

# Dorchester Town Council

## Management Committee

12 September 2017

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor S. Hosford) and Councillors A. Canning, G. Duke, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, A. Lyall, R. Potter, M. Rennie, K. Rice (Chairman) and D. Taylor.

In Attendance

Councillor T. Harries.

**Apologies:** Councillor C. Biggs.

17. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11 July 2017, adopted by Council on 25 July 2017, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

18. **The Great Field - Update**

The Deputy Town Clerk updated Members on a meeting held recently regarding the process being undertaken to consult local residents on the facilities to be provided at the Great Field. The Duchy of Cornwall had expressed a desire to ensure that the whole community was properly consulted and a plan developed that met the community's needs in accordance with the original masterplan. To this end a specialist consultancy company had been appointed to undertake the consultation process. It was proposed to consult with stakeholders initially, create a workable plan which would then be the subject of a wide public consultation during November 2017.

**Resolved**

That the update be noted.

19. **Borough Gardens Shield Bed - 2018**

The Committee was informed that a request for a shield bed had been received from a member of the public to mark the hundred year anniversary of the Royal Air Force which was formed on 1 April 1918. Members had previously proposed that the 2018 shield bed should mark the 100 year anniversary of when women first got the vote.

It was suggested that the RAF anniversary could be accommodated by having the two round flower beds at the Cornwall Road entrance planted as red, white and blue roundels.

**Resolved**

(1) That the formal shield bed for 2018 commemorate 100 years since the women first got the vote.

(2) That the RAF 100 year anniversary be marked by two round flower beds at the Cornwall Road entrance planted as red, white and blue roundels.

20. **Hawthorne Road Sports Arena**

Members were reminded that at the last meeting of the Committee it was agreed not to pursue further the creation of a sports arena facility on part of Hawthorne Road allotments. Whilst accepting there was a need for such a facility in that area of the town it was felt that disposing of allotment land was not a suitable way forward.

The Committee was invited to consider formally requesting that such a facility be included within any future planning agreement that might be made in respect of developing land in the area. It was also noted that there had been previous discussion with regard to the possibility of such a facility at Poundbury Crescent play area.

**Resolved**

That the relevant authorities be informed that a sports arena type facility should be included within any future planning agreement that might be made in respect of developing land in the Mountain Ash Road / Hawthorne Road area.

21. **WW1 Commemorations in 2018**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk which set out those WW1 commemoration projects planned for 2018. In respect of the Royal British Legion Silent Soldiers Project Members wished to have more information in respect of how long and when the soldiers should be put up etc. Members also felt that it would be useful to view a soldier prior to making a firm decision.

**Resolved**

That further information be sought in respect of the RBL Silent Soldiers project.

22. **Litter Free Dorset**

The Committee considered a grant application from Litter Free Dorset in respect of a Dorchester Town Centre "bin your butt" campaign.

**Resolved**

That a contribution of £100 be made towards the Litter Free Dorset project.

(Councillor D. Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in the above matter.)

23. **Dorchester Foodbank – School Holiday Lunch Programme - Feedback**

The Committee received feedback from the Dorchester Foodbank, School Holiday Lunch Programme, which the Council had supported by way of a grant. Members felt that the project had been very worthwhile and were pleased that sufficient resources remained to

be able to offer a Christmas food parcel to those fifty plus families that had received help over the summer.

The Mayor agreed to write to the project co-ordinator thanking them for all their good work.

**Resolved**

That the feedback be noted.

**24. 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 4247 to 4269 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**25. Buildings Monitoring Reports**

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

Concern was expressed with regard to the reduction of the income received compared to the same period the year before. It was explained that the reason for this was that the previous year there had been three exclusive weddings booked. Generally the Buildings were being used at least as much with there being very few weekends available. It was noted that there was very little marketing in respect of the Buildings as a wedding venue. Members felt that, in the first instance, discussion should be held with Dorchester Arts regarding flexibility of dates in regard to potential wedding bookings.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on the Town Hall refurbishment work which was near to completion. He suggested that the curtains and double glazing not be returned and that roller blinds be installed at a cost of £1,160 plus VAT.

The Deputy Town Clerk also reported that the Council's power distribution unit used mainly at Maumbury Rings had gone missing. Members felt that it was important that an inventory be kept of the PA and associated equipment and that in future it always be checked out and checked back in following events.

**Resolved**

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

**26. Dorchester Arts**

The Committee received and noted the minutes of the Dorchester Arts Board meeting held on 31 July 2017.

**27. 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.

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

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the tenders received for the building of the new tennis courts on the old bowling green site in the Borough Gardens.

**Resolved**

That the tender received from Chiltern Sport in the sum of £161,317 be accepted subject to Policy Committee agreeing to release an additional £27,454 so as to allow the project to proceed.

**29. Borough Gardens Kiosk**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the operation of the Borough Gardens kiosk from April to end of August 2017.

Members were very appreciative of the work undertaken by Rethink over the past ten years but agreed that Rethink and other community based organisations and charities should be offered the opportunity to run the kiosk from Easter 2018.

**Resolved**

That three months' notice be given to Rethink and that an open exercise be undertaken to re franchise the kiosk with effect from Easter 2018.

Chairman