

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

15th MARCH, 2011

At a Meeting of the Management Committee held on 15th March, 2011:

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

In attendance:

Five local residents of Chaseborough Square, Poundbury.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillor A. Harries.

56. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11th January, 2011, adopted by Council on 25th January, 2011, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

57. **MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee had before it the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team. It was reported that some cars entered Sandringham Sports Centre car park in a manner which might cause danger to children leaving the area. Members requested that a 'Caution - Children' type of sign be erected at the entrance.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team be noted.
- (2) That a suitably-worded sign be erected at the entrance to Sandringham Sports Centre car park.

58. **BOROUGH GARDENS**

(a) **Disabled Toilet**

The Committee gave consideration to a modification to the Borough Gardens disabled toilet which would enable easier access for disabled users by way of a RADAR automated disabled toilet entry system. A quotation for the work had been received and the total estimated cost for purchasing and installing the system was £4,500 including associated preliminary and making-good works. It was reported that there could be alternative suppliers of the entry system which might be able to provide a cheaper installation price.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That a RADAR automated disabled toilet entry system be installed at the Borough Gardens disabled toilet at a maximum cost of £4,500.
- (2) That the Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to accept the most appropriate quotation received for the work following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

(b) Putting Green

The Committee considered the charge to be made for using the new putting green to be sited on the old bowling green in the Borough Gardens. Members expressed the hope that the putting green would be in operation in time for the Easter break.

It was

RESOLVED

That the 2011 charge for the putting green be £1 for adults and 50 pence for children.

59. **DUCHY OF CORNWALL RENT REVIEWS**

Further to Committee Minute 31 Members considered correspondence from the Duchy of Cornwall regarding the Sawmills rent review. Members felt that there was little choice but to accept the rent review as proposed and agreed that they did not wish to pursue the idea of annual rent reviews.

It was

RESOLVED

That the proposal from the Duchy of Cornwall for the five yearly rent reviews to be settled on the basis of RPI be agreed.

(Councillor L.E. Heath declared an interest in the above matter as he was a representative on the Sawmills Development Association.)

60. **WATER FEATURE – CHASEBOROUGH SQUARE**

Members were reminded that in March, 2004 the Committee had agreed to take responsibility for the fountain in Chaseborough Square once the site had been formally adopted and upon receipt of a £5,000 commuted sum so as to enable the Council to maintain the fountain from that time onwards. Since then the fountain's water pump had

failed and been replaced and it had also twice been struck by vehicles making the structure unsafe.

The Duchy of Cornwall and the Developer were now proposing to revise the kerb alignment around the fountain by way of a larger offset to the fountain with a double height kerb to the perimeter rather than the stepped single kerbs as at present. This would offer considerably greater protection to the fountain.

Local residents then addressed the Committee in support of keeping the fountain and offered help with keeping it topped up with water on a regular basis so as to prevent difficulties with the pump breaking when the fountain ran dry. The residents also reported that a smallest amount of wind would blow the water away from the water collection bowl.

It was reported that there was a piece of equipment that might be able to be fitted that would automatically turn the pump off when it became too windy.

Members were inclined to agree to take responsibility for the fountain with the help offered by the local residents once the proposed new kerbing work had been carried out and the site had been formally adopted but felt that the commuted sum agreed in 2004 should be re-assessed to reflect the likelihood of the pump needing to be replaced more regularly than anticipated and that investigations should be made as to whether it was possible to fit a piece of equipment that would automatically switch the pump off in windy weather.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the offer of help from local residents to keep the fountain water topped up be accepted.
- (2) That the Council assume responsibility for the fountain once the proposed new kerbing work has been carried out and the site has been formally adopted subject to a revised commuted sum being agreed reflecting the likelihood of the pump needing to be replaced more frequently than originally anticipated.
- (3) That investigations be carried out to see whether it is possible to fit a piece of equipment to the fountain to automatically switch the pump off in windy weather.

61. **SUMMER SATURDAY LIVE PROGRAMME - 2011**

The Committee considered an application from the Promote Dorchester Community Interest Company for a cultural activities grant towards the 2011 Summer Saturday Live Programme which aimed to make the town centre a vibrant and lively location on Saturdays throughout the summer.

Members agreed that the programme was a good thing for the town and something that should be supported but felt that they needed further information regarding the organisation's finances, the number of people that benefitted and the location and type of staging to be used.

It was

RESOLVED

That representatives from the Promote Dorchester Community Interest Company be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to discuss the application further.

62. **MAUMBURY RINGS**

The Committee noted that following consultation with the Chairman of the Arts Panel it had been provisionally agreed to allow Dorchester Love Parade 2011 to hire Maumbury Rings on Sunday, 28th August, 2011 for a free entry, non profit making, festival style event focussed around the theme of understanding and acceptance of diversity in society. The event was proposed to run from 1.00pm to 9.00pm.

The Committee then considered the hire charge to be applied taking into account the increased infrastructure provided by the Council which included staging and toilet facilities. Members felt that the standard hire charge of £265 plus VAT should be applied.

In considering this matter the Committee discussed correspondence from the Treasurer of Dorchester Youth Extra in regard to the Council charging Youth Extra for the hire of Maumbury Rings for the 2011 Anonymous youth festival. Members felt that as the Council had originally asked Youth Extra to help put on a youth festival and that they raised a significant amount of money from elsewhere for the event there should be no charge for the use of Maumbury Rings.

Members also expressed their view that there should be no charge in respect of the proposed free access gypsy and traveller awareness event to be held in the Borough Gardens on 1st June, 2011.

The Committee welcomed these events which would offer Dorchester residents additional free access events in both Maumbury Rings and the Borough Gardens over the summer.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the application to hold the 2011 Love Parade event in Maumbury Rings be agreed and the standard hire charge of £265 plus VAT be applied.
- (2) That Dorchester Youth Extra should not be charged for using Maumbury Rings for the 2011 Anonymous youth festival.

- (3) That there should be no charge in respect of the proposed free access gypsy and traveller awareness event to be held in the Borough Gardens.

63. **MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS CANCELLATION OF EVENTS DUE TO BAD WEATHER**

Members were asked to consider a new condition of hire in regard to the cancellation of events due to bad weather and it was

RESOLVED

That the following condition be added to the Municipal Buildings conditions of hire:-

“In the event of a hirer cancelling a booking due to bad weather the hirer shall not be offered a refund. If the event is cancelled by the Council a full refund will be offered.”

64. **MONITORING REPORTS**

The Committee received the monitoring report 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.

It was

RESOLVED

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

65. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

The Committee considered the various reports which had been submitted for information.

In respect of the minutes of the Arts Centre meeting held in January Members expressed surprise that there was no reference or report back on the joint meeting held between the Arts Centre and the Council’s Arts Panel which discussed future funding and joint promotion events. Members felt that there should be greater liaison with the Arts Centre and suggested that the Arts Centre have a standing item on its agenda to report back and discuss matters related to the Council. It was reported that the Arts Centre was proposing a festive family production of the Secret Garden in the Corn Exchange in January. It was noted that the Arts Panel would be meeting with representatives of the Arts Centre again in the near future and that these issues would be discussed at that meeting.

It was

RESOLVED

That the various information reports be noted.

66. **PAID INVOICES**

The Committee inspected the cheque list and supporting vouchers in respect of payments made between 1st January, 2011 and 28th February, 2011 totalling £72,488.07 (net) together with direct debits for the same period totalling £58,914.28 (net).

It was

RESOLVED

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

67. **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

It was

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 matter the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during its discussion.

68. **MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS**

The Committee had before it correspondence from a hirer of the Municipal Buildings appealing against being charged at the 'Commercial' hirer rate.

Following consideration Members felt that the 'Commercial' hire rate should continue to be applied but that if the hirer fulfilled the 'regular hirer discount' criteria that discount should be applied.

It was

RESOLVED

That the 'Commercial' hire rate continue to be applied but that if the hirer fulfils the 'regular hirer discount' criteria then that discount be applied.

Chairman