

## **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE HELD VIA THE ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING PLATFORM**

**19 OCTOBER 2021**

At a virtual Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 19 October 2021:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	S. Biles A. Chisholm F. Hogwood G. Jones (Chairman)
	Officers:	S. Newman M. Manley N. Hayes
Dorset Council	Councillors:	R. Biggs L. Fry S. Jones
<u>In Attendance</u>	Councillor	S. Hosford
Blue Badge Tourist Guides		J. Wallis
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
Dorchester Civic Society		J. Doak
Dorchester Heritage Magazine		M. Woodgate
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve		L. Poulsen
Dorset History Centre		M. Gayton
Keep 106 Community Radio		A. Worth
Shire Hall		A. King and T. Eddey
The National Trust (Max Gate)		R. Raine

#### 14. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Canning and R. Major (Dorchester Town Council), E. Metcalfe (Keep Military Museum), I. Gosling (Dorchester Civic Society) and M. Chutter (Thomas Hardy Society).

#### 15. **MINUTES**

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

The Local Nature Reserve representative confirmed that she had not volunteered to be a part

of the Mill Stream Working Group although she did have some good publications on the area which might be useful for the project.

16. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

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

The Committee considered a report and presentation by the Heritage Tourism Project Manager which updated it on progress with the project and reported on the next steps. The report also updated Members on the Welcome Dorchester programme as follows:-

- Leaflets and posters would be finished by the end of October
- Work was ongoing in respect of Tourist Information Points, meeting to take place 2 November 2021.
- Promoted social media posts had been delayed until the new website was completed, some short videos were in the process of being made for this purpose.

In respect of the draft leaflet Members stressed the importance of Poundbury being a part of Dorchester. It was also requested that the whole of Dorchester East be included on the map.

(b) **Dorchester Tourism Partnership -Notes of meeting**

The Committee received the notes of the meeting of the Tourism Partnership held on 5 October 2021.

**RESOLVED**

That the notes of the meeting of the Dorchester Tourism Partnership held on 5 October 2021 be received.

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

The Committee heard an update from the Deputy Town Clerk, the Working Group had their first meeting on the 12 October 2021, where it was agreed that letters would be sent to the effected businesses and properties, requesting permissions, seeking their buy in to the project and possibly seeking sponsorship. The Working Group was looking into potential funding and innovative interpretation ideas, noting that the space in question was very restricted, and would be meeting again on the 4 November 2021.

It was noted that McCarthy Stone had been approached with a request for funding, an acknowledgement had been received but nothing further.

18. **HERITAGE OPEN DAY - SEPTEMBER 2021**

The Chairman provided feedback on the Heritage Open Day events held in September. He thanked the project manager, Miranda Woodgate, for her hard work and also reported on the various events that had taken place. A balance of £152.73 had been carried forward to next year's event. All the events had been well attended and Keep 106 Radio and Casterbridge

Rotary were also thanked for their help at those events.

**RESOLVED**

That the feedback be noted.

19. **COMMITTEE FUNDING**

The Committee considered a report from the Chairman of the Committee on future revenue and event funding.

In regard to regular ongoing funding it was felt highly unlikely that Dorset Council would agree to this proposal.

In respect of the proposed request for regular event infrastructure/project manager funding it was suggested that the request to the Town Council should identify all the sources of match funding for the events such as sponsorship, Dorchester BID, grants etc.

It was noted that a separate request for funding towards THVF 2022 may need to be submitted due to the timings of the Town Council's budget cycle.

**RESOLVED**

That, subject to the comments set out above, the Committee Chairman to write to Dorchester Town Council and Dorset Council requesting ongoing and regular event funding as set out in the report.

20. **REPLACEMENT BENCH – FRONT OF DORSET MUSEUM**

The Committee was reminded that it had previously agreed to the idea of a bench at the front of the Dorset Museum in the memory of local historian Jo Draper and her husband Chris. Now that the building works to the museum had been completed Members gave further consideration to the type of bench that might be suitable.

It was felt that the new bench should be one that was smart and in keeping with the museum and its immediate surrounds and a single long bench rather than two individual benches that were located there previously.

It was noted that the Committee had earmarked £500 towards the cost of a bench and it was likely that the Jo's family and friends would also wish to make a donation towards the cost.

**RESOLVED**

That investigations be made into a suitable double length bench in memory of Jo Draper and her husband Chris.

21 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRAIL OF DORCHESTER**

Councillor F. Hogwood proposed an archaeological trail of Dorchester leaflet to better

highlight some of the fantastic archaeology around the town. The Committee felt that the town had so much to offer of national importance in this regard that a series of trails in differing formats might be required.

The Committee felt that this matter should be given further consideration and proposed that it be included for discussion in the forthcoming Tourism Partnership workshops being arranged to brainstorm and prioritise projects that would celebrate and enhance the town heritage offer.

#### **RESOLVED**

That proposal be welcomed and that it be included for discussion in the forthcoming Tourism Partnership workshops being arranged to brainstorm and prioritise projects that would celebrate and enhance the town heritage offer.

#### 22. **ROMAN MOSAIC PROJECT – THE WALKS**

Members considered further a proposal from a local resident in respect of the possibility of displaying replica Roman mosaic around the town Walks. Members had been circulated with examples of how this may look.

The Committee was supportive of the idea and agreed that a Working Group should be established to give the proposal further detailed consideration.

#### **RESOLVED**

That a Working Group be established consisting of Councillors F. Hogwood and S. Jones, L. Poulson, M. Woodgate and the Tourism Development Officer.

#### 23. **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received.

#### 24. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Tourism Development Officer reported that she had been contacted by the University of Southampton regarding a project it was submitting for a funding bid of £75k to support Dorchester along with two other areas. The project would allow for a dedicated researcher from the University to run workshops and training events in Dorchester to support the town in developing its heritage tourism strategy. The Committee supported the idea and requested the Tourism Development Officer to liaise with the University. The Civic Society representative confirmed that he would be available to be involved.

On behalf of Councillor A. Canning it was reported that a National Lottery funding bid had now been submitted for the Dorset Ways with Words project.

It was noted that the Committee had a number of potential projects going forward which might benefit from being wrapped up into one large project so as to make it a more attractive proposition for grant funding.

It was reported that the Riverside Reserve and the Prison information boards had both been vandalised. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the replacement of these boards was in hand.

Chairman.....