

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

17 July 2023

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

In Attendance:

Councillors F. Hogwood.

Apologies: The Mayor (Councillors A. Chisolm)

1. Declaration of Interests

None.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 May 2023, adopted by Council on 23 May 2023, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. Dorchester Community Play 2023 - Feedback

Cllr Potter reported on the excellent work undertaken by the Community Play Association and their thanks for the town council's support. Cllr Leaper suggested that perhaps Dorchester Art's script writing workshop could link with any future plans for a community play.

Resolved:

That the feedback letter from the Dorchester Community Play Association was noted and that a letter should be sent from the Council to the Association thanking them for their contribution to the community.

4. Outdoor Services – Update Report

The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) reported that his staff were receiving many compliments from the public regarding the quality of presentation of Borough Gardens. It was also reported that progress was being made in terms of securing Building Control approval for the design of the extension to the Garden's mess facilities and the contract for the work should be placed on Contracts Finder within the coming week along with the contract for the air source heat pump infrastructure. It is hoped that all the works will be completed this year subject to contractor availability.

Cllr Rennie asked that in future the council should plan to install accessible equipment in all the council's play areas. The Assistant Town Clerk also mentioned that there was a need for tree maintenance along the riverside at Frome Terrace and that this would

involve significant work. He also confirmed, in relation to the maintenance of the new trees planting scheme at Kings Road, that the trees will have grown sufficiently that next year will be the last year when they will need watering.

Resolved:

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

5. Consultation on dog-related Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Members expressed a general desire not to seek significant changes to the current restrictions. However, given that the Kings Road recreation site is no longer marked out for sports pitches, it was agreed that the dog-related signage could be removed (except from the play area). It was agreed, however, that the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches (such as at Sandringham and Weymouth Avenue) could just be seasonal when the pitches are in use.

Resolved:

That the council's response to Dorset Council's dog-related PSPO consultation should state that:

- (1) the requirement for dogs to be on leads in cemeteries, public gardens and allotments and within 5m of marked sports pitches should remain;
- (2) dogs should be excluded entirely from certain public areas include enclosed play areas, skate parks and enclosed sports facilities;
- (3) dogs should only be excluded from marked sports pitches on a seasonal basis when the pitches area in use.

6. D-Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations

Cllr Fry reported that discussions were underway between heritage organisations and other interested parties to organise other activities to commemorate the 80th anniversary.

Resolved:

That planning for the council's commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day should be referred to the Twinning/Cultural Activities Panel.

7. Grant Applications

Resolved:

Members discussed the application by the AsOne Theatre Company and requested that more information be sought on whether the workshops would take place in Dorchester, the likely number of Dorchester residents who might take part, and also a breakdown of the project budget. Members also considered that a grant of £500 would be more appropriate.

- (1) That further information be sought from the AsOne Theatre Company for its 'They Came from Ukraine' project in relation to the location of the workshops, likely number of Dorchester-based participants, and a full break-down of the project budget.
- (2) That, subject to the satisfactory receipt of the information outlined in (1) above, that the Assistant Town Clerk, following consultation with the Committee Chairman, be given delegated authority to agree a grant of up to £500 to the AsOne Theatre Company.

8. 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, and the use of the South Chapel, 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 5343 to 5358 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

9. Any Other Business

Cllr Jones requested that updates on proposals for further works and adaptations to the Municipal Buildings should become a standing item on the agenda for future Committee meetings provided to the Committee.

Cllr Leaper also offered to provide regular updates to the Committee from Dorchester Arts, as the council's nominated representative on the organisations management board.

Cllr Major mentioned that despite being the council's nominated representative to the Sawmills Association, along with Cllr Potter, he had only been sent a copy of the Association's minutes rather than being invited to its management meetings. The Town Clerk was asked to write to the Sawmills Association reminding them of the need to invite the council's nominated members representatives to the Association's meetings.

Chairman.....