

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

13 March 2023

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

In Attendance

Councillors R. Biggs, S. Hosford and G. Jones.

Apologies: Councillors D. Leaper, A. Lyall and D. Taylor.

51. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16 January 2023, adopted by Council on 30 January 2023, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

52. Declaration of Interests

Minute No. 60(4) - Councillors R. Biggs and R. Potter declared a non-pecuniary interest as Council appointees to Dorset Climate Action Network.

53. Management Arrangements

The Committee considered a report from the Assistant Town Clerk Outdoor Services updating it on the work undertaken and the achievements made by the Outdoor Services Team since the last meeting of the Committee. Members were updated in respect of the proposed extension to the facilities building and progress with carbon reduction options for the Borough Gardens House.

Members noted that the Friends of the Borough Gardens had not attended the Committee for some time. It was also requested that the operators of the kiosk in the Gardens be reminded of where to park.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

54. Lubbecke Twinning Anniversary

Members considered the notes of the Task and Finish Group held on 13 February 2023, attached at Appendix 1, established to consider the arrangements for the fiftieth anniversary of the Council's twinning with Lubbecke.

It was noted that the Council's representatives on twinning societies should be invited to meetings which involved the twin towns.

The Committee requested a report to the next meeting exploring the option of a Twinning Panel rather than ad hoc task and finish groups.

Resolved

- (1) That the notes of the Lubbecke Twinning Anniversary Task and Finish Group held on 13 February 2023 be agreed.
- (2) That a report be presented to the next meeting of the Committee exploring the possibility of establishing a Twinning Panel.

55. Council Chamber

The Committee considered whether to establish a Task and Finish Group to look at improvements that could be made to the Council Chamber now that the structural work had been completed. Members felt that the Group should be established and that it should also look at options for refurbishing the Town Hall.

Resolved

- (1) That a Council Chamber and Town Hall Improvements Task and Finish Group be established to consider improvements which could be made to the Council Chamber and Town Hall.
- (2) That the Group consist of five Councillors. Those Members who were interested in sitting on the Group to inform the Town Clerk.
- (3) That the Policy Committee be invited to appoint a representative to the Task and Finish Group.

56. Communication / Mood Boards for Play Areas

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on a proposal to install Communication Boards in play areas so as to enable non-verbal children to communicate and express how they were feeling.

Members were supportive of the proposal and agreed to trial the boards at The Great Field and Borough Gardens, if successful the boards should be rolled out to all of the play areas.

It was also felt that the Youth Council could be asked for its views on the boards and to help evaluate the trial prior to any additional boards being installed.

Resolved

- (1) That the Communication Boards be trialled at The Great Field and Borough Gardens play areas.
- (2) That the Youth Council be asked for its views on the boards and to help evaluate the trial prior to any additional boards being installed.

57. Bayeux Visit

Members were reminded that at the last meeting of the Committee it was reported that the Bayeux Society had organised for visitors from Bayeux, to include the Deputy Mayor, to visit Dorchester over the weekend of 8 to 11 September 2023. The event was being hosted and organised by the Bayeux Society. A request had been received for some form of civic greeting on the morning of Saturday 9 September. The Corn Exchange was unavailable that day but Dorset Museum was free and would be able to provide coffee and cake at £6 a head.

Resolved

That the Council host a coffee and cake civic greeting at the Dorset Museum on the morning of Saturday 9 September 2023.

58. Alington Avenue Allotments – Request to Vary Rules

The Committee was informed that at the last meeting of the Committee a request was received from the Dorset Volunteer Centre to erect a 7m long polytunnel at Alington Avenue Allotments. It was agreed that further discussion take place with the Volunteer Centre to try and identify a more appropriate structure.

All Members of Council had been invited to attend an open event run by DVC to look at the allotment and the work being undertaken by DVC and its volunteers.

Having discussed options with DVC it would seem that a polytunnel would be the best option as it would be used not only for shelter but also for propagation meaning that a shed or similar would not work. It was suggested however that one option that might help would be for the erection of a shed with a smaller polytunnel next to it with access between the two.

