

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee held via the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

8 March 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 and R. Ricardo.

Apologies: Councillor D. Taylor.

In Attendance

Councillor S. Hosford.

Jackson Turner and Travis Verky in respect of Minute No. 35.

34. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11 January 2021, adopted by Council on 25 January 2021, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

35. Parkour

Members welcomed Jackson Turner and Travis Verky, representatives from the town's parkour community, to the meeting. The parkour representatives addressed the Committee with regard to the history of parkour, the large number of practitioners in the town, the need for a parkour facility in the town and the type of equipment that was needed. The representatives proposed that King's Road Playing Fields near to the Sports Arena would be an ideal location.

The Committee agreed that King's Road would be an ideal site and were supportive of a new facility being provided at that location.

Resolved

That the Deputy Town Clerk continue to work with the parkour representatives with the aim of providing a new facility at King's Road Playing Fields.

36. 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 thank the Borough Gardens staff for their work in maintaining the Gardens to such a high standard.

Councillor Leaper confirmed that he would discuss the timings of any proposed bare root tree planting at the Great Field with the Duchy of Cornwall and their next liaison meeting.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

37. Weymouth Avenue Cemetery SNCI Designation

The Committee considered a report from the Outdoor Services Manager on a proposal to submit Weymouth Avenue Cemetery to the Dorset Wildlife Trust for consideration as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest.

Resolved

That Weymouth Avenue Cemetery be submitted to the Dorset Wildlife Trust for consideration as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest.

38. Borough Gardens House Repairs

Members had before them a report by the Outdoor Services Manager on maintenance works required at the Borough Gardens House which included repairs and re-painting of the upper windows, cleaning of gutters and inspection and repair of the roof.

The Committee was disappointed that there had not been a regular programme of maintenance for the building and requested that this be built into the Borough Gardens Management and Maintenance Plan for the future.

Resolved

- (1) That the maintenance work required at the Borough Gardens House be agreed and that Policy Committee be requested to release £8,190 from the Parks and Open Spaces Reserve so as to enable the work to be undertaken during April/May 2021.
- (2) That future maintenance of the house be included within the Borough Gardens Management and Maintenance Plan.

39. Summer Events 2021

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the summer events programme for 2021. Members felt that due to the uncertainty as to the restrictions or conditions that might be in place at the time of an event, that the regular larger events at Maumbury Rings; Outdoor Cinema, Anonymous and Bank Holiday Music Day, plus Love Parks in the Borough Gardens should not go ahead this year. Instead smaller pop up events in the Gardens or other venues would be arranged subject to any conditions in place at the time. Officers would also continue to support other organisations that wished to organise events.

Resolved

That the arrangements for this year's summer programme be agreed as set out above.

40. Hawthorn Road Allotments

Members considered a report from the Deputy Town Clerk which informed them that the Council's allotment representative for over twenty years, Mr Reg Deverill, had recently passed away. The report also set out a proposal to fence the length of the allotments so as to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour at the site.

Resolved

- (1) That the Committee's condolences and thanks be sent to Mr Deverill's wife.
- (2) That the fencing of Hawthorn Road allotments, at a cost of £3,032 funded from the revenue budget, be agreed.

41. Dorchester Community Fridge - Update

The Committee received a report from the Community Development Officer which updated it on the progress made with the community fridge initiative.

Members were pleased with the establishment of a permanent community fridge in the town centre to be located at the Co-op and managed by the Dorset Volunteer Centre.

Members also agreed that a permanent rather than temporary fridge at Poundbury would be very beneficial and it was proposed that all interested parties should meet together with a view to establishing a firm proposal for a permanent Poundbury fridge.

The importance of community fridges linking with the work of food banks was noted.

The Committee particularly wished to thank the owner of the Bonjour Café for the offer of a temporary fridge and Councillor Hogwood for all her help to date in moving this project forward.

Resolved

- (1) That the establishment of a community fridge at the Co-op be supported.
- (2) That all of the interested parties meet together with a view to establishing a firm proposal for a permanent Poundbury community fridge.

42. Dorchester Repair Café

Members welcomed the positive feedback from the Dorchester Repair Café which was set up in September 2019 and had been the recipient of a grant from the Committee.

Resolved

That the feedback be received with thanks.

43. **Grant Applications**

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance.

Resolved

- (1) That the grant application from #Willdoes be not agreed.
- (2) That the grant application from Volunteer Centre Dorset, in the sum of £500, be agreed.

44. **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 5171 to 5183 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

45. **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, progress on the installation of a new lift and the re-roofing project.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

46. **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.

47. **Weymouth Avenue Cemetery**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on a proposal to utilise the unused office and tea room at Weymouth Avenue Cemetery. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that he would inform the immediate neighbour of the proposal.

Resolved

That a lease be offered on the terms and conditions set out in the report subject to the offer being assessed by a suitably qualified assessor and the Council's legal expenses being paid by the lessee.

48. **Dorchester Arts at the Municipal Buildings Task Group Notes**

The Committee received the notes of the meeting of the meeting held on 24 February 2021

Resolved

That the notes of the meeting be received.

Chairman