

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE

20th NOVEMBER, 2007

At a Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 20th November, 2007:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor D.J. Barrett) and Councillors R.M. Biggs (in the Chair), V. Black, T.C.N. Harries and L.M. Phillips.

APOLOGIES for absence were received from Councillors M.A. Allwood, C.M. Hebditch and Trevor Jones.

24. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18th September, 2007, adopted by Council on 25th September, 2007, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

25. **MINUTE OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered Minute 29(e) of the Management Committee relating to proposed financial support to the Dorchester Festival in 2008 and it was

RECOMMENDED

That the Recommendation be approved so far as this Committee is concerned.

(The Mayor (Councillor D.J. Barrett declared a personal interest in this matter as a representative of the West Dorset District Council on the Board of Dorchester Arts Centre.)

26. **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

The Committee received and noted the Council's Management Accounts for the period ended 31st October, 2007; the Financial Service Provider circulated a revised version of the front sheet identifying known items of major expenditure which would affect the comparison of actual expenditure and income to the profiled position.

In considering the Accounts Members requested the Financial Service Provider to include in future a note of the methodology applied to the profiled figures set out in the report if it could be summarised succinctly.

(As an Allotment Holder Councillor L.M. Phillips declared a personal interest in those elements of the Accounts relating to Allotments.)

27. **MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

Further to Minute 21 the Committee received a note of the revised recommendations of the West Dorset Parish Remuneration Panel as to the levels of

allowances for town and parish councillors together with basic statistical information setting out comparisons between the various towns in West Dorset in respect of numbers of members, populations, electorates and the number of planning applications falling to be considered.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the full Council be requested to consider whether to adopt an Allowances Scheme for the Council.

28. **LAND AT REAR OF 19 NORTH SQUARE**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk on the offer of the Magna Housing Association to grant a long lease of the area of land to the rear of 19 North Square which had formerly formed part of the garden to the property. The lease would be at a nil consideration and Magna would bear the Council's legal costs in the matter but it would be necessary for the Council to incur some expenditure in securing the area and its cultivation and maintenance.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the offer be accepted and that the Town Clerk be authorised to make the necessary arrangements.

29. **DORCHESTER LIBRARY**

The Committee considered the proposals of the Dorset Library Service for a reduction in the opening hours of Dorchester Library from 52 hours per week to 45 hours per week. The proposals had been formulated taking account of statistics on the usage of the library collated during September, a copy of which was provided to members, in addition to a range of other considerations of which the Committee was made aware by way of copy e-mail from the Library Services Manager.

It was

RESOLVED

That no objection be raised to the proposed revised opening hours so far as the Council is concerned.

30. **WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL – ACCESS STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a consultation paper received from the West Dorset District Council on its proposed Access Strategy.

It was

RESOLVED

That the West Dorset District Council be recommended to extend the draft Strategy to deal with access to Stratton House for disabled people and including inter-alia the creation of dedicated parking spaces within the Stratton House car park for disabled visitors and the arrangements for such people to be accredited as bona-fide visitors without a requirement to visit the main reception desk and without pre-booking.

31. **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS' LARGER COUNCILS COMMITTEE – SELECTION OF CO-OPTED CLERKