

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

11th SEPTEMBER, 2012

At a Meeting of the Management Committee held on 11th September, 2012:

PRESENT Councillors K.E. Armitage, D.J. Barrett, T. James, E.S. Jones, A.J. Lyall, R.B. Potter (Chairman), M.E. Rennie and D. Taylor.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from The Mayor (Councillor A.J. Canning) and Councillors C.S. Biggs, S.C. Hosford and F.E. Kent-Ledger.

15. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10th July, 2012, adopted by Council on 24th July, 2012, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16. **MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee noted the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team. Members requested that further consideration be given to the operation of the putting green in readiness for next summer, particularly in respect of publicity and accessing the equipment from staff.

It was reported that the kick-wall at Sandringham Sports Centre was to be graffiti painted by young people under the direction of an artist on the 15th September and it was requested that the local residents be informed of the project prior to it happening.

In respect of Elizabeth Place Play Area, Members reported that they had received very positive feedback from residents and young people regarding the new fence which had been very much welcomed. Members wished to thank the contractors for doing such a swift and good job. Members also praised the contractors erecting the new fence around Maumbury Rings.

In response to a question the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the Duchy of Cornwall had not transferred any of the land at Poundbury to the Council at present although some areas such as the play areas and the Great Field were managed by the Council under agreement with the Duchy. Any transfer of land and commuted payment would be brought before the Committee for its consideration.

Members noted that the small fence around the grassed area on the junction of Mill Street and Kings Road had again been damaged and requested that the County Council be asked to remove it completely.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team be noted.

- (2) That local residents be informed of the graffiti kick-wall project prior to the event taking place.
- (3) That the Elizabeth Place Play Area fencing contractors be informed of the Council's appreciation of their good work in respect of the new fence.
- (4) That Dorset County Council be requested to remove the broken fence around the grassed area on the junction of Mill Street and Kings Road.

17. **NATIONAL CYCLING NETWORK**

The Committee considered whether it would support the proposed northern section of the Dorchester cycling route which would involve the promotion and signage of a cycle route along South Walks, Bowling Alley Walk and West Walks. It was noted that the Council's Planning and Environment Committee had also considered this matter at its last meeting and had resolved the following:

“That the Town Clerk be requested to inform the Dorset County Council that this Council would support the promotion and signage on the Walks with the proviso that as little signage as possible is erected, that no white line markings are used and ‘Cyclists Dismount’ signs are erected at all road junctions.”

Members agreed with the resolution of the Planning and Environment Committee and, whilst discussing the cycling route, felt that it would be beneficial to have some form of warning to slow down or dismount where the route exits the footpath onto Armada Way.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That this Committee supports the resolution of the Planning and Environment Committee.
- (2) That Dorset County Council be informed of this Council's view that it would be beneficial to have some form of warning to slow down or dismount where the route exits the footpath onto Armada Way.

18. **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 3919 to 3927 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

19. **FOOTBALL TEAM BOOKINGS 2012-13**

The Committee noted the football teams that had booked regular matches at Weymouth Avenue Recreation Ground, Sandringham Sports Centre and the Great Field. for the 2012-13 season. Members were also circulated with details of the football teams that had played regularly during the 2011-12 season.

Members noted that there was an increase in the numbers of teams playing but that there was a shortage of pitches, particularly all weather pitches, available for those teams to train on.

The Chairman of the Community Activities Panel informed the Committee that youth footballers from Lubbecke would be visiting the town on the weekend of the 13th

October, 2012; further details about the weekend would be circulated nearer the time but in the meantime Members were asked to note the date in their diaries.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the report on football team bookings for 2012-13 be noted.
- (2) That the need for additional facilities for football training, particularly all weather pitches, be noted.

20. **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 noted that the Municipal Buildings bookings were down on last year and that there would be additional competition in the town once the facility at Brewery Square was developed later in the year and also with the possibility of the football club developing a function room which could be hired.

It was noted that the maintenance contract for Smith of Derby had been renewed for a further period of five years to 2016.

