

## **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**19 APRIL 2022**

At a virtual Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 19 April 2022:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	S. Biles A. Chisholm F. Hogwood G. Jones (Chairman) R. Major
	Officers:	S. Newman M. Manley N. Hayes
Dorset Council	Councillors:	R. Biggs A. Canning L. Fry S. Jones R. Tarr
Dorchester Civic Society		I. Gosling
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
Thomas Hardy Society		M. Chutter
The Keep Military Museum		F. Scott
Dorset Museum		R. Maughan
Dorset History Centre		M. Gayton

#### 35. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from M. Woodgate (Dorchester Heritage Magazine) and Joy Wallis (Blue Badge Tourist Guides).

#### 36. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2022, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

#### 37. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

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

The Committee received a progress report from the Tourism Development Officer which updated it on the work undertaken against the agreed Tourism Strategy Action Plan. It was noted that a large number of the action points had been completed and others were ongoing strategic aims rather than specific actions. A proposed new action plan for 2022-23 had been drawn up which included the need for a long term 5-15 year visioning exercise. The Tourism Partnership felt that a large public consultation exercise was not required but that instead this work could be undertaken by a group of representatives from the Partnership and Heritage Committee. The work should tie in with the work presently being undertaken by the Town Council in respect of a masterplan for the town centre.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that he would contact the Chamber for Business in respect of the Chamber filling its vacancies on the Committee and Partnership.

Members noted the aspiration for visitors to come to Dorchester by train and for the town to be cycle and pedestrian friendly.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the progress update on the Heritage Tourism Action Plan be noted.
- (2) That the proposed action plan for 2022-23 be agreed.
- (3) That Councillors S. Biles, G. Jones and S. Jones be the Committee's representatives on the group to be established to undertake the visioning exercise.

#### (b) Tourism Partnership

The Committee received the notes of the meeting of the Tourism Partnership held on 5 April 2022.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the notes of the meeting of the Dorchester Tourism Partnership held on 5 April 2022 be received.

#### (c) Dorchester Walking Festival and Home of the Hillforts – Proposed Events

The Tourism Development Officer introduced proposals for a Dorchester Walking Festival and Home of the Hillforts event.

It was proposed that Miranda Woodgate work with the Tourism Development Office to run and co-ordinate the two events. Authority to spend £1,500 from the HTPM budget was requested.

Members also requested that Mount Pleasant Henge be included in the home of the hillforts event and that the Dorchester Strollers be approached regarding the walking festival.

## **RESOLVED**

That £1,500 be allocated from the HTPM budget for the Dorchester Walking Festival and Home of the Hillforts event.

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

The Committee had been circulated with 'long' drafts of text for the proposed Mill Stream boards. Members noted that the text would be reduced and the focus would remain on local industrial history if at all possible.

It was proposed that, at some stage, an additional board focusing on the mill would be worthwhile.

Members suggested that the river Frome board would be better placed at Lubbecke Way rather than the Mill Stream. It was noted that the boards would be linked to the Dorset Museum.

Councillor R. Tarr volunteered to review the boards when they had been drafted.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to Mark Chutter and Miranda Woodgate for their work on this project.

## **RESOLVED**

That the information boards update be noted.

### **39. REPLACEMENT BENCH – FRONT OF DORSET MUSEUM**

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Committee that the bench was now in place and had been funded by the Welcome Back Fund. An official unveiling had been arranged for 28 April at 2.00pm with the family of Jo Draper, the Men's Shed and the Mayor attending.

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

Members received an update report from the Tourism Development Officer. Students from Bournemouth University would be helping with the project. Following a site visit by the students of 'Durnovaria' the following work was proposed:-

- Social media campaign to bring 'Durnovaria' to life, particularly focussed on young people.
- New digital interpretation boards on the website detailing the 1936-coin hoard and Wollaston Fields (Charles Street).
- Art installation in form of sections of a mosaic around different locations in town to form one big mosaic. Discussions were ongoing with the Dorset Council Senior Archaeologist and the Highways Authority.

A Member pointed out that a draft information board for Wollaston Fields had been

produced, the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that he would investigate to see if this board could now be erected.

A Member asked for an update on the brewery information board, the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that it had been fabricated and a position on Weymouth Avenue had been agreed with Brewery Square. The board would be installed by the Outdoor Services Team as soon as possible.

41. **HERITAGE OPEN DAY**

The Chairman reported on the proposals for this year's Heritage Open Days which would run between 9 and 18 September 2022 with a theme of Amazing Innovations.

The Committee had received funding from the Town Council for this event. Early ideas included Roman Innovations around the Roman Town House, Sir Frederick Treves, Rev John White, Welfare System, Poundbury (tomorrows heritage) Tolpuddle Martyrs (first Union). It was hoped that there would be tours around the town and activities for children and families plus many more events over the week.

An inception meeting to be arranged by the Chairman would take place via Zoom on Thursday 28 April 2022.

It was noted that the Tour of Britain cycle race would be coming through Dorchester on Saturday 10 September which would likely involve a number of temporary road closures in the town. Members felt that the heritage event to be held in High West / East Street would probably therefore be better held the following week on Sunday 18 September 2022.

The representative from The Keep Military Museum reported that the Museum held weaponry and inventions that they would display as a part of the event.

**RESOLVED**

That the proposals for Heritage Open Day 2022 be agreed.

42. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2021-22**

The Deputy Town Clerk summarised the 2021-22 accounts which had a closing balance of £638. From 2022-23 the Committee would receive annual contributions from the Town Council of £3,000 for general activity plus £8,500 for Heritage events.

The Deputy Town Clerk agreed to investigate the possibility of reinstating the old pub plaque project, with a simpler style of plaque than was previously identified by the Committee.

A Member raised the poor condition of the Rev White plaque on Colliton Street, the Dorset Museum representative agreed to make the arrangements for it to be refurbished.

43. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND FORMAT**

Members considered dates for future meetings and whether they should be face to face or to continue with virtual meetings.

**RESOLVED**

(1) That the 2022-23 Committee meeting dates be as follows:-

- Tuesday 26 July 2022
- Tuesday 18 October 2022
- Tuesday 17 January 2023
- Tuesday 18 April 2023

(2) That future meetings of the Committee should be held face to face.

44. **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received.

45. **URGENT ITEMS**

A Member requested that the TIP sign on the Last Post to be removed, the Tourism Development Office agreed to contact the BID.

The Thomas Hardy Society representative gave an update on the annual Hardy Birthday Anniversary plans for 4 and 5 June 2022.

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 26 July 2022.

Chairman.....