

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

10 July 2018

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

Apologies: Councillors C. Biggs and K. Rice.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8 May 2018, adopted by Council on 22 May 2018, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. Management Arrangements – Outdoor Services

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 were informed of the outcome of this years Green Flag application which was embargoed until 16 July 2018. The Committee was also updated about the recent litter bin review and the draft Biodiversity Strategy. It was suggested that ‘strulch’ might be a product worth investigating for use in the Borough Gardens.

The Outdoor Services Manager confirmed that he would investigate possibilities for planting the non-planted areas along the river walk.

The Committee wished to thank staff and the Youth Council for all their hard work in making the recent suffrage event held in the Borough Gardens such a success. The Mayor conformed that he would write to the Youth Council thanking them for all their hard work.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

3. Climbing Boulder / Wheelchair Suitable for Wheelchair Users

The Committee had before it a report by the Deputy Town Clerk updating it on the revised cost of providing a climbing boulder in the Borough Gardens and the financing of the swing suitable for wheelchair users previously agreed to be purchased for Maiden Castle Play Area.

Resolved

- (1) That no further action be taken in respect of the installation of a climbing boulder in the Borough Gardens.
- (2) That the Section 106 contribution earmarked for this project be allocated to facilities to be provided at the Great Field.
- (3) That the Policy Committee be asked to agree that £12,000 from the play area reserve be allocated to the swing for wheelchair users at Maiden Castle Play Area.

4. Weekend Festival Event – July 2019

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk which informed it of a project being developed by Dorchester Arts to celebrate the Moon Landing 50 year anniversary in July 2019. The project would involve 400 plus local children and the installation of 'Museum of the Moon', a 7m diameter accurate representation of the moon. The Council's cinema event would also run over the same weekend. The event would be held at Maumbury Rings.

Members supported the event in principle and felt that the £11,500 held in the Arts Festival reserve be committed to the project once it had been fully developed.

Resolved

That in principle, subject to more detailed proposals being developed, the Council commits the remainder of the Arts Events Reserve to a major celebratory weekend Festival event in July 2019.

5. Weymouth Avenue Pavilion / Sawmills Lane - Parking

Members had before them a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on an issue with vehicles being parked in the parking bays along Sawmills Lane and in front of Weymouth Avenue Pavilion whose occupants were not using the facilities at Weymouth Avenue or Sawmills, but were instead using the area for general free and unrestricted parking. The report set out a solution which involved using an online parking company which would then allow the Council to control the parking spaces. The cost of the proposal would be approximately £250 per year for signage rental.

The Committee felt that it did not wish to pursue formal enforcement at the present time but instead signage should be provided reminding drivers that parking was for users of the facilities at Weymouth Avenue Pavilion and recreation ground and Sawmills. The situation to be reviewed in the future.

Members also requested that the advertising 'A' board, which seemed to be permanently located at the entrance to the site, be removed.

Resolved

That signage be provided at Weymouth Avenue reminding drivers that parking is for users of the facilities at Weymouth Avenue Pavilion/Recreation Ground and Sawmills.

6. Sports Pitches Update

The Committee received a report from the Town Clerk which updated Members on the present situation with regard to football, cricket and tennis and the financial and other consequences arising as a result of the recent or proposed changes.

It was confirmed that the mini pitches at Sandringham annexe were to be marked out for football and that local residents had been made aware of this. It was also reported that the parkour safety surfacing had been vandalised through fire and that the facility had been fenced off. The situation would be monitored and feedback received as to whether the facility was or was not well used.

In regard to tennis Members felt that users should be consulted on the following changes, which could be introduced from April 2019:-

- The increase of the standard fee from £25 to £30 (the first increase for 4 years)
- Stepped increases over two years to take the non-resident fee from £25 to £60
- Casual play to rise to £10 for 2 hours
- Regular booking of courts by groups to be restricted to courts 1 and 2 (our original courts)
- Ideas for a replacement membership card and a low tech process for checking it

Resolved

(1) That the sports pitch update be received.

(2) That tennis court users be consulted as set out in Minute No. 6 above.

7. 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 5011 to 5019 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

8. **Buildings Monitoring Reports**

The Committee received the monitoring reports for the Municipal Buildings and Borough Gardens House.

Members were informed of an incident that had occurred recently at an event in the Corn Exchange and the action that had been taken in response.

The Committee requested that some action be taken to put right a number of minor faults in the Corn Exchange toilets. Members also requested that action be taken to make the car park gates function reliably.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

9. **Municipal Buildings - Banners**

Members considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the proposed design of the banners to be attached to the front of the Corn Exchange building the principle of which had previously been agreed by the Committee.

Resolved

That the banners proposed for the Municipal Buildings be approved.

10. **Dorchester Arts**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Dorchester Arts Board meeting held on 11 May 2018.

11. **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.

(Note - Councillor R. Potter left the meeting prior to the consideration of the following matter. Councillor S. Jones stated that as a Member of WDDC's Planning Committee she would not take part in the following matter and vacated the Chair. In the absence of the Vice-Chairman The Mayor took the seat for the following discussion.)

12. **YMCA Sawmills**

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on a proposal received in respect of the YMCA building.

Resolved

That the proposal received from the YMCA in respect of its building be supported.

Chairman