

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

10 November 2015

Present: The Mayor R. Potter and Councillors C. Biggs, A. Canning (Chairman), G. Duke, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, T. Loakes, A. Lyall, K. Rice and P. Stein.

Apologies: Councillors M. Rennie and D. Taylor.

21. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 15 September 2015, adopted by Council on 29 September 2015, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

22. Management Arrangements

The Committee considered the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team.

Members reported that the Gents lavatory lock at the Gardens kiosk toilets was broken and that hosepipes had been left out by the old bowling green. It was also reported that there was a tear in the skatepark artificial surfacing.

The Deputy Town Clerk responded to a number of queries regarding the schedule and confirmed that the issue of composting all of the town's green waste would be included within the proposed allotment review.

Resolved

That the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team be noted.

23. Borough Gardens Bowling Green

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the project to create two new tennis courts on the old Bowling Green in the Borough Gardens. The report informed Members that the Friends of the Borough Gardens were disappointed that the new open space proposed to be created by the removal of the existing court nearest to the clock tower was to be the subject of a possible later phase rather than being undertaken at the same time as the new courts were being constructed. The Committee agreed and felt that completing the project in one phase would be the preferred way forward as it was likely to be more cost effective and would achieve the aim of opening up the Gardens through to the Borough Gardens House and creating additional garden space to allow those other priorities highlighted by the public consultation to be achieved.

Members also felt that a smaller climbing boulder should be provided in the Gardens and that a report be prepared for a future meeting identifying the style, size, proposed location etc.

Resolved

- (1) That the Policy Committee be requested to consider agreeing to the project being undertaken in one phase and that the budget previously allocated to also be used to carry out design works for the project as a whole.
- (2) That a smaller climbing boulder be provided in the Gardens and that a report be prepared for a future meeting identifying the style, size, proposed location etc.

24. Play Facilities for Older Children

Members had before them a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on play facilities for older children. The Committee noted that the Sports Pitch and Cultural Facilities Audit Report being produced by West Dorset District Council was yet to be finalised and that the latest indications were that it would not now be available until early 2016.

The Committee felt that the Great Field would be a suitable location for a large climbing boulder and noted that such a project was likely to be able to attract S106 funding from the Poundbury development.

Members also considered, and were supportive, of some additional features to be added to the skatepark.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress with the proposed Sports Arena project and West Dorset District Council's Sports Pitch and Cultural Facilities Audit report be noted.
- (2) That further discussions be held with the Duchy of Cornwall regarding providing a large climbing boulder in the area of the Great Field.
- (3) That a special item of £5,600 be requested in the Council's 2015-16 budget so as to enable some maintenance and improvements to be carried out at Dorchester Skatepark.

25. Management of Allotments and Fees

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on the present arrangements for the management of the town's allotments, the waiting list, the cost to the taxpayer of providing allotments, the considerations of the new site to be received in Lubbecke Way as planning gain from the Red Cow Farm development and also a proposal for allotment fees in 2016.

Members felt that it would be beneficial to establish a task and finish group to consider a strategy for management of allotments from 2017 onwards.

Resolved

(1) That a task and finish group be established to consider a strategy for management of allotments from 2017 onwards. The group to consist of The Mayor and Councillors G. Duke, J. Hewitt, T Loakes and K. Rice.

(2) That the allotment charges for 2016 be as follows:-

Rent - Full plot on any site	£34.00
Rent - Half plot on any site	£18.00
Water Charge – all plot sizes (not Frome Terrace – no water)	£1.00
Green Waste Removal - Full plot	£5.50
Green Waste Removal – Half Plot	£3.50
Administration Fee for new tenants	£50.00

(3) That the existing arrangement to charge double rent to those people resident within a four mile radius of the Municipal Buildings who would not qualify for an allotment under the normal criteria be confirmed.

26. Dorchester Cricket Club

Members considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on progress made by Dorchester Cricket Club to give it a greater role in management and maintenance of the site and to become a more self-contained club over a period of five years.

The Committee supported the cautious approach to the long term aim and the steps proposed to achieve that which were set out in section 3 of the notes of the meeting with the Club attached to the report.

Resolved

(1) That a cautious approach to the long term aim of Dorchester Cricket Club and the action proposed to achieve that aim be supported.

(2) That the Committee be provided with regular updates regarding progress.

27. John's Pond

Members were informed that the work to refurbish John's Pond which had included tree root removal, refurbishment of the sluice gates, rebuilding the inner walls and removal of silt had been completed. The Committee noted the arrangements for a cheque presentation to the Council from the GRID community fund to the Mayor and Chairman at John's Pond on 11 November 2015.

28. Council Governance Review

The Committee was reminded that the Council had agreed:- “That Committees make appropriate arrangements for discharging the duties of any discontinued Panels and Management Committee appoints the membership of the Community Activities Panel.”

This Committee therefore needed to agree dates for site visits in place of the Outdoor Services and Property Management and Maintenance Panels, and to appoint seven Members, and elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman, to the Community Activities Panel.

It was proposed that some site visits be held in the day and others in the early evening and that in the first instance three visits would be arranged one on a date to be agreed in February 2016 (5.00pm start), one on 12 April 2016 (9.30am start) and one on 23 August 2016 (5.00pm start).

One of the other matters that was agreed was the need for feedforward and feedback reports in respect of the summer entertainments programme. An example of the proposed feedback report on the past summers programme had previously been circulated. Members felt that it would be useful to have symbols for the numbers attending and a weather symbol and also that organisers should be asked for their feedback from events as a matter of course.

During discussion of this matter some concerns were raised regarding the organisation and bands chosen to perform at the Council’s Maumbury Rings Music Day. The Committee agreed however that the present arrangements should continue for 2016.

Members felt that it would be beneficial to have a formal liaison meeting, once or twice a year, with Dorchester Arts Board members and officers about the current arrangements and the potential move to The Maltings.

Resolved

- (1) That Councillors C. Biggs, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, T. Lyall, M. Rennie, K. Rice and D. Taylor be appointed to the Community Activities Panel for the remainder of the 2015-16 Council year.
- (2) That Councillor M. Rennie be appointed Chairman and Councillor K. Rice be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Community Activities Panel for the remainder of the 2015-16 Council year.
- (3) That site visits, open to all Councillors, be held on a date to be agreed in February 2016 (5.00pm start), 12 April 2016 (9.30am start) and 23 August 2016 (5.00pm start).
- (4) That the draft feedback report on the Council’s summer entertainment programme be agreed.
- (5) That the Council’s annual Maumbury Rings Music Day continue in 2016 with the same organising arrangements as 2015.

(6) That the Mayor, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and the Council's representative to Dorchester Arts be appointed to attend future liaison meetings with Dorchester Arts.

29. **Cemetery Matters**

(a) Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes

The Committee had before it a report with details of the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces and the number of interments and burials of ashes together with South Chapel usage at Dorchester Cemetery, since the last meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

That the report on the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(b) Headstones and Inscriptions

The Committee received and noted applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions.

Resolved

That the action of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 4117 to 4130 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

30. **Buildings Monitoring Report and Town Hall Lighting**

(a) Monitoring Reports - The Committee received the monitoring reports for Municipal Buildings, Weymouth Avenue Pavilion and Borough Gardens House.

Members expressed concern that the Corn Exchange lift was regularly failing due to it not being used correctly and requested that some new obvious helpful signing be provided.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Report be noted

(b) Town Hall Lighting – The Committee received a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the recently installed energy efficient lighting scheme in the Town Hall. The report also informed Members of the opportunity to extend the scope of the project to introduce a further lighting system that would support and enhance the 'banqueting' potential of the Town Hall and also in respect of some form of provision that offered a flexible facility for platform performances.

Members also considered the arrangements for energy efficient lighting in the remainder of the building.

Resolved

- (1) That the new energy efficient lighting system be noted and that a special item of between £3,000 and £5,000 be requested in the Council's 2015-16 budget so as to enable an additional complimentary lighting system to be installed.
- (2) That the design of any new lighting scheme to be considered by the Committee prior to it going ahead.
- (3) That a report be presented to a future meeting of the Committee on the lighting arrangements for the remainder of the building.

31. Dorchester Arts

The Committee received and noted the minutes of the Dorchester Arts Board meeting held on 8 September 2015.

Chairman