

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

13 September 2016

Present: The Mayor (Councillor T. Harries) and Councillors C. Biggs, G. Duke, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, R. Potter (Chairman), M. Rennie, K. Rice and D. Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors A. Canning, J. Hewitt and A. Lyall.

14. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 July 2016, adopted by Council on 26 July 2016, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15. Site Visits to Council Owned Properties and Sites

The Committee considered the notes of the site visit held to various Council owned properties and sites held on 23 August 2016 (Appendix 1 to the minutes).

Members noted and supported the proposals, as set out in the notes, in respect of Poundbury Cemetery. In respect of the boundary wall the Committee requested that it be as low as possible and be good value for money.

The Committee welcomed that the green burial area was to be reviewed and a report be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

It was noted that Transition Town Dorchester would progress the allotments at Red Cow Farm once agreement had been reached with the Duchy of Cornwall regarding the infrastructure. Members also requested that the new road be completed as soon as possible.

With regard to Maumbury Rings it was felt that the possibility a pathway linking the Dorchester South Station area to Maumbury Rings should be investigated further. It was noted that the Joint Heritage Committee had investigated this matter previously and found the cost to be prohibitive.

Resolved

That the actions contained within the notes of the meeting be supported.

16. Task and Finish Group

The Committee felt that it would be appropriate to establish a Task and Finish Group in respect of WW1 commemoration events and any other ad-hoc events that might come along up to and including 2018.

Resolved

That an Events and Commemorations Task and Finish Group be established with the following membership:- The Mayor of the time and Councillors J. Hewitt, S. Jones and M. Rennie.

17. Management Arrangements

The Committee considered a report from the Outdoor Services Manager updating it on the work undertaken and the achievements made by the Outdoor Services Team. Members supported the action taken by officers in respect of replacing the existing vehicle used in the Gardens with a second hand tipper vehicle.

The Committee also noted the work required behind the scenes to obtain the Green Flag Award and requested that an article be prepared for DT1 about all that was necessary to achieve it.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

18. Borough Gardens – Carpet Beds

Members considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk proposing that, following the success of the Queen's 90th birthday bed, that one large high quality carpet bed be created on the West Walks side of the Gardens in place of the existing carpet bed location on the other side of the Gardens. The situation with regard to the two smaller beds would be reviewed after the end of next summer. It was noted that it was still proposed to move the grass free lawn to the West Walks side of the Gardens prior to the new tennis courts being built.

The Committee supported the proposal and suggested that an article be placed in the next Town Council newsletter asking for ideas for something special for the new bed. It was noted that the One World logo could be ideal if the festival was to return in 2017.

Whilst discussing the Gardens it was requested that a review of the water feature in the play area be carried out as it had been reported that the water activation buttons were hard to use for smaller children and those with disabilities. It was noted that the safety surfacing also needed some attention and that a report would be prepared for a future meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

(1) That the proposal for a new single carpet bed on the West Walks side of the Gardens be approved.

(2) That an article be placed in the next Town Council newsletter asking for suggestions for the theme of the new bed.

(3) That a report be prepared for a future meeting of the Committee reviewing the operation of the water play feature in the play area.

20. **Borough Gardens – New Tennis Courts**

Members considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk which updated them on the progress being made in respect of building a new set of tennis courts on the old bowling green in the Borough Gardens the corner of which had been identified as Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The Committee noted the revised timescale for the project and that Historic England had now indicated its approval to the project in principle subject to some trial trenching.

Resolved

That the progress report and new project timescales be noted.

21. **Revised Dog Control Orders**

The Committee considered a report by the Outdoor Services Manager informing it that West Dorset District Council was reviewing its Dog Control Orders which also applied to the majority of the Town Council's open spaces, play areas, the Gardens, cemeteries and sports grounds.

Following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee only two areas of change had been proposed; changing King's Road playing fields, which were not used for formal sport, to an area where dogs could be off leads and at Weymouth Avenue Recreation Ground where controls would be introduced to exclude dogs from the marked sports pitches and require them to be on leads within a 5m perimeter of them. The remaining space would remain for dog exercise.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the Orders were West Dorset District Council's Orders and that there was no obligation on that Council to refer back to the Town Council following the consultation.

Following consideration Members felt that as the playing fields at King's Road were still used for informal sport then the existing Town Council byelaw to exclude dogs should remain.

Resolved

That the consultation on the new Dog Control Orders be agreed subject to King's Road Playing Fields remaining a no dog area.

22. **Dorchester Skatepark**

Members considered correspondence from Stop the Drop suggesting that the skatepark be closed for periods of time unless the litter situation improved. Stop the Drop had subsequently contacted the Council suggesting that the litter had reduced recently.

It was noted that a new bin was due to be installed at the head of the skatepark.

Resolved

That the suggestions from Stop the Drop be noted but that they not be acted upon at the present time.

