

# Dorchester Town Council

## Policy Committee

19 September 2017

**Present:** Councillors A. Chisholm, G. Jones (Chairman) and T. Jones

**Apologies:** Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, R. Biggs, T. Harries, S. Hosford and P. Stein.

**Also present:** Councillors S. Jones and M. Rennie

### 7. Minutes

The Minutes of the Committee of 18 July 2017, adopted by Council on 25 July 2017, were taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 8. Financial Report 2017-18

The Town Clerk provided an update covering the Council's Month 5 spend in relation to the budget, cash position, current debt and payments position and reported receipt of the final audited Annual Return for 2016-17.

He outlined the background to a request for additional budget for the Borough Gardens Tennis Project.

#### Resolved

- a) That the Payments list totalling £297,886.60 is approved
- b) That an additional £27,500 is allocated from the Corporate Projects Reserve to deliver the Borough Gardens Tennis Courts project

#### Recommended to Council

That the certificated Annual Return 2017 is approved and accepted

### 9. Corporate Plan Review

The Committee received a report from the Town Clerk regarding progress on tasks identified within the Corporate Plan. A Member invited the Town Clerk to further improve the report by introducing direction of travel indicators.

Members considered the proposal for the establishment of a Steering Group to commence a programme of works related to Heritage Tourism. In supporting the approach and recognising the need to begin work on the outline programme of works, the Committee requested a further report regarding any proposals to spend Council's funds on the project and that the Joint Heritage Committee be made aware of developments.

The Town Clerk provided an update on progress of the Dorchester Area Community Land Trust, the receipt of five expressions of interest from architects, and the plan to hold a public meeting, now scheduled for 8 November. He confirmed that informal discussions

continued with Dorchester Municipal Charities, who were considering two options for their next development.

The Committee considered the latest position relating to environmental improvements in South Street, noting the positive conclusion of the major paving scheme in New Street and lower South Street. A snagging list was in preparation. The Committee noted the potential for underspends on planned future phases of work.

**Resolved**

That the Town Clerk should seek a consensus view from funding partners that, should any further project underspends arise, these be reserved for works at South Gate and to improve surfaces on connecting routes to Trinity Street and Charles Street

**10. Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloon Policy**

Referring to Council minute 2017/14i the Town Clerk provided a draft policy for consideration.

**Recommended to Council**

That the Balloon and Sky Lantern Release Policy is approved.

**11. Dorchester West Railway Station Access Ramp**

The Town Clerk presented a report explaining the history of the long planned access ramp for Dorchester West Railway Station. Members noted, with frustration, the lack of progress on the scheme.

Noting the recommendation it was requested that contact is made with the Dorchester Access Group to explain the Council's support for a disabled access ramp that did not comply with national standards as the only likely solution. It was also requested that further contact be made with the Heart of Wessex Promotions Officer.

**Resolved**

- a) That, in the event that Dorset County Council's Equality Impact Assessment supports the building of a ramp at a standard which is considered to be safe and functional, even if it is steeper than the normal 1:20 standard for disabled access, this Town Council writes in support of the implementation of such a ramp
- b) That the Town Clerk agree a timescale with other funders to terminate the project should National Rail fail to agree to the installation of the access ramp

12. **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

**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.

13. **Affordable Housing Sites**

The Town Clerk provided an update with regard to discussions with Magna HA in relation to land owned or managed by the Town Council that might be suitable for development as affordable housing.

**Resolved**

That Dorchester Town Council and Magna Housing jointly hold discussions with West Dorset District Council regarding the changing recreational needs of the town and how a new recreational strategy might free up five specific sites to help provide affordable housing for young workers in the town

Chairman