

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

5th MAY, 2009

At a Meeting of the Management Committee held on 5th May, 2009:

PRESENT Councillors C.S. Biggs, A.J. Canning (Chairman), A. Harries, L.E. Heath, S.C. Hosford, T. James, E.S. Jones, F.E. Kent-Ledger, A.J. Lyall, R.B. Potter and M.E. Rennie.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor C.M. Hebditch) and Councillor P.G. Mann.

61. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10th March, 2009, adopted by Council on 24th March, 2009, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

62. **ARTS PANEL**

The Committee considered the Minutes of the Meeting of the Arts Panel held on 20th April, 2009 (for Minutes see Appendix I).

Members noted that the proposed 2009 Arts Festival would not be taking place but that instead there would be a community celebration entitled 'Moving On... Dorchester Fringe 09' which would focus around the Dorset County Museum, the Corn Exchange and South Street from 21st to 24th May, 2009. Events included Mambo Santamaria, Julia Fowlis and Lou Brown, The Thomas Hardy Society 'The Countryside in May', various activities around the town, Dorchester Community Play Association 'The Play of St George' and Sing! Bang! Bop!.

Representatives from the Arts Centre had requested that the Council consider contributing the £5,500 set aside for the original festival to the community celebration. It had been noted that this proposal would need to be considered and agreed by the Council's Policy Committee.

The Arts Panel had agreed to support the community celebration event and had recommended that the Policy Committee be requested to consider authorising the grant of £5,500 earmarked for the 2009 festival to that event.

The Committee felt that as this event was no longer the full festival the whole £5,500 might not be needed. Members felt that the Arts Centre should provide a budget for the community celebration for consideration by the Policy Committee and that any grant awarded should only be paid following the receipt of copy invoices.

It was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the Arts Centre be asked to provide a budget for the Community Celebration event

for consideration by the Policy Committee and that the grant awarded be up to £5,500 and should only be paid following the receipt of copy invoices.

- (2) That, subject to the recommendation set out above, the Minutes be approved so far as this Committee is concerned.

63. **MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee received the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team. Members requested that the edges of the small area of land on the corner of London Road and King's Road be strimmed, that the Borough Gardens House answer phone be checked as it appeared not to be working over the weekend and that the mole situation at Kings Road playing fields be dealt with as soon as possible. The Committee also expressed its pleasure that the new skatepark had been completed and had proved very popular. Members requested that consideration be given to providing additional litter bins and recycling facilities at the park.

Members were informed that the outdoor gym equipment for Sandringham Sports Centre had now been delivered and would be installed shortly. The Committee felt that the equipment should be located on the main playing field area near to the play area if possible rather than on the site of the old fitness trail which was rather out of the way.

The Committee noted that it would be necessary to fell two Horse Chestnut trees along South Walks, one near the pedestrian crossing close to the war memorial, the other on the Icen Way corner. Both trees were suffering from phytophthora and permission to fell had been received from West Dorset District Council. Members requested that the trees be replaced with mature specimens and proposed a copper beech replacement for the one near Icen Way.

With regard to the benches that had recently been vandalised at Poundbury Members requested that the Council offer to source new benches for the Duchy of Cornwall if this would be helpful.

It was

RESOLVED

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

64. **ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09**

Members were advised that as the Performance and Policy Plan was not produced until November the Council was now required to produce an Annual Report which needed to be published by 30th June 2009. The Committee was asked to consider delegating authority to approve the final Report to a working group consisting of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Management, Policy and Planning and Environment Committees and it was

RESOLVED

That approval of the 2008/09 Annual Report be delegated to a working group consisting of the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Management, Policy and Planning and Environment Committees

65. **FORDINGTON GREEN**

The Committee was reminded that at its last meeting it was agreed to monitor the situation with regard to people parking on the church side of Fordington Green. Since the last meeting a number of complaints had been received regarding this nuisance which appeared to be continuing.

Members felt that locating some benches on the edge of the Green facing inwards would prevent this nuisance and be a benefit to those in the area. Members also requested that they be supplied with a standard note that they could place on vehicles which they saw parked on the Green.

The Committee also instructed that this Council's vehicles should not park on the Green as it set a bad example. One Member reported that a local resident had offered for the Council to park in front of his property whilst maintaining the Green.

It was

RESOLVED

That the grass be reinstated and that a suitable number of benches be placed on the edge of the Green so as to prevent unauthorised parking.

66. **SALISBURY FIELD BENCH**

The Committee was informed that, following a complaint regarding anti social behaviour at night, the bench located at the eastern end of Salisbury Field had been removed to ascertain whether or not it would be missed. Since the seat had been removed the Council had received several written requests and a petition for the seat to be returned.

Members felt that the bench should be returned and it was

RESOLVED

That the bench be returned to its original position and that the Police be requested to pay extra attention to the area to endeavour to eliminate any anti social behaviour.

