

Dorchester Town Council

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

8 November 2021

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

Apologies: Councillor D. Leaper.

In Attendance

Councillors J. Hewitt.

25. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13 September 2021, adopted by Council on 27 September 2021, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

26. 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 offered their congratulations on again achieving the Green Flag award for the Borough Gardens.

The Outdoor Services Manager reported that a substantial grant had been obtained from the Forestry Commission to purchase, plant and maintain, 71 large trees at King's Road playing field. It was reported that there would be some form of community involvement in the planting of the trees and some consideration would be given to the wider issue of memorial trees and how they may be identified.

It was noted that Parkrun had successfully commenced at the Great Field and had attracted a good number of participants.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

27. Outside Gym

In pursuance of Minute No. 15(2) the Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk setting out proposals and costs for replacing the outside gym equipment and surfacing at the Borough Gardens.

It was noted that the prices for the equipment were not exactly comparable as the equipment manufacturers all supplied slightly differing items. It was agreed that Officers

work with the manufacturers that had presented the two lowest quotes, to produce a final scheme incorporating any equipment identified through the public consultation.

Resolved

That the Officers work with the manufacturers that had presented the two lowest quotes, to produce a final scheme incorporating any equipment identified through the public consultation, to be considered by the Committee at its next meeting.

28. Flagpole in the Borough Gardens

The Committee considered a report by the Outdoor Services Manager on the installation of a new flagpole in the Borough Gardens. The existing flagpole was attached to the toilets next to the tennis courts which meant that it was not very well seen.

Members felt that the provision of a new flagpole in line with the bandstand and Cornwall Road gate would be a significant improvement. Members suggested that an aluminium flagpole would have a longer life than GRP.

Resolved

That a further report be prepared for the next Committee on the cost and benefits of an aluminium flagpole against the standard GRP flagpole.

29. Old Tennis Courts

Members considered a request from Dorchester Almshouses that the Council undertake some work in the area in and around the old tennis courts which were located outside of the Gardens. The area was subject to some anti-social behaviour and was dark and unwelcoming.

The old tennis courts would eventually be handed over to the Community Land Trust for affordable housing but it was likely that work on this development would not commence for some time.

The Committee felt that it would be beneficial for the tall hedge to be cut down to around waist height and the tennis court fencing removed.

Resolved

That the hedge surrounding the old tennis courts be reduced to waist height and the fencing removed.

(Councillor M. Rennie declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Chairman of Dorchester Almshouses and did not vote on this matter)

30. Summer Events 2022

The Committee had before it a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the arrangements for summer events 2022. Members felt that the cost of putting on the Maumbury Rings bank

holiday events was significant and that if the weather was poor, or too good, attendance suffered. It was felt that investing some funds for events in the Gardens over the whole of the summer would provide better value for money. It was noted that the Anonymous Festival could still go ahead in the Borough Gardens.

Resolved

That the August bank holiday events at Maumbury Rings not take place in 2022 with events instead being focussed across the summer in the Borough Gardens.

31. Allotment Fees 2022

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk which set out the cost of the various elements of the allotments service and gave recommendations for fee increases in 2022.

Resolved

(1) That, as from 1 January 2022, the allotment rent and the water fee both be increase by £1.00 each no matter the size of the allotment plot.

(2) That there is no increase in the administration charge in 2022; the fees will therefore be:-

Rent - Full plot on any site	£39.00
Rent - Half plot on any site	£23.00
Water Charge – Full plot	£11.50
Water Charge – Half plot	£9.50
(excludes Frome Terrace – no water)	
Administration Fee for new tenants	£50.00

(3) That the practice of charging double fees for non-Dorchester residents continues.

32. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. Members felt that the beacon lighting should take place and that a large screen be brought into the Borough Gardens so that the Platinum Party in the Palace event could be shown.

Members agreed to establish task and finish working group to finalise the arrangements.

Resolved

That Councillors J. Hewitt, A. Lyall, R. Major, M. Rennie and D. Taylor form a task and finish working group to finalise the arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

33. **Grant Applications**

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance. The Committee was also circulated with a grant application from the Alcohol Education Trust, which had arrived after the agenda had been dispatched.

Members also noted that following consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee an additional £250 had been allocated to the Dorchester Cricket Club so as to enable the previously agreed defibrillator to be installed on the outside of the building so as to allow access to it at any time.

Resolved

- (1) That the grant application from Dorchester Family Support in the sum of £1,000, be agreed.
- (2) That the grant application from Life Education Wessex, be not agreed.
- (3) That the grant application from Mid Dorset Mencap, in the sum of £300, be agreed.
- (4) That the grant application from the Alcohol Education Trust, be not agreed.
- (5) That the action taken in respect of the additional grant to Dorchester Cricket Club be agreed.

34. **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 5238 to 5248 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

35. **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, flagpole and the re-roofing and biomass installation project.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

36. **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.

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

Members considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the outcome of the meeting between the Bowls Club and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

Resolved

That the sub lease be relinquished in accordance with the terms and conditions it previously agreed by the Committee in March 2020.

38. **Sandringham Sports Centre**

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on potential access arrangements to Fordington Farmyard.

Resolved

That a decision on this matter be deferred until a discussion on the proposal has taken place with the Bowls Club and Rifle Club.

39. **Corn Exchange Apse**

Members had been circulated with a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the installation of the lighting rig support bar in the apse of the Corn Exchange.

Resolved

That the report be noted and the matter be revisited once further information has been received from the fabricator and steps to reduce the impact of the beam have been completed.