

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

7th MAY, 2013

At a Meeting of the Management Committee held on 7th May, 2013:

PRESENT Councillors K.E. Armitage, C.S. Biggs, T. James, E.S. Jones, A.J. Lyall and R.B. Potter (Chairman).

In attendance:

Councillor G.M. Jones.

Mr. A. Roberts-Wray – Head of Sunninghill Preparatory School.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from and Councillors S. Hosford, F.E. Kent-Ledger, T. Loakes and M.E. Rennie.

79. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12th March, 2013, adopted by Council on 26th March, 2013, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

80. **BOROUGH GARDENS PANEL – 22nd APRIL, 2013**

The Committee considered the Minutes of the Borough Gardens Panel held on 22nd April, 2013 (for Minutes see Appendix I).

It was

RESOLVED

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

(2) That the staff be congratulated on maintaining the Gardens to such an excellent standard.

81. **KING'S ROAD PLAYING FIELD**

The Committee welcomed Mr. Andrew Roberts-Wray, Head of Sunninghill Preparatory School, to the meeting. Mr Roberts-Wray addressed Members regarding a request that Sunninghill Preparatory School be permitted to use King's Road Playing Field for rugby from September, 2013 onwards. It was noted that the School was in the Dorchester Area Schools Partnership and would like to play rugby against other local schools. It was proposed to use the pitch two or three afternoons a week during term time; for the remainder of the time the pitch would be available for community use. Members wished to encourage sport and felt that the request from Sunninghill Preparatory School should be agreed on the following basis:

- That the School purchase combined football and rugby posts and nets and retain ownership of them.
- That the School arrange for the installation of the posts in consultation with the Council.
- That the School be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the posts including any emergency repairs.
- That the School provide and look after its own rugby protective covers for the posts.
- After the initial marking of the pitch the School to be responsible for the ongoing pitch marking.
- The School to book the pitch for use through the Council's bookings officer who will make a note of all the bookings in the diary to ensure that there are no clashes with other hirers.
- That the School be not charged a pitch hire fee.
- That the level of use of the pitch by the School be monitored.

It was

RESOLVED

That Sunninghill Preparatory School be authorised to use King's Road Playing Field for rugby from September, 2013 onwards on the terms and conditions set out above.

82. **FUTURE MAINTENANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FORDINGTON FIELDS AND MAX GATE ROUNDABOUTS**

The Committee was informed that Mr. S. Howard from Dorset County Council had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss future maintenance arrangements in respect of Fordington Fields and Max Gate roundabouts. Mr. Howard had accepted the invitation to attend but had not arrived. Members were very disappointed that Mr. Howard was not in attendance, particularly as Max Gate roundabout was already in need of maintenance.

Members felt that Mr. Howard should be requested to attend either the next Council meeting or a meeting with Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee and Councillor E.S. Jones.

It was

RESOLVED

That Mr. S. Howard from Dorset County Council be requested to attend either the next full Council meeting or a meeting with Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and Councillor E.S. Jones.

83. **MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee noted the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team. Members reported that there was a part of a base of an old play rocker protruding from

the ground at Salisbury Field Play Area and requested that it be removed or a new rocker installed in the same position.

In response to a question Members were informed that Dorchester Cricket Club had been informed that the cricket wicket would not be available for play on the first weekend on the 18th April, not forty eight hours prior as had been reported. The wicket was unavailable due mainly to the exceptionally poor weather in March and April which had prevented the normal pre-season work being undertaken.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team be noted.
- (2) That a new rocker be purchased for Salisbury Field Play Area.

84. **SOUTH WALKS AND WEST WALKS**

Members noted that Dorset County Council had secured funding from the Department for Transport from the 'Linking Local Communities' fund to improve the surface of South Walks and part of West Walks so as to allow cycling on them. The terms of the funding were that the works must be completed by the end of December, 2014. The Committee welcomed the news and noted that care would need to be taken when resurfacing the area near to the Dorset Martyrs Memorial.

It was

RESOLVED

That the funding secured by Dorset County Council to improve the surfaces of South Walks and part of West Walks so as to allow cycling on them be noted.

85. **SANDRINGHAM SPORTS CENTRE**

The Committee considered correspondence from a user of the basketball hoop at Sandringham Sports Centre requesting that the hoop and backboard be replaced so as to be compliant with the current basketball regulations.

