

# **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**15th SEPTEMBER, 2009**

At a Meeting of the Management Committee held on 15th September, 2009:

**PRESENT** The Mayor (Councillor S.C. Hosford) and Councillors A.J. Canning (Chairman), T. James, E.S. Jones, F.E. Kent-Ledger, A.J. Lyall, P.G. Mann and M.E. Rennie.

**APOLOGIES** for absence were received from Councillors D.J. Barrett, C.S. Biggs, A. Harries, L.E. Heath and R.B. Potter.

16. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14th July, 2009, adopted by Council on 28th July, 2009, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

17. **MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee received the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team and wished to thank the team for their work, particularly in the Borough Gardens where the flower and shields beds had looked lovely over the summer period. Members also felt that the seat in Kings Road Play Area was not in a good position as it was hidden from view behind the steam roller and requested that it be moved and that an additional seat be located in the play area.

Members requested that a letter be sent to Dorset County Council requesting the old broken fence in front of the grassed areas near to Prince's Bridge on Kings Road be removed and that the grassed area and overhanging trees near the entrance to Casterbridge Road be maintained.

Members also requested that a letter be sent to West Dorset District Council requesting that the hedge around Charles Street car park be managed and maintained as at present it was in a very poor state.

It was

**RESOLVED**

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

18. **ROMAN FESTIVAL 2010**

The Committee had before it an evaluation of the Roman Festival held during August 2008. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that it was proposed to hold another festival in 2010 which would this time be held earlier in the summer before schools closed for the holidays and would be based mainly at Maumbury Rings rather than having a number of different venues around the town. The festival was a joint project between

the Dorset County Museum, Dorset County Council, West Dorset District Council and the Town Council.

It was noted that the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee had offered its support to the festival.

Members felt that the festival should be supported and it was

## **RESOLVED**

That the proposal for a 2010 Roman Festival be supported and that a contribution of £500 be made towards the costs of the project.

### 19. **SUMMER EVENTS – FEEDBACK**

The Committee received a summary of the feedback received in regard to music in the Borough Gardens on 2nd August, 2009 and Maumbury Rings Music Day on 31st August, 2009.

Members were pleased that the feedback overall was very positive and it was clear that the events were well liked by those who had attended. Members felt however that there was still a need to increase publicity for the events via the media and other methods both before and after and also that the Council should promote itself more as the body responsible for running them. The Committee had a number of proposals to address this matter which would need further consideration. These included always using the Council's yellow 'Supported by Dorchester Town Council' banner, ensuring the new leaflet was distributed earlier in the year and incorporated within the packs produced by the BID, additional promotion through the Council website and other appropriate sites and the possible use of additional banners, blimps and flags at events. Members also felt that it would be beneficial to have increased and regular press releases which included photographs, and increased contact with the media generally.

In regard to the Borough Gardens feedback it was noted that there appeared to be a number of people unhappy with the toilet facilities and the Chairman of the Borough Gardens Panel suggested that this could be considered further at the next Panel meeting which was due to be held on 7th October, 2009. It was however felt that the low score was more to do with people not having used the facilities or knowing where they were and there not being a 'not applicable' box on the feedback form. It was also felt that it would be very useful to have a direction sign together with a notice board saying what was on in the Gardens located at the junction of Bowling Alley Walk / Trinity Street.

In regard to Maumbury Rings Music Day concern was expressed about the large amount of litter that was left after the event. It was noted that West Dorset District Council would have new recycling facilities for future events which would help this problem.

Members also felt that it would be beneficial to have a large money collection bin that could be secured to the front of the stage so as to allow the public to make donations without the need for people to have to walk around with collection boxes.

The Committee thanked the Town Clerk and Councillor Lyall for all their hard work in ensuring the success of the summer events programme.

It was

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That a report be prepared for a future meeting of the Committee on the suggestions made with regard to increasing publicity for Council events.
- (2) That the possibility of having a direction sign together with a notice board saying what was on in the Gardens located at the junction of Bowling Alley Walk and Trinity Street be explored.
- (3) That investigations be made into purchasing a large money collection bin so as to allow the public to make donations at events.

