

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee held at The Cricket Pavilion, Weymouth Avenue, Dorchester.

13 September 2021

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

Apologies: Councillor S. Biles.

In Attendance

Councillors J. Hewitt and F. Hogwood.

12. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 July 2021, adopted by Council on 26 July 2021, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13. Poundbury Litter Picking Project

The Committee received an oral report from Councillor F. Hogwood on a volunteer litter picking project that had been established at Poundbury. The project had been supported by Dorset Council who provided equipment, risk assessments etc. 26 volunteers had been recruited, initially following an article in the Poundbury Magazine with more coming on board later. The project had been pitched under the plastic free environmental umbrella. The volunteers also included some less abled people.

Members felt that the project was excellent and noted that there were individuals and groups that undertook litter picking in other parts of the town.

Resolved

- (1) That Councillor F. Hogwood be thanked for establishing the project and that information about it be placed in a future edition of the Council's Newsletter.
- (2) That litter picking be a topic at a future Community Lunch.

14. 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.

It was reported that Dorchester Civic Society had recently received an excellent talk regarding urban greening in the town.

Members also felt that the hanging baskets had been attractive again this summer. It was noted that the long term future of hanging baskets might need to be given some consideration at some stage.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

15. Borough Gardens Parking and Outside Gym

Members received a report from the Outdoor Services Manager which proposed a formal parking area for official use and also set out a plan to replace the old outside gym equipment.

The Committee felt that the Outdoor Gym should be replaced and that in the meantime those pieces of equipment that had stopped working be removed and a notice placed letting users know that the equipment was to be replaced in due course.

Resolved

- (1) That the provision of a new parking bay area in the Borough Gardens, as set out in the report, be agreed.
- (2) That a costed plan be presented to a future meeting of the Committee on replacing the Borough Gardens outside gym equipment and safety surfacing with something more suitable.

16. Site Visits

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk setting out the existing arrangements for site visits together with proposal for future site visits.

As part of the informal process Members agreed that ward Councillors all had a duty to monitor and report any issues identified in their area.

Resolved

- (1) That the post-election induction process include a ward tour of all Council owned land and property.
- (2) That future site visits be arranged for the day time and in accordance with the arrangements proposed in the report.

17. Summer Events 2021 Feedback

Members had before them a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the 2021 summer events programme. It was noted that the Committee had previously agreed not to hold the larger summer events due to the uncertainty as to the restriction or conditions that might have been put in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Committee was pleased with the variety of events that had been held in the Borough Gardens and that there had been some form of performance every weekend throughout the summer as from 26 June 2021.

It was felt important for the social media advertising to be more joined up in the future. Members also felt that the pdf posters for events could be circulated with the weekly update.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

18. Grant Applications

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance.

Resolved

- (1) That the grant application from the South West Dorset Multicultural Network in the sum of £250 for hall hire, be agreed.
- (2) That the grant application from Parkinson's Music, in the sum of £140 for hall hire, be agreed.
- (3) That the grant application from Dorchester Poverty Action, in the sum of £500, be agreed.
- (4) That the grant application from Mid Dorset Mencap be not agreed and the applicant be advised to contact the Dorset Council Community Fund Advisor.

19. Kids Club and Holiday Hangouts - Feedback

The Committee received a report from the Community Development Officer on the Kids Clubs and Holiday Hangouts organised by the Council and Alcohol Education Trust at The Great Field over the summer.

Members felt that this had been a great success and had been highlighted by Dorset Council as an example of good partnership working. It was also reported that funding was still available.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

20. 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 5223 to 5237 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

21. **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.

22. **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.

23. **John's Pond**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the John's Pond lease.

Resolved

That the Deputy Town Clerk enter into further discussion with the freeholder and report back to a future meeting.

24. **Dorchester Bowls Club and Changing Rooms**

Members had before them correspondence from the Dorchester Bowls Club together with a note from the Town Clerk.

Resolved

That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Deputy Town Clerk meet with representatives from the Bowls Club to clarify the changing rooms issue, discuss any plans for the Bowls Club may have around climate response with a report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

Chairman