It was

RESOLVED

That a replacement regulation basketball hoop, backboard and post be purchased for use at Sandringham Sports Centre.

86. **BOROUGH GARDENS TENNIS COURTS**

Members considered correspondence from a user of the Borough Gardens tennis courts suggesting that a back board be placed in one of the self-contained courts so as to allow a solo player to practise whilst waiting for a partner.

Whilst appreciating the suggestion the Committee felt that a back board would be likely to be used for the wrong purposes and Members therefore did not wish to proceed with the suggestion.

RESOLVED

That a back board for one of the self-contained tennis courts be not purchased.

87. **ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13**

The Committee considered the draft 2012-13 Annual Report which was required to be published by the end of June 2013. It was noted that the latest census figures indicated that the population of Dorchester was now 19,060 and so the front page of the report would be amended to read ‘...With a population of over 19,000...’ instead of ‘...With a population of over 17,500...’.

It was

RESOLVED

That, subject to the amendment set out above, the draft 2012-13 Annual Report as now submitted be approved so far as this Committee is concerned.

88. **CEMETERY MATTERS**

(a) **Exclusive Right of Burial**

The Committee had before it a report which detailed the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces in Dorchester, Poundbury and Fordington Cemeteries since the last meeting of the Committee and it was

RESOLVED

That the report on the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces in Dorchester, Poundbury and Fordington Cemeteries since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(b) **Interments and Burial of Ashes**

Members considered a report which listed the dates and times of interments and burials of ashes together with South Chapel usage at Dorchester Cemetery since the last meeting of the Committee and it was

RESOLVED

That the report listing the dates and times of interments and burials of ashes together with South Chapel usage since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(c) Headstones and Inscriptions

The Committee received and noted applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions and it was

RESOLVED

That the action of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 3947 to 3963 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

89. **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.

It was

RESOLVED

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

90. **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.

91. **PAID INVOICES**

The Committee inspected the cheque list and supporting vouchers in respect of payments made between 1st March, 2013 and 30th April, 2013 totalling £150,827.50 (net) together with direct debits for the same period totalling £60,535.39 (net).

It was

RESOLVED

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

Chairman

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

BOROUGH GARDENS PANEL

22nd APRIL, 2013

At a Meeting of the Borough Gardens Panel held on 22nd April, 2013:

PRESENT Councillors K.E. Armitage, E.S. Jones (Chairman) and G.M. Jones.

In attendance:
Councillor R.B. Potter.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillor D. Taylor and Mrs. F. McLaren, Friends of the Borough Gardens.

1. **BOROUGH GARDENS**

(a) **New Public Toilets**

The Panel viewed the recently completed new public toilets and considered signage and an opening strategy for them.

In respect of an opening strategy Members felt that the toilets should be open at times when the Gardens were busy to include the Spring Bank Holiday and the school summer holidays. As well as this staff should be given discretion to open the toilets at any other times when the Gardens were particularly busy such as during events.

In regard to signage it was considered that one sign to be placed under the external light on the north wall of the toilets would be sufficient, the sign to indicate that the building was a public toilet and that if closed to direct the public to the toilets at the top of the Gardens.

It was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the new toilets should be open at times when the Gardens were busy to include the Spring Bank Holiday and the school summer holidays and, in addition, staff should be given discretion to open the toilets at any other times when the Gardens were particularly busy such as during events.
- (2) That a new sign be placed under the external light on the north wall indicating that the building was a public toilet and that if closed to direct the public to the toilets at the top of the Gardens.

(b) Generally

Following an inspection of the Borough Gardens it was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the new public toilets sign be designed to include information about the Putting Green.
- (2) That discussions continue with Rethink regarding them operating the Putting Green and providing ice cream at the location.
- (3) That the benches around the Putting Green be returned once they have been refurbished.
- (4) That the Bayeux bench be made safe as a matter of urgency and then refurbished.
- (5) That the north face of the pedestal of the fountain be cleaned.
- (6) That the small tree between the fountain and West Walks entrance be re-staked.
- (7) That the grassed area between the steps to the new tennis courts and Whetstones be weeded and improved with appropriate planting.
- (8) That the Compliance Manager be requested to arrange for signage on the tennis courts to the rear of the former County Hospital to be cleaned and re-fixed.