

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE

14th MAY, 2013

At a Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 14th May, 2013:

PRESENT Councillors V.J. Allan, R.M. Biggs, T.C.N. Harries, G.M. Jones, Trevor Jones (Chairman), P.G. Mann and D.S. Roberts.

APOLOGY for absence was received from The Mayor (Councillor A.J. Canning).

48. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19th 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.

49. **MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES**

(a) **Planning and Environment Committee – 29th April, 2013**

The Committee considered the under-mentioned Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee:

Minute 83 – Dorchester Area Community Partnership

Minute 86 – Dorchester Stop The Drop.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the Minutes be approved so far as this Committee is concerned and, in particular, that the draft Service Level Agreement referred to in Minute 83 be approved.

(b) **Management Committee – 7th May, 2013**

The Committee considered Minute 84 of the Management Committee relating to the external funding of the resurfacing of parts of the Town Walks.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the Minute be noted with pleasure.

50. **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 26th MARCH, 2013**

The Committee considered the Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Town Meeting held on 26th March, 2013 and it was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the Minutes be noted.
- (2) That the Planning and Environment Committee be requested to continue its efforts to resolve parking issues in the area of Lancaster Road.
- (3) That consideration be given at a future Meeting of this Committee of means by which attendance at the Annual Town Meeting might be increased.

51. **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 and it was

RESOLVED

That the draft 2012-13 Annual Report as now submitted including the restatement of the financial information contained in it be approved so far as this Committee is concerned.

52. **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

The Committee received and noted the Council's Management Accounts for the period 1st April to 30th April, 2013.

During the presentation and consideration of the report the representative of the Council's Financial Services Provider invited Members to submit any questions or comments on financial matters to him and agreed to investigate the establishment of appropriate procedures to identify any bad debts which might be accruing at an early stage and to consider whether the presentation of the management accounts might be simplified by the use of graphics.

53. **CORPORATE PLAN 2012-13 – MONITORING REPORT**

The Committee received and noted this report. Arising from its consideration it was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That a report be submitted to a future Meeting of the Management Committee setting out a possible time table for the delivery of the various facilities at the Great Field.

- (2) That the Town Clerk be requested to attempt to ascertain from West Dorset District Council their intentions with regard to the consideration of new applications for Section 106 funding, and in particular whether the welcome and successful series of Member-level meetings held in 2012 are likely to be repeated.

54. **DORCHESTER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

The Committee noted that a renewal ballot in respect of the Dorchester Business Improvement District was to be held in the near future and it was

RESOLVED

That the Chairman be authorised to exercise the Council's voting rights under the BID ballot and that he be instructed to vote in favour of it.

55. **MANAGEMENT PANELS**

As an urgent item the Town Clerk reported on the difficulties created by the Council's inability to appoint the various management panels until the July cycle of meetings with particular reference to the need for early meetings of the Community Activities Panel to make arrangements for the visit of representatives from Lübbecke in August as part of the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the twinning.

It was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the memberships and mandates of all existing management panels be continued until the Meeting of the Council on 23rd July, 2013.
- (2) That consideration be given at a future meeting of this Committee to methods by which the management panel appointment process might be improved.

56. **DORCHESTER COMMUNITY JUSTICE PANEL**

As an urgent item and further to Minute 61 (2011-12) the Town Clerk reported that he understood that the proposed establishment of a community justice panel for Dorchester was gathering momentum and invited the Committee to reaffirm its previously-expressed support for the initiative.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the Council iterates its support in principle for the establishment of a community justice panel for Dorchester and renews the authority for Councillor T. James to represent the Council in the ongoing exploratory discussions.

57. **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.

58. **LIVING WAGE**

Further to Resources Panel Minute 10 the Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk on the implications of the payment of the 'living wage' to certain employees in the light of advice received from South West Councils.

Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED

That, subject to consultation with staff, the suggestions set out in the Town Clerk's report be implemented with effect from 1st October, 2013 and, in particular, that all salaries and wages paid continue to be tied to established spinal column points to enable advantage to be taken of future national wage negotiations and obviate the need for local bargaining.

Chairman