

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE HELD VIA THE ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM

20 JULY 2021

At a virtual Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 20 July 2021:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	S. Biles F. Hogwood G. Jones R. Major
	Officers:	S. Newman T. Hedger M. Manley N. Hayes
Dorset Council	Councillors:	R. Biggs A. Canning L. Fry S. Jones R. Tarr
<u>In Attendance</u>	Councillor	S. Hosford
Blue Badge Tourist Guides		T. Loasby
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
Dorchester Civic Society		T. James
Dorchester Heritage Magazine		M. Woodgate
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve		L. Poulsen
Dorset History Centre		M. Gayton
Thomas Hardy Society		M. Chutter

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. Chisholm (Dorchester Town Council) and A. Worth (Keep 106 Community Radio).

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That Councillor G. Jones be elected Chairman for the remainder of the 2021-22 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 2021-22 Council Year.

4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2021, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

The representative from the Thomas Hardy Society reported that the Fordington Vicarage information board had been officially opened and that the event had been a great success. It was hoped that more events could be organised with the Thomas Hardy Society.

5. **MEMBERSHIP**

The Committee considered whether to amend its terms of reference so as to include the Dorchester Heritage Magazine on the list of non-voting organisations to be represented on the Committee.

Members also welcomed Councillor Roland Tarr as the new Dorset Council representative in place of Councillor David Taylor.

RESOLVED

That the Dorchester Heritage Magazine be included within the non-voting membership of the Committee and that Miranda Woodgate from the magazine, be welcomed to the meeting.

6. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

(a) **Heritage Tourism Strategy - Progress**

The Committee considered a report by the Heritage Tourism Project Manager which updated it on progress with the project and reported on the next steps. Members were shown the Town branding which had been designed which they felt was very appropriate. The fact that there was a range of colours to select from was also welcomed.

It was suggested that local independent shops have a priority over national chains on the new App and that the new website should aim not to replicate other websites.

RESOLVED

That the progress report be noted.

(b) Dorchester Tourism Partnership -Notes of meeting

The Committee received the notes of the meeting of the Tourism Partnership held on 6 July 2021.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the meeting of the Dorchester Tourism Partnership held on 6 July 2021 be received.

(c) Welcome Dorchester Programme

Members had before them a report by the Tourism Development Officer on the development of the Welcome Dorchester Programme. The report identified a number of actions which had been agreed by the Partnership as a priority. Those actions required a budget of £3,000 from the £7,500 allocated to the Programme.

In considering the proposals Members requested that consideration be given to:-

- Using sustainable/recycled materials for leaflets and possibly a reusable solution instead of the paper children colouring activity.
- Improving the welcome visitors receive when arriving at the train stations.
- Cycling tours and routes and signing, particularly at Poundbury which had very little signage for cyclists.
- Information to be made available in supermarkets.

RESOLVED

That £3,000 be allocated from the Welcome Dorchester Programme budget.

7. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020-21**

The Committee considered the statement of accounts 2020-21 that had been circulated with the agenda. Members felt that the Committee was being hampered by not having a regular income as had been the case in the past. A regular income allowed for smaller but important projects to be undertaken in a timely way, allowed the Committee to provide seed funding for larger projects, allowed for the regular events to be established etc.

It was noted that larger projects would most likely require specific grant funding. Members felt that it would be beneficial to start putting together a forward plan of larger events and projects. Any ideas for future events or activities to be emailed to the Chairman and Deputy Town Clerk.

It was noted that regular funding from Dorset Council was unlikely to be forthcoming.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the statement of accounts be noted.
- (2) That a report be presented to the next meeting of the Committee in respect of

future funding arrangements and forward plan.

8. **MILL STREAM PATH – SECTION FROM LONDON ROAD TO MILL STREET**

The Committee had been circulated with a report from the Deputy Town Clerk on suggestions to improve the Mill Stream area using information boards based around the industrial history and heritage of the area.

Members welcomed the idea and suggested a much larger project to include youth and community participation, visual art and history etc, which would require significant grant funding to allow for a project officer to develop the idea further.

Maria Gayton, Linda Paulson and Councillors G. Jones, S. Jones and R. Major agreed to form a working group to work up and shape the project in readiness for grant applications.

RESOLVED

That Maria Gayton, Linda Paulson and Councillors G. Jones, S. Jones and R. Major form a working group to work up and shape the project in readiness for grant applications.

9. **THOMAS HARDY VICTORIAN FAIR - 2021**

The Chairman provided feedback from the event held in June, the total cost of which was £3,626. The three live events were very successful as were the online presentations.

RESOLVED

That the feedback be noted.

10. **HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2021**

The Chairman updated the Committee on plans for the Heritage Open Day, to take place in Dorchester on the week commencing 12 September 2021.

The National Heritage Day Theme for 2021 was 'Edible England' and it was proposed that the Town's theme would be 'Taste of Dorchester' with activities taking place throughout the Town, including Poundbury. There would also be an online aspect to the event which was still being worked up. The Chairman requested that any ideas be sent to him.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

11. **MEETING DATES**

It was agreed that the meeting dates for the remainder of the Council year would be:-

Tuesday 19 October 2021 commencing at 7.00pm

Tuesday 18 January 2022 commencing at 7.00pm

Tuesday 19 April 2022 commencing at 7.00pm.

12. **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received.

13. **URGENT ITEMS**

Councillor A. Canning updated the Committee on progress with the Poetry Trail project which was to be titled 'Dorset Ways with Words'. Funding would be requested from a Lottery bid and through Crowdfunding. On the 31 July 2021 a poetry performance would take place in the Borough Gardens followed by performances elsewhere around the town. Members felt that this was an excellent project which should be fully supported.

It was reported that this would be Tim Loasby's last meeting. The Chairman thanked Tim for his attendance, knowledge and support over many years. Tim thanked the Committee on which he had enjoyed serving. He reported that he would be replaced on the Committee by Joy Wallis.

Councillor S. Jones requested that the Walks mosaic project be considered again at the next meeting of the Committee.

Chairman.....