

# **Dorchester Town Council**

## **Management Committee**

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

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

**In Attendance:**

Councillors J. Hewitt, S. Hosford and F. Hogwood.

**Apologies:** None.

**10. Declaration of Interests**

None.

**11. Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023, adopted by Council on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**12. Issues relating to play equipment at The Great Field**

The chairman invited members of the public, including local residents, to speak on the matter. Ms Becker stated that the problems generated by the proximity of the play equipment to properties on Dukes Parade were more than just 'teething problems' and adversely affected the quiet enjoyment of their homes. Ms Becker urged the committee to consider options (c) and (d) as set out in the report.

Members discussed the feasibility and benefits of relocating certain pieces of play equipment and whether further assistance could be sought from the police and Dorset Council's community safety team. Cllr Rennie stated that Dorset Council had considered the matter when the issues were first raised. Cllr Jones urged consultation with young people as part of the discussion about solutions. Cllr Major did not consider that relocation of the equipment was viable and that incidents of anti-social behaviour tended to move around over time. Cllr Chisholm stated that the activities provided by the play equipment were enjoyed by young people.

Members discussed the potential for the deployment of temporary CCTV in the play area and whether this could be discussed again with Dorset Council. Cllr Ricardo considered that the use of CCTV may be a deterrent and more feasible than the relocation of equipment.

In summary, the Chairman stated that the preferred ways forward, based on the committee's discussion were to explore the potential to 'locking up' the Queen Swing equipment at night and the convening of a meeting with the key agencies to discuss

solutions including the police, Dorset Council, Duchy of Cornwall and local residents. Cllr Hosford also suggested inviting the Youth Centre's outreach worker.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That a meeting be convened to explore a solution to the concerns of anti-social behaviour at The Great Field play area and involving the police, Dorset Council, Duchy of Cornwall, local residents, and the youth outreach worker.
- 2) That officers explore the feasibility and practicality of locking up the Queen Swing equipment at night to prevent its use.

**13. Outdoor Services – late summer update report**

The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) reported that a key focus of the service's work over the last few months had been on refresher training for staff across a range of skills. Cllr Major asked if it would be possible to adapt the fence along the tennis courts to make it removable so that the area could be better used for special events – and create more space. The Assistant Town Clerk stated that he would investigate the feasibility of this proposal and report back to the committee. The issue of new tree planting at Maumbury Rings was raised and the Assistant Town Clerk stated that he would discuss with Historic England.

**Resolved:**

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

**14. Options for a new beacon.**

Cllr Chisholm stated that if the residents in Poundbury wished to install a new beacon then that would be for them to drive forward but his preference was for the existing beacon to remain at Salisbury Field. Cllr Taylor confirmed that his research had not revealed any historical location for a beacon in the town and Cllr Jones confirmed that the beacon had been placed in Salisbury Field to make better use of that greenspace. Members generally felt that it would not be helpful or value for money to relocate the existing beacon. Carl Dallison confirmed that the coat of arms plaque was ready to be installed on the beacon.

**Resolved:**

That the beacon should remain at Salisbury Field.

**15. Trees on Frome Terrace.**

The Assistant Town Clerk presented the report and explained the necessity for removing the diseased trees. The report was noted, with sadness, by the committee.

**Resolved:**

That the proposals for the removal of trees adjacent to Frome Terrace be agreed.

## 16. Grant Applications

Members discussed the grant applications.

### **Resolved:**

- (1) That a decision on the award of a grant of £150 to Damian Clark Creative for the Dorset Dulcimer Weekend be delegated to the Chairman subject to the receipt of satisfactory clarification as to the duration of each session, target age group, and anticipated number of participants.
- (2) That a grant of £500 be awarded to Dorset Poverty Action Group for its school uniform assistance project.
- (3) That no grant be awarded to Life Education Wessex.
- (4) That the application from the Art In Poundbury CIC for an art exhibition in the Jubilee Hall in May 2024 be deferred to a future meeting once further information had been received regarding whether it was open to artists from across Dorchester and details of the expenses the grant would be used to offset.
- (5) That a grant of £500 be awarded to Dorset Transport Action Group for the purchase of hi-visibility vests for young people attending the Streets Alive event.

## 17. 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 5359 to 5366 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

18. **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.

19. **Low carbon heating and PV system for Borough Gardens**

The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) presented a report on the outcome of the procurement process for the new system and summarised the bids that had been received. It was explained that there would be no batteries installed as part of the system as demand would be entirely during the daytime.

**Resolved:**

That the submission from G.R. Edwards be accepted for the scheme.

Chairman.....