

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

11 July 2017

Present: Councillors C. Biggs, G. Duke, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, A. Lyall, R. Potter, M. Rennie, K. Rice (Chairman) and D. Taylor.

In Attendance

Eighteen local residents, in respect of Minute No 3.

Apologies: The Mayor (Councillor S. Hosford) and Councillor J. Hewitt.

1. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 May 2017, adopted by Council on 23 May 2017, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. **The Great Field - Update**

The Committee was informed that the Duchy of Cornwall would, later on in the year, be undertaking a consultation with residents regarding facilities to be provided at the Great Field. The consultation would focus on those facilities previously identified by the Poundbury Residents Association consultation and would include such things as a new play area, skatepark, BMX track, tennis facilities, pavilion and utility outlets so as to enable community events to take place on the Great Field. Members were also reminded that £220,000 had been allocated from the S106 monies to part fund the new community facilities at the location.

Members felt that it was important that the consultation included all of those Dorchester residents that would use the Great Field and not just Poundbury residents. The Committee also wished to remember the contribution of the young people that attended the Council's Democracy Days, who had put forward many good ideas for the area.

Resolved

- (1) That the consultation be welcomed.
- (2) That the Duchy of Cornwall be asked to ensure that the consultation included all of those Dorchester residents that would use the Great Field and not just Poundbury residents.

3. **Hawthorne Road Allotments - Feedback**

A number of local residents and allotmenters addressed the meeting to present their objections to the idea of a new sports arena and play area being built on a part of Hawthorne Road allotments.

The Committee then considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk which set out all of the objections to the proposal which had been received following the consultation undertaken with allotment holders.

Members felt that having now considered all of the relevant information, and having heard from those residents in favour of the proposal, and those who objected to it; that on balance the proposal should not go ahead.

Resolved

That no further action be taken on the proposal to provide a sports arena and play area on part of Hawthorne Road allotments.

4. Corporate Plan Review

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk which sought comments on a draft 'Summary of our Aims for Future Planning of Dorchester' table and a draft 'Corporate Plan Milestones' table which had been drawn up following the Council's informal meetings in respect of the revision to the Corporate Plan.

In considering the tables Members wished to make the following comments:-

- That a decision had yet to be made by Council about whether it was going to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.
- That full scrutiny be given to any Council land that was identified as suitable for affordable housing.
- That, long term, given the continued growth of the town, consideration be given as to whether a crematorium should be provided.
- That consideration start to be given to developing the lower part of the Gardens over the short term, rather than medium term.

It was also noted that 2018 year was the 45th year of twinning with Lubbecke, although this was not considered as a major anniversary, some liaison with Lubbecke might be required.

Resolved

That the comments set out above be considered when agreeing the 2017 Corporate Plan.

5. 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 since the last meeting of the Committee. Members wished to congratulate staff on how wonderful the Dippy bed and the new fernery looked in the Gardens. Members also requested that the 2018 shield bed commemorates the hundred year anniversary of the vote for women.

With regard to the road enhancements being undertaken at South Gate Members felt that it would be complimentary to the works to have the planting scheme in the raised bed enhanced as close as possible to the completion of the other works.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

6. Borough Gardens Kiosk

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the operation of the Borough Gardens kiosk during April, May and June 2017. Members were disappointed regarding the number of days the kiosk was closed and felt that preparations should be made for the possibility of a transfer of the operation to another charity, community organisation or community Interest Company by Easter 2018, following further consideration of the matter at the next Committee.

Resolved

That preparations be made for the possibility of a transfer of the operation to another charity, community organisation or community Interest Company by Easter 2018, following further consideration of the matter at the next Committee.

7. Borough Gardens – New Tennis Courts Update

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the progress being made with the build of the new tennis courts in the Gardens. Members noted that planning permission had been received and that additional work was being undertaken with the aim of reducing the cost of construction. It was also noted that a further archaeological dig, as required in the planning permission, would be commenced shortly.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

8. Elizabeth Place

The Committee was informed that the Council had held a lease from Magna for Elizabeth Place which expired in 2012. Discussions had been held with Magna which had agreed to issue a short term Licence to enable the Council to continue managing the site until Magna decide what to do with the area.

Resolved

That the position be noted.

9. 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 Mayor being invited to attend.

(Councillor R. Potter declared a non-pecuniary interest in the above matter.)

10. **Dorset Food and Arts Festival 2017**

The Committee considered an application for sponsorship for the 2017 Dorset Food and Arts Festival. Members were minded to sponsor the event but felt that this should be for a particular element of it and that the Council's 'Supported by Dorchester Town Council' be on show at the event. It was agreed that a contribution of up to £200 be agreed subject to further discussion with the event organisers.

Resolved

That, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, the Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to make a contribution of up to £200 be made to the Dorset Food and Arts Festival 2017 following further discussion with the event organiser regarding what the contribution would go towards.

11. **Life Education Wessex**

The Committee considered a grant application from Life Education Wessex requesting that the Council consider offering a grant towards the cost of delivering a health programme to children at St Osmund's Middle School.

Resolved

That a grant not be awarded in this instance.

12. **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 4238 to 4246 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(c) **Poundbury Cemetery – Revised Layout**

Members were reminded that at recent site visit meetings it had been agreed to a slight revision to the layout of Poundbury Cemetery. The revisions included aligning the new road with the old road, only having one path and not four into the centre of the newly created enclosed area, not having a spur of road to the southern fence, having the enclosed area used for just traditional burials and moving the new ashes area to the east of the cemetery.

Resolved

That the revised layout to Poundbury Cemetery be agreed.

13. **Buildings Monitoring Reports**

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

Members requested that a new hand dryer be purchased for the Corn Exchange ladies toilets.

The Committee also requested that the Council Chamber cabinets be tidied and reviewed. Councillors S. Jones and M. Rennie would be reviewing the cabinets with the Mayor's Secretary.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

14. **Dorchester Arts**

The Committee received and noted the minutes of the Dorchester Arts Board meeting held on 16 May 2017.

15. **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.

16. **Staffing**

The Committee noted a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on Outdoor Services staffing.

Chairman