23. Volunteer Centre Dorset

The Committee considered correspondence from the Volunteer Centre Dorset asking whether the Council would wish to contribute towards its Volunteer Awards Evening.

Resolved

That a contribution of £200 be made towards the Volunteer Awards Evening subject to the receipt of accounts.

(Councillor R. Potter declared a personal interest in the above matter.)

24. Dorchester Choral Society

Members considered correspondence from the Dorchester Choral Society seeking a contribution towards its forthcoming concert. The Society had not asked for a contribution towards any specific cost and had not submitted accounts.

Resolved

That the request for a grant from the Dorchester Choral Society be not agreed.

25. 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 4182 to 4193 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

26. **Buildings Monitoring Report**

The Committee received the monitoring reports for the Municipal Buildings, Weymouth Avenue Pavilion and Borough Gardens House.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Report be noted.

27. **Dorchester Arts**

The Committee received and noted the minutes of the Dorchester Arts Board Meeting held on 20 June 2016.

28. **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

Resolved

That in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters the public and press representatives be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

29. **New Sports Arena**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on a wider scheme for the proposed sports arena in the area of Hawthorne Road allotments which would have the benefit of contributing towards another area of the Council's Corporate Plan objectives.

Recommended

- (1) That the appropriate consultations be undertaken with regard to the provision of a sports arena only in the first instance.
- (2) That consideration be given to a wider scheme at a later date.

Chairman

Notes of a Site Visit held on 23 August 2016 at 5.00pm.

Sites visited – Poundbury Cemetery, New allotment area and open space at Red Cow Farm, Louds Mill Depot and Maumbury Rings.

Attending: The Mayor Councillor T Harries and Councillors C. Biggs, R. Biggs, A. Chisholm, G. Duke, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, T. Loakes, T. Lyall, R. Potter, M. Rennie, K. Rice and D. Taylor.

Steve Newman, Deputy Town Clerk.

1. Poundbury Cemetery

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on the works still required to complete the cemetery which included removing an earth bund and building the boundary wall and laying out and hard surfacing access roads / paths further into the cemetery. The Deputy Town Clerk proposed reducing the number of pathways and obelisks, originally planned, in the middle of the central traditional burial part of the cemetery which served no real purpose and which reduced available grave space. The proposal meant that the whole area could be designated for traditional grave space with the proposed ashes plots being moved to near Muslim section side of the cemetery which was more contiguous with the existing ashes plots.

It was agreed that the works to complete the cemetery should be undertaken subject to the amendments proposed by the Deputy Town Clerk.

Members also inspected the green burial area and discussed a number of different options for improvement which included some additional tree planting, creating more of a meadow feel with the possibility of a wildflower strip along the boundary and allowing some form of marker for graves (wooden disk or small stone marker). It was agreed that this be investigated with a report back to the Management Committee in due course.

It was noted that some work was required to 'top up' some of the burial spaces which had taken place in the past.

2. New Allotment Site and Open Space at Red Cow Farm

The Group visited the new allotment site and open space at Red Cow Farm. It was noted that the area had not been transferred to the Town Council as yet. Members were also reminded that it had previously been agreed that Transition Town Dorchester would manage the allotment site on behalf of the Council.

Whilst at the site, local resident David Butler addressed Members with regard to his concerns about the hedge that had been planted on the river side of the road. His concerns centred on the safety of children who would not be able to be seen once the hedge had established. It was noted that the hedge was a planning requirement and the developers were therefore required to provide it as was – in future the hedge would be managed by the Town Council which would take a view on how the hedge should be managed at that time taking into account all relevant factors.

3. Louds Mill Depot

Members visited the Louds Mill Depot and noted its facilities. The group felt that the depot was a useful facility.

4. Maumbury Rings

The group viewed Maumbury Rings and were informed that:-

- Historic England had recently given consent to three new information Boards being provided with the old one being removed.
- HE had also given consent to the north and south step ways to the top of the bank being improved.
- HE had provided consent to a general management plan for the area which would allow the Council to undertake routine and urgent repair work without the need for an additional consent.
- Members were informed that the Heritage Committee had also agreed to provide funding for a 'Welcome to Maumbury Rings' style of sign to be attached to the outside of the fence.

Whilst at the site Members noted that the wall adjoining Maumbury Square would require some improvements in due course – the wall was likely to be in the ownership of the Maumbury Square Management Company.

Members also felt that there was an opportunity to create a walkway direct from Dorchester South Railway Station to Maumbury Rings using the land behind Maumbury Square which was not, at present, developed.

Outside of Maumbury Rings Members noted that the piece of land on the corner of Copper Street and Weymouth Avenue and believed to be owned by Brewery Square Ltd, was not very well maintained and would benefit from some tidying up.

Meeting closed 6.50pm.