The Committee felt that the polytunnel was too large and too prominent on the site and that the rules should not be varied so as to enable it to be erected.

Resolved

That the request to vary the allotment agreement not be agreed.

59. Sandringham Sports Pitches

Members were informed that Dorchester Town Youth Football Club presently managed the pitches at Sandringham Sports Centre. DTYFC had 29 football teams and this number was increasing with particular growth in the number of female teams. The club used the Sandringham pitches and the Dorchester Town Football Club artificial pitch and 1610. However it was getting increasingly difficult to find sufficient pitches to accommodate the existing teams and to grow further.

DTYFC were looking at options that might be available to them and had asked whether the Council would be open to DTYFC investigating the possibility of installing an artificial pitch at Sandringham Sports Centre.

Resolved

That DTYFC be given permission to explore the possibility of installing an artificial pitch at Sandringham Sports Centre.

60. Grant Applications

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance.

Resolved

- (1) That the grant application from Activate Performing Arts in the sum of £500, be agreed.
- (2) That the grant application from Maiden Castle House Care Home be not agreed.
- (3) That the grant application from the Repair Café Dorchester, in the sum of £250, be agreed.
- (4) That the grant application from Dorset Climate Action Network, in the sum of £60, be agreed.

61. Dorchester Bowls Club

The Committee noted a recommendation from the Council's internal auditor that the indexation applied to the Dorchester Bowls Club lease was CPI and not RPI.

Resolved

That the indexation applied to the Dorchester Bowls Club lease was CPI and not RPI was noted.

62. 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 at Dorchester Cemetery, since the last meeting of the Committee had been circulated with the agenda. For future meetings Members requested that consideration be given as to how this information was provided to the Committee.

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 5323 to 5331 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

63. **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.

64. **Edward Road Play Area**

The Committee considered a report from the Town Clerk .

Resolved

That a request be made to extend the play area lease for a further period of 25 years.

Chairman.....

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF LUBBECKE TWINNING TASK AND FINISH GROUP

13 FEBRUARY 2023

Present: Councillors S. Jones, R. Major and M. Rennie.
 Plus: Tess James, Chairman on the Lubbecke Society

Officers: S. Newman, Town Clerk.

1. Dates of Commemoration Celebrations

It was noted that the Town Council's representative on the Lubbecke Society had not been invited to the meeting and it was felt that the representative should be invited to any future meetings.

It was also noted that the Councillor R Major had not been invited to any meetings of the Bayeux Society meetings even though he was the Council's representative on the Society.

The Group agreed that it would be appropriate to invite representatives from Lubbecke to Dorchester over the weekend of the Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair. Representatives to arrive on Friday 2 June and depart on Monday 5 June 2023.

The Chairman of the Lubbecke Society proposed that the Lubbecke Mayor and Mayoress plus the Officer responsible for Twinning Roland Kelle or his equivalent. The Group agreed that this would form the official party and that accommodation would be provided for them.

2. Invitation to the Mayor of Dorchester to visit Lubbecke

It was noted that an invitation was to be received for the Mayor of Dorchester to visit Lubbecke and attend its Town Festival from 11 to 13 August 2023.

It was agreed that Lubbecke be thanked for the invitation and that the dates would be put into the Mayoral diary but that a formal acceptance could not be given until the 2023-24 Mayor had been identified.

3. Proposed Itinerary

The Group considered a first draft itinerary as follows:-

Friday 2 June	Saturday 3 June	Sunday 4 June	Monday 5 June
Arrive – settle in evening meal	Heritage Walk possible led by Steve Wallis – start at the RTH	THVF 3 x Museums Attend TH Wreathlaying followed	Depart
	Brewery Square		

	Borough Gardens Nothe Fort and Fish and Chips	by a civic reception at the Town Hall	
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4. Civic Event Guest List

The Civic event guest list to include:-

- Councillors
- Lubbecke Society
- Bayeux Society
- Durnovaria Silver Band
- United Church
- Dorchester Choral Society
- Director of Dorchester Arts

5. Next Meeting

To be arranged as and when necessary.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk