

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

14th SEPTEMBER, 2010

At a Meeting of the Management Committee held on 14th September, 2010:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor L.M. Phillips) and Councillors C.S. Biggs, A.J. Canning (Chairman), A. Harries, L.E. Heath, T. James, F.E. Kent-Ledger, A.J. Lyall, P.G. Mann and R.B. Potter.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors D.J. Barrett, E.S. Jones and M.E. Rennie.

19. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13th July, 2010, adopted by Council on 27th July, 2010, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

20. **MINUTES OF MANAGEMENT PANELS**

(a) **Recreational Activities Panel – 2nd August, 2010**

The Committee considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the Recreational Activities Panel held on 2nd August, 2010 (for Minutes see Appendix I) and it was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes be approved so far as this Committee is concerned.

(b) **Arts Panel – 14th September, 2010**

The Committee considered a report on the meeting of the Arts Panel held on 14th September, 2010 (for Minutes see Appendix II) and it was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes be approved so far as this Committee is concerned.

21. **MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee had before it the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team. The Chairman requested that some grass be sown along the Mill Stream where the footpath had been resurfaced.

It was

RESOLVED

That the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team be noted.

22. **LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK - 2010**

Further to Policy Minute 55 the Committee considered a draft programme for Local Democracy Week which was to be held between 11th and 17th October, 2010. Members agreed Wednesday, 13th October, 2010 as the preferred date for the event. It was reported that Councillors E.S. Jones and M.E. Rennie wished to be take part in the day and other volunteers should contact the Deputy Town Clerk.

It was

RESOLVED

That the programme for the Local Democracy Week event be agreed and that it be held on Wednesday 13th October, 2010.

23. **ST PETER'S CHURCH WALL – THE BOW**

The Committee considered whether to make a grant of £625 towards the cost of repairing the boundary wall at The Bow. It was noted that the wall had suffered damage from the elements over past winters with some stones having been displaced and the mortar joints having cracked.

It was

RESOLVED

That a grant of £625 be made towards the cost of repairing St Peter's Church boundary wall at The Bow.

24. **MONITORING REPORTS**

The Committee received the monitoring reports for the Weymouth Avenue Pavilion, Borough Gardens Community Room and the Municipal Buildings which included additional detail regarding forthcoming projects, scheduled maintenance and urgent repairs.

Members were pleased to note that bookings for all the venues were still healthy.

The Committee noted that regular commercial cleaning of the Municipal Buildings had not yet commenced and felt that this was an area of potential saving. Members felt however that it was important that the kitchens be commercially cleaned twice a year and that this cleaning should commence as soon as possible.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Weymouth Avenue Pavilion, Borough Gardens Community Room and Municipal Buildings Monitoring Reports be received.

25. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

The Committee considered the various reports which had been submitted for information and it was

RESOLVED

That the various information reports be noted.

26. **PAID INVOICES**

The Committee inspected the cheque list and supporting vouchers in respect of payments made between 1st July, 2010 and 31st August, 2010 totalling £164,551.45 (net) together with direct debits for the same period totalling £63,859.82 (net).

It was

RESOLVED

That the cheque transactions and direct debit payments lists be approved and signed accordingly.

Chairman

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES PANEL

2nd AUGUST, 2010

At a Meeting of the Recreational Activities Panel held on 2nd August, 2010:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor L.M. Phillips) and Councillors A.J. Canning (Chairman), S.C. Hosford, R.B. Potter and T. James.

In attendance: PCSO K. Holmes, Dorset Police.

APOLOGY for absence was received from Councillor D.J. Barrett.

1. **SANDRINGHAM SPORTS CENTRE**

(a) **Mini Pitches**

The Panel gave further consideration to erecting a ball catch net along the southern fence line of the mini pitches at Sandringham Sports Centre. The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members of the comments received from Dorset Police which supported the erection of a ball catch net to prevent balls from informal play going over the fence and annoying neighbours. It was noted that the cost of a ball catch net along the length of the fence would be in the region of £5,000 and would most likely require planning permission. It was also noted that there was not an issue with the organised matches played on the pitches.