It was

RESOLVED

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

21. **MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION 2012-13 ONWARDS**

The Committee had before it a report on the advertising and promotion arrangements for the Municipal Buildings.

Members felt that for future years it was important to focus on promotion via the internet and that this was where future resources should be targeted. It was suggested that the Council's website could be enhanced to make it more attractive to potential hirers for weddings and wedding receptions and that the Council's presence on Google first page venue listing sites could be developed.

The Committee felt that it would be useful to know where previous hirers learnt about the Municipal Buildings as a venue and requested that a report on this be presented to the next meeting.

Whilst discussing weddings Members felt that it would be worthwhile revisiting whether the Borough Gardens should be licensed for civil weddings.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That for 2013-14 onwards the Municipal Buildings advertising and promotion budget be concentrated on promoting the venue via the internet.
- (2) That investigation be made into enhancing the Council's existing website so as to make it more attractive to potential hirers for weddings and wedding receptions.
- (3) That a report be presented to a future meeting of the Committee on the possibility of licensing the Borough Gardens as a venue for civil weddings.

22. **MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS PLATFORM LIFT**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the difficulties experienced with the operation of the Municipal Buildings platform lift. Members noted that a solution to the issue had been identified which should resolve the reliability issues experienced to date. It was also noted that the engineers would be on site later in the week to undertake the fix.

It was

RESOLVED

That the report on the operation of the Municipal Buildings platform lift be noted.

23. **PAID INVOICES**

The Committee inspected the cheque list and supporting vouchers in respect of payments made between 1st July, 2012 and 31st August, 2012 totalling £146,401.34 (net) together with direct debits for the same period totalling £63,792.66 (net).

It was

RESOLVED

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

24. **ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

The Committee was asked to note that, following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, it had been agreed that Sunninghill Preparatory School would fund the installation of combined football/rugby posts at Kings Road Playing Field to enable it to use the pitch. The Council would mark and maintain the pitches. Some Members felt

that this decision should not have been taken under delegated powers and requested further information regarding the issue. It was reported that the decision had been taken in this manner so as to be able to give the school some indication as to whether this would be an acceptable proposal prior to the start of the school term and that the school would be required to book and pay for the hire of the pitch in the same way as any other user. Members felt that it would be useful to have details of the arrangement and requested that a letter setting this out be circulated.

In discussing this matter it was felt that the Outdoor Activities Panel should meet to discuss the opportunities that might be available from the Olympic Legacy Inspiration funding from Sport England.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the action taken under delegated powers be noted.
- (2) That Members be circulated with the details of the arrangement.
- (3) That a meeting of the Outdoor Services Panel be arranged to discuss the opportunities that might be available from the Olympic Legacy Inspiration funding from Sport England.

25. **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.

26. **CONVERSION OF BOROUGH GARDENS BOWLS PAVILION TO PUBLIC TOILETS – MINUTES OF MEETING AND SELECT TENDER LIST**

The Committee received the Minutes of a contract meeting held on 16th July, 2012 in respect of the conversion of the Borough Gardens Bowls Pavilion to toilets and gave specific consideration to the select tender list for the contract as set out in Paragraph 1 of the Minutes. It was reported that one of the contractors on the select list was due to retire in the near future.

It was noted that there were some trophies and such like still in the Bowls Pavilion which would be removed before the conversion commenced.

Members also noted that ongoing community toilet funding might be available from West Dorset District Council once the toilets had been completed.

It was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the notes of the meeting be received.
- (2) That the select list of contractors as identified in paragraph 1 of the Minutes be approved.

27. **DORCHESTER TENNIS AND SQUASH CLUB**

As a matter of urgency the Committee considered correspondence from the Dorchester Tennis and Squash Club which was exploring options with regard to the possibility of adding a fourth tennis court at the Club.

Members felt that the proposal would be one that the Council would support in principle subject to sight of detailed plans.

The Committee felt that this proposal might also clarify the ownership of the footpath between the Club car park and railway line.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the proposal be supported in principle subject to the consideration of detailed plans in due course.

Chairman