Committee. The draft Strategy had been examined by the Steering Group which had made some comments on the action plan which were set out in the covering report. The report also set out the proposed arrangements for consultation with the community, businesses, business organisations and

interest groups.

The Heritage Tourism Project Manager responded to Members detailed questions and comments on the draft Strategy which included the future of a visitor centre, training of volunteers, accommodation provision including camps sites and provision of cycle routes, electric vehicle charge points, electric bike hire etc.

Members felt that the following matters were important to the success of the Strategy:-

- The need for the proposed new post to drive the finalised Strategy forward with an agreed critical path and key performance indicators.
- That the future threat to the natural environment of the proposed housing development to the north of Dorchester needed to be addressed in the Strategy.
- That as many groups, organisations, volunteers, businesses be used as ambassadors for the town.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the draft Heritage Tourism Strategy be agreed for consultation.
- (2) That the outstanding comments from the Steering Group and the Committee be considered at the appropriate stage.
- (3) That the consultation process and timeline, as set out in the report, be agreed.

10. **LETS EXPLORE DORCHESTER PUBLICATION**

The Committee considered a report by the Heritage Tourism Project Manager which set out some options for the 7,500 copy stock of the 'Lets Explore Dorchester' publication presently held in the Council's Depot.

RESOLVED

- (1) That a copy of the publication be given to all 5-11 years olds in Dorchester Schools at an appropriate time away from the start of the new term in September.
- (2) That the publication be offered for sale to the TIC and other interested outlets including attractions, accommodation providers, shops, and cafes for a cost price of £1.65 and a retail price of £2.50. Copies supplied to be "invoiced on net sale" minimising the risk to the outlet, reducing the administration at the Town Council.

11. **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received.

12. **URGENT ITEMS**

It was reported that the Thomas Hardy Trail board located at Max Gate was in a very poor condition and that a number of the other trail boards were in a similarly poor state. It was noted that the Hardy Trail project was originally undertaken by Dorset County Council and the Committee requested that Dorset Council be asked what its intention was with regard to the future of the trail / boards.

Chairman.....