Members discussed the possibility of erecting permanent signs requesting that people use the senior pitch for informal play but it was considered that this was unlikely to resolve the issue and could lead to conflict between neighbours and those using the pitches.

Members had sympathy with the few neighbours that were sometimes affected but considered that the significant cost of installing a ball catch net was prohibitive at the present time. The Panel agreed that the issue should be reviewed in a year's time.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That a ball catch net be not erected at the mini pitches but that the situation be reviewed in a year's time.

(b) **Senior Pitch**

The Panel was asked to consider replacing the existing tall fence which protected the bowling green from errant footballs from the senior football pitch. The existing fence looked dilapidated and was coming towards the end of its life; a quotation for replacing it

with a 5 metre high square mesh fence had been sought. It was noted that the Bowling Club's conifer hedge was also dying and would need either taking out or replacing at some stage in the near future. The cost of replacing the fence was in the region of £8,750. Members felt that the cost of replacing the fence was too expensive and that discussions should be held with the Bowling Club regarding the possibility of undertaking a joint project to replace the fence and conifer hedge.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That discussions be held with Dorchester Bowling Club regarding the possibility of undertaking a joint project to replace the fence and conifer hedge.

(c) New Benches

Members considered a request for some additional benches to be located near to the fitness equipment. It was noted that the picnic table presently located on the far side of the play area was rarely used and it was felt that it should be relocated nearer to the fitness equipment together with one additional new bench.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the picnic table presently located on the far side of the play area be relocated adjacent to the fitness equipment together with one additional new bench.

2. ANNUAL PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

The Panel had before it a copy of the annual play area inspection report. Members considered the report in detail and were pleased to note that it stated that the standard of the Town's play areas continued to be high.

Members again considered whether to fence the play area at Sandringham Sports Centre but felt that this was not necessary as it was not a requirement and there was not a history of dog faeces or litter in the play area.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the play area inspection report be received.

3. PANEL NAME

Further to Management Committee Minute 6/2010 Members gave consideration to the name of the Panel once it assumed responsibility for considering burial functions as from April, 2011 and it was

RECOMMENDED

That, as from April 2011, the Panel be named the 'Outdoor Services Panel'.

4. **THE GREAT FIELD**

The Panel gave further consideration to the Council managing the new sports pitches at the Great Field. It was noted that this would be a management arrangement for the sports pitches only. The Compliance Manager reported that the pitches were of an adequate standard and that if the Council did start managing them it would enable King's Road pitch to be taken out of use for a season so as to allow essential maintenance work to be undertaken on it.

It was reported that the artificial cricket strip had been laid between the football pitches but that the company that laid it had left deep tractor tracks in the area of the bowling run up which meant that the strip was not usable for junior cricket.

Members felt that the pitches were improved and that it would be beneficial to formalise the use of them so that users got used to needing to book and pay for them.

The Panel felt that the Council should enter into a management arrangement with the Duchy of Cornwall to manage the sports pitches on the understanding that the Duchy would arrange additional stone picks if required, the pitches are verti-drained again at the end of the 2010-11 football season and that the cricket strip run up be reinstated and made usable.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the Council agrees to manage and maintain the sports pitches at the Great Field on the understanding that the Duchy of Cornwall arranges additional stone picks if required, have the pitches verti-drained at the end of the 2010-11 football season and repair the cricket strip run up in readiness for the 2011 cricket season.

5. **FUTURE PLAY AREAS – POUNDBURY**

As a matter of urgency the Deputy Town Clerk reported on correspondence received that day from the Duchy of Cornwall which was seeking a view from the Council as to what it would wish to see in regard to S106 play space as part of Poundbury Phases 3 and 4. The Panel's preference was not to have too many small individual play areas but for available monies to be directed into larger play areas with a good mix of play equipment suitable for all ages. Members were reminded of the Council's performance target which stated that all play areas must have a minimum of five different play activities. The Council had achieved this target.