67. **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.

With regard to Weymouth Avenue Pavilion it was suggested that the hot water boiler in the kitchen had been fitted too high making it difficult for some people to use.

With regard to Municipal Buildings bookings Members requested that the Deputy Town Clerk prepare a report for the next meeting on bookings from existing regular hirers following the period of time that they would not be able to hire the building due to the new lift being installed.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Weymouth Avenue Pavilion, Borough Gardens Community Room and Municipal Buildings Monitoring Reports be received.
- (2) That the feasibility of lowering the hot water boiler at Weymouth Avenue Pavilion be investigated.
- (3) That the Deputy Town Clerk prepare a report for the next meeting of the Committee on bookings from existing regular hirers following the period of time that they would not be able to hire the building due to the new lift being installed.

68. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

The Committee considered the various reports which had been submitted for information together with the Council website statistics report for April, 2009 which was tabled and it was

RESOLVED

That the various information reports be noted.

69. **PAID INVOICES**

The Committee inspected the cheque list and supporting vouchers in respect of payments made between 1st March, 2009 and 28th April, 2009 totalling £145,905.66 (net) together with direct debits for the same period totalling £96,497.22 (net).

It was

RESOLVED

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

70. **SANDRINGHAM SPORTS CENTRE – PERIMETER FENCE**

As a matter of urgency the Committee considered which quotation to accept for the replacement of the boundary fence between St Mary's First School and Sandringham Sports Centre. It was noted that four quotations had been sought but that only two priced quotations had been returned and these were not exactly comparable.

Members agreed that the more expensive quotation received from Alpha Rail Limited should be accepted as that fence would provide a better finish, require less maintenance and it would last longer.

It was

RESOLVED

That the quotation received from Alpha Rail in the sum of £33,489.58 be accepted.

Chairman

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

ARTS PANEL

20th APRIL, 2009

At a Meeting of the Arts Panel held on 20th April, 2009:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor C.M. Hebditch) and Councillors V. Black, E.S. Jones and A.J. Lyall (Chairman).

In attendance:

S. Bickle and K. Hatch, Dorchester Youth Extra.

S. Hayden and A. Nisbet, Dorchester Arts Centre.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors T. James and P.G. Mann.

11. **MAUMBURY RINGS YOUTH ACTIVITIES DAY**

The Panel welcomed Sue Bickle and Keith Hatch, who were representing Dorchester Youth Extra (DYE), to the meeting. The DYE representatives updated Members on the progress so far achieved by the young people of DYE who were partnering the Council in respect of the Maumbury Rings youth activities day being held on 30th August, 2009. The event was to be called 'ANONYMOUS 09 – Dorchester's Youth Festival' and a number of planning meetings had already been held.

The event was planned to showcase the vast array of young people's talent in Dorchester and to highlight the many youth organisations and opportunities for young people in the town. There was to be a main stage hosting young local bands and disc jockeys, an acoustic tent and a performance tent sponsored by West Dorset Youthbank as part of the 10 YouthBank UK celebrations. There would also be a parade/show area in front of the main stage. DYE had prepared a letter to be sent to a database of youth organisations, schools, etc asking whether they would like to take part in the festival. The letter was due to be dispatched in the near future.

DYE had successfully obtained £12,000 funding from Dorset Youth Opportunity Fund to help fund the event which would require the stewarding and security requested by the Licensing Authority.

The Panel thanked DYE for its support and efforts with the festival arrangements and it was

RECOMMENDED

That the progress made in organising the youth activities day be supported and welcomed.

12. **DORCHESTER ARTS CENTRE**

(a) **Community Celebration**

The representatives from the Arts Centre informed the Panel that the proposed 2009 Arts Festival would not be taking place but that instead there would be a community celebration entitled 'Moving On... Dorchester Fringe 09' which would focus around the Dorset County Museum, the Corn Exchange and South Street from the 21st to 24th May, 2009. Events included Mambo Santamaria, Julia Fowlis and Lou Brown, The Thomas Hardy Society 'The Countryside in May', various activities around the town, Dorchester Community Play Association 'The Play of St George' and Sing! Bang! Bop!.

The representatives requested that the Council consider contributing the £5,500 set aside for the original festival to the community celebration. It was noted that this proposal would need to be considered and agreed by the Council's Policy Committee.

Members supported the proposal for a community celebration and it was

RECOMMENDED

That the Community Celebration event be supported and the Policy Committee be requested to consider authorising the grant of £5,500 earmarked for the 2009 festival to this event.

(b) **Dorchester Arts Centre – Business Plan**

The Panel had before it the draft 2009–2012 Dorchester Arts Centre Business Plan. In response to a question the representatives from the Arts Centre informed Members that it was proposed to develop some projects with Weymouth and that an action plan would be produced to sit alongside the business plan.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the draft Dorchester Arts Centre – Business Plan 2009–2012 be supported.