

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

9 May 2022

Present: 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 and F. Hogwood.

64. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 March 2022, adopted by Council on 28 March 2022, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

65. Site Visits

The Committee considered the notes of the Site Visits meeting held on 12 April 2022 (as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes).

In respect of the painting of the steam roller a number of Members felt that it should be painted with bright colours as it was play equipment. It was noted that traditional bright livery colours would be used so as to still make it attractive to children.

In respect of the Great Field play area Members noted that there had been some criticism about its design which included the need for more equipment for wheelchair users, the style of safety surfacing used, dogs in the play area, fencing and various other matters. Members felt that the play area was a great asset to the town and it was important to let it bed in before making any decisions on its operation.

Resolved

That the notes of the meeting of the Site Visits held on 12 April 2022 be agreed.

66. 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.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

67. The Great Field

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the lease for the Great Field, from the Duchy of Cornwall to the Council, had now been completed. He also reported that the play area had been officially opened by HRH The Prince of Wales on Friday 6 May. A number of contacts from users of the new play area had been received regarding various issues. The Committee felt that it would be useful to review the play area after the summer.

It was noted that there had been a very successful event held at the Great Field recently which had provided its own portable toilets. As the area was now generally busier it was felt important that events being held at the Great Field should provide some additional toilets if possible.

Resolved

That the completion of the lease for the Great Field be welcomed.

68. Grant Applications

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance.

Resolved

- (1) That the grant application from Dorchester Scout and Guide Hall not be agreed in its present form but that the Deputy Town Clerk be instructed to work with the group to identify a project that the Committee would be able to support to the value of £500.
- (2) That the grant application from Dorset Climate Action Group in the sum of £60, be agreed.
- (3) That the grant application from Dorchester Community Plays Association, in the sum of £1,000, be agreed.
- (4) That the grant application from Cycling Without Age not be agreed at the present time but that the application be considered again if further information is provided in respect proposed routes, evidence of need, sustainability etc.
- (5) That the grant application from Dorchester Arts, in the sum of £1,500 for R&D, be agreed.
- (6) That the grant application from Dorchester Family Support, in the sum of £1,000, be agreed.
- (7) That the Council's grant policy be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

(Councillor M. Rennie declared a non-pecuniary interest in (1) above, Councillor R. Potter declared a non-pecuniary interest in (2) and (3) above and Councillor D. Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of (4) above).

69. 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 5269 to 5279 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

70. Twinning

It was reported that 2023 was the fiftieth anniversary of the Council's twinning with Lubbecke and that Bayeux was also planning a twinning visit. Members felt that it was important to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Lubbecke twinning and also to attempt to co-ordinate with Bayeux.

Resolved

That a working group be established to consider ideas to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the town's twinning with Lubbecke and to co-ordinate if possible with any Bayeux arrangements. The Working Group to include the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee and Councillors S. Jones, M. Rennie and D. Taylor.

71. 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.

72. **Easement**

Members considered correspondence requesting an easement across council owned land.

Resolved

That further information be requested in respect of method of work and timings so as to enable the matter to be considered further at the next meeting of the Committee.

Chairman.....

Notes of a Site Visit held on 12 April 2022 at 9.30am.

Sites visited – Corn Exchange Extension, Borough Gardens, Weymouth Avenue Cemetery, Syward Close Play Area, King's Road Steamroller and Playing Fields and the Great Field.

Attending: Councillors R. Biggs, L. Fry, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, R. Major, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Steve Newman, Deputy Town Clerk.
Carl Dallison, Outdoor Services Manager.

1. Corn Exchange Extension

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on the anticipated date of completion for the extension which would house the new biomass boiler with office space on the first floor. Members noted that there was no storage space in the offices at present and that the space would be shared space with Dorchester Arts.

It was noted that there were two meeting rooms in the space, which would be fitted with meeting tables, interactive smart screens etc.

Members felt that it would be useful to see the space again once the new build part of the office had been completed.

2. The Borough Gardens

Members toured the Gardens and the Outdoor Services Manager gave an update on the work that had been and was about to be undertaken. The following actions / items were agreed or noted:-

- That the new outdoor gym equipment was being installed and that it would be completed within a few days.
- That, as agreed at the last meeting, two parking spaces near to the toilets / kiosk would be created when the opportunity arose.
- That the lights on the bandstand were being left on day and night.
- There were no litter pickers in the community litter picking stand.
- That the work required on the large trees adjacent to the old tennis courts was underway.
- That there was no cycle rack at the Princes Street entrance to the Gardens.
- That a new flagpole had been installed.

3. Weymouth Avenue Cemetery

The Group inspected both the North and South Chapels. Members noted that the South Chapel was no longer required for use as a Chapel and had now been made available for use as a storage space by local community groups. It was noted that the gutters required clearing at the North Chapel.

Members then toured the cemetery and were content with its upkeep other than the need for the wall adjacent to the railway line to be re-pointed at some stage.

4. Syward Close Play Area

The Group inspected the play area at Syward Close. It was noted that the play equipment was of the older design but that it did offer some value for the relatively low number of users. The play area had quite a large safe open grassed area and this was appreciated by the users of the site.

It was felt that, for the moment, no additional equipment should be installed at the play area but that this be reviewed should there be an increase in numbers and or requests.

5. Kings Road

The Group visited Kings Road playing fields where the Outdoor Services Manager showed Members the new tree planting which had recently been completed. He also explained about the development of the informal pathways and the associated wild flower planting . It was noted that two alternative locations for a pedestrian bridge had been incorporated within the tree planting design.

Members were pleased to see the progress being made with the refurbishment of the steamroller in the play area. The group discussed the colour scheme and agreed that it should largely be of traditional colours but with a nod to the fact that it was also to be used for children's play. It was also felt that there should be a formal opening once the refurbishment had been completed.

6. The Great Field

Members visited the Great Field and were given a tour of the new play area by representatives of the Duchy of Cornwall who responded to Members questions about the equipment and concerns over the possibility of anti-social behaviour once the play area was opened.

Meeting closed 1.00pm.