It was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the Duchy of Cornwall be informed that the Council's preference is not to have too many small individual play areas but for available monies to be directed into larger play areas with a good mix of play equipment suitable for all ages.
- (2) That any new play areas should meet the Council's performance target and have a minimum of five different play activities.

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

ARTS PANEL

14th SEPTEMBER, 2010

At a Meeting of the Arts Panel held on 14th September, 2010:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor L.M. Phillips) and Councillors T. James, A.J. Lyall (Chairman) and P.G. Mann.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors C.M. Hebditch and E.S. Jones.

1. **OUTSIDE EVENTS - FEEDBACK**

(a) **Borough Gardens**

The Panel had before it a report which set out the information received from the questionnaires completed by members of the public during the performance of Howling at the Moon in the Borough Gardens on Sunday, 1st August, 2010.

Members noted that the feedback was generally very positive. A number of general comments received mentioned some problems with the toilets and it was agreed that the staff on duty should make regular inspections to ensure they were at an acceptable standard.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the Borough Gardens feedback be noted.

(b) **Maumbury Rings**

Members considered the feedback received in respect of the Maumbury Rings Music Day held on Monday, 30th August, 2010.

The Panel was pleased that the day had been a great success with more people than ever attending. The feedback indicated that the majority of those attending were aware that the event was organised and sponsored by the Town Council which had not been the case in previous years. The majority of those attending were from the Dorchester area.

Members wished for a more significant and larger collection bin to be obtained for future years as the bins used this year did not work. It was also felt that some more toilets should be made available and investigations made into whether they could be lit in some way and that a small tent or gazebo should be provided for the first aiders so as to provide a clear first aid position. It was also noted that Maumbury Rings were not very well signposted within the town.

The Chairman informed the Panel that only two Members had helped obtain feedback in the Borough Gardens and that no Members had helped at Maumbury Rings. Feedback had been obtained for the past three years and the results indicated that there were no significant changes required to arrangements. It was therefore proposed that in future feedback should only be obtained every other year.

The Panel thanked the Chairman and Town Clerk and all those involved for all their hard work in putting on such an excellent event.

It was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That a more significant and larger collection bin be obtained for future years, that additional toilets be made available and investigations made into whether they could be lit in some way and that a small tent or gazebo be provided for the first aiders so as to provide a clear first aid position.
- (2) That investigations be made as to whether it would be possible to erect some additional local direction signs to Maumbury Rings.
- (3) That in future feedback for both Maumbury Rings and Borough Gardens events be obtained every other year only.

2. **FREE EVENTS LEAFLET**

The Panel considered the distribution and anecdotal feedback received in respect of the 'Free Events in Dorchester' leaflet which had been given a full distribution in Dorchester and the surrounding area with 50,000 leaflets having been distributed over the summer.

Members felt that the leaflets were popular but that they did not appear to be drawing additional numbers to the events being put on by the Council. The cost of producing and distributing the leaflets for 2011 would be approximately £3,000.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the 'Free Events in Dorchester' leaflet be discontinued with immediate effect.

3. **POLICY FOR OUTSIDE EVENTS – MAUMBURY EVENTS**

Members considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk which set out a new policy for authorising outside events at Maumbury Rings. The report also set out a revised charge of £265 plus VAT for the remainder of the 2010-11 financial year, this

charge to be reviewed annually in the future at the same time as the Council reviewed its other charges.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the policy for authorising outside events at Maumbury Rings as now submitted be approved.

4. **YOUTH FESTIVAL - 2010**

Members were informed that the 2010 Youth Festival organised by Dorchester Youth Extra had been a success with many young people attending over the day. The Panel wished to express its thanks to Youth Extra for organising such a good event.

Members also agreed that the £2,000 grant set aside for the festival should now be released.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the grant of £2,000 set aside for the Youth Festival be released.