

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee held via the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

11 January 2021

Present: The Mayor (Councillor R. Biggs) and Councillors S. Biles, A. Canning, L. Fry, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger (Chairman), D. Leaper, A. Lyall, R. Major, R. Potter, M. Rennie, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

In Attendance

Councillors S. Hosford and F. Hogwood.

26. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 November 2020, adopted by Council on 23 November 2020, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

27. 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. A Member reported that the parkour equipment had now been removed and requested that the ground should be left as a wildflower area.

Members were pleased to note that Fordington Cemetery had achieved the status of a Site of Nature Conservation Interest from the Dorset Wildlife Trust. The Outdoor Services Manager confirmed that some more permanent signs about the wildflowers and biodiversity would be installed in due course.

In respect of the Borough Gardens carpet bed for 2021 Members felt that it would be appropriate to have a 'thank you' to key and essential workers with the final design to be agreed with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

It was reported that there had been incidents of skateboarders using the under cover area of Fairfield short stay car park and the skatepark despite it being fenced and closed. The police had been informed and Members were asked to report any potential breaches of the Covid Regulations direct to the Police.

The Committee was pleased to see the progress with the tree planting at King's Road playing field and noted that this would continue now that the weather had improved.

The Outdoor Services Manager reported that, following an inspection, a further mature tree needed to be felled at Salisbury Fields. Members requested that, if possible, the stump of the tree be turned into a seat as had happened with the recently felled tree at that location.

Covid-19 Restrictions

Members were informed that, in accordance with Government guidance, the skatepark, multi use games areas, outdoor gyms, table tennis table and tennis courts had all been closed. The remainder of the Council's outside services including the Borough Gardens (which included the toilets), open spaces, allotments and cemeteries remained open.

Resolved

- (1) That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.
- (2) That the Borough Gardens carpet bed be a 'thank you' to key and essential workers with the final design to be agreed with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

28. **Borough Gardens Rose Garden - Update**

The Committee considered a report from the Outdoor Services Manager updating it on the progress made with the creation of a new rose garden within the Borough Gardens. Members were pleased with the progress made and noted the work that still needed to be undertaken.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

29. **2021-22 Estimates, Special Items and Fees and Charges**

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk which incorporated draft Estimates for 2021-22 in respect of Allotments, Cemeteries, Cultural and Twinning, Municipal Buildings and Parks Gardens and Open Spaces. The report also included details regarding Reserves and the main changes which affected the proposed budget. The Chairman of the Policy Committee explained the rationale behind the proposed precept increase and the Deputy Town Clerk responded to Members detailed questions.

Members noted that £19,000 had been provisionally included for Special Items and the report set out proposals in respect of that resource.

The report also set out proposals for Cemetery fees and hire charges for the Borough Gardens House and the Tennis Courts.

Resolved

- (1) That the Policy Committee be informed that the draft Estimates for 2021-22 be approved so far as this Committee is concerned including the Special Items as set out below:-
 - War memorial – remedial works to the weathered faces - £7,000.
 - Pedestrian wayfinding signs amendments - £3,000
 - Play areas – replacement of self-closing gate mechanisms - £3,000

- Office staff relocation to Municipal Buildings – £6,000

- (2) That the charges for hire of the Borough Gardens House not be increased in 2021-22.
- (3) That, with effect from 1 April 2021, the Tennis Court membership fee be increased to £35 per year with a discount of £10 to those members that live in the town.
- (4) That, with effect from 1 April 2021, the charges in respect of Dorchester, Fordington and Poundbury Cemeteries be as set out in Appendix 1.

30. **Cemetery Matters**

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

The report which detailed 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 had been circulated with the agenda.

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 5165 to 5170 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

31. **Municipal Buildings Monitoring Reports**

The Committee received the Municipal Buildings monitoring report which included a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the activity of the Town Hall Keepers over the past two months.

It was suggested that consideration be given to cleaning the Council robes as they would not be required and the plastic cover would protect them during the re-roof works.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

32. Municipal Buildings New Lift

The Committee received a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the installation of the agreed new lift in the Municipal Buildings. It was noted that the existing lift was to be removed as from the middle of January 2021, followed by works to the lift pit and electrics and then the new lift being installed at the start of March 2021. It was noted that the colour of the lift would be a shade of white but not a brilliant white.

Resolved

That the progress on installing the new lift be welcomed.

33. Dorchester Ballet Club

The Committee was informed that the Council, as freeholder of the land, had received formal notification (under the 2015 Town and Country Planning Order) from Dorchester Ballet and Dance informing the Council that it had submitted a planning application for a new single storey dance school proposed to be located within Sandringham Sports Centre car park.

Members hoped that the new building would include solar panels. It was noted that further discussions would need to be undertaken with regard to any relocation of the boules pitch.

Resolved

That receipt of the notification from Dorchester Ballet and Dance be noted.

Chairman

CEMETERIES FEES

Interments

1 Apr 21

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| a) An infant under 2 years or stillborn | Nil |
| b) A person aged 2 years or older | £665 |
| c) A casket of ashes | £185 |

Scattering of ashes

- | | |
|---|------------|
| a) In a previously used plot or in the Poundbury Pavilion chamber | £63 |
| b) In the Garden of Remembrance | £31 |

Exclusive rights of burial in earthen graves

For an exclusive right for 50 years, including Memorial Rights in an earthen grave:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| a) Full Sized Plot | £960 |
| End of term Renewal for 25 years | £815 |
| b) Ashes plots and infant under 2 years | £640 |
| End of term Renewal for 25 years | £500 |

Additional Interment, Scattering and Exclusive Rights fees will be charged for

- Non-residents – fee doubled. Residence is defined as living in Dorchester or Winterborne Herringston within previous 10 years or previously resident for at least 25 years.
- Non-standard grave sizes – additional fee to be agreed with the Funeral Director

Monuments, gravestones, tablets and monumental inscriptions

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| Right to erect or place a headstone, footstone, tablet, flat stone, plaque or monument in any other form at any site not subject to Exclusive Right of Burial | £220 |
| Additional inscription on a gravestone or other memorial (for each deceased) | £105 |