20. **ANONYMOUS 09 – DORCHESTER YOUTH FESTIVAL**

The Committee was informed that the Dorchester Youth Festival organised in conjunction with Dorchester Youth Extra had proved to be a success with those who had attended but that very bad weather throughout the day had resulted in a lower number of attendees that had been anticipated. However, a number of youth organisations had been represented and a full day of entertainment provided.

Members expressed some disappointment that the Town Council had not been sufficiently mentioned as a key partner in the event.

Members wished to thank Dorchester Youth Extra who had been supported by the Community Development Officer at West Dorset District Council for all their hard work in organising the day and obtaining significant funding towards it. Members also wished to thank Councillor Lyall whose idea it was to hold such an event.

The Committee felt that a similar event should be held again in 2010.

Members felt that it would be beneficial for them to understand further how Dorchester Youth Extra related to other youth organisations in the town, how young people became a part of it, how it worked and so on and agreed that the Community Development Officer who supported the group should be invited to talk about this at a future meeting of the Committee.

It was

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That Dorchester Youth Extra supported by the Community Development Officer at West Dorset District Council be thanked for all their hard work in organising and obtaining the funding for Anonymous 09.

- (2) That a similar event be held again next year.
- (3) That the Community Development Officer who supported Dorchester Youth Extra be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to explain how the group worked.

21. **LOUDS MILL ALLOTMENTS CAR PARK**

The Committee considered a request from Bredy Agricentre Ltd to allow four or five of its staff to park their cars at Louds Mill allotments during office hours Monday to Friday. Members felt that this car park was for the use of allotment holders and should remain so.

It was

**RESOLVED**

That the request from Bredy Agricentre Ltd be not acceded to.

22. **WEYMOUTH AVENUE RECREATION GROUND**

Members considered whether to make provision of approximately £8,000 in the Estimates for 2010-11 to enable the path which running along the cemetery wall at Weymouth Avenue Recreation Ground to be resurfaced. The Committee felt that as the path had originally been created for access to the old cricket pavilion which was no longer there it was not necessary for it to be upgraded and that it should instead be removed and returned to grass.

It was

**RESOLVED**

That the path be not resurfaced and that it be removed and grassed.

23. **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.

In response to a question Members were reminded that the kitchenette in the Magistrates Room was to be removed and a storage area created. If teas and coffees were required by hirers this would be provided by way of an urn.

The Mayor proposed that community organisations should be able to use the Magistrates Room one morning a week without charge so that they may demonstrate their work to a wider public; such an arrangement would also allow people an additional opportunity to view the tapestries during the week.

It was

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Weymouth Avenue Pavilion, Borough Gardens Community Room and Municipal Buildings Monitoring Reports be received.
- (2) That a report be presented to a future meeting of the Committee on the proposal to allow community organisations to use the Magistrates Room one morning a week without charge so as to demonstrate and publicise their activities to a wider public.

24. **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.

25. **PAID INVOICES**

The Committee inspected the cheque list and supporting vouchers in respect of payments made between 1st July, 2009 and 31st August, 2009 totalling £277,528.40 (net) together with direct debits for the same period totalling £63,047.34 (net).

It was

**RESOLVED**

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

26. **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 matters the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

27. **MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS TOILET REFURBISHMENT**

The Committee was informed that following a report from the Council's consultant on the tenders received for the refurbishment of the Municipal Buildings toilets the tender received from Mitchell (Building) Limited in the sum of £65,263.52 had been accepted.

It was noted that, subject to agreement, the works would commence during October/November and last for approximately six weeks. During this time the downstairs toilet facilities would not be available to hirers but that portable facilities would be situated in the car park.

It was

**RESOLVED**

That the action taken be noted.

28. **DORCHESTER BOWLS CLUB**

The Committee received the Dorchester Bowls Club annual accounts for the year ended December, 2008.

The Committee requested that a letter be sent to Members informing them of the unique arrangement that had been made so as to facilitate the original construction and establishment of the Bowls Club and how that arrangement would benefit the Council financially in future years.

It was

**RESOLVED**

- (1) That the Dorchester Bowls Club Annual Accounts for the year ended December, 2008 be received.
- (2) That a letter be sent to Members informing them of the nature of the Council's partnership with the Bowls Club.

(The Mayor (Councillor S.C. Hosford) and Councillor E.S. Jones declared personal interests in this matter as their partner and husband respectively were members of the Bowls Club.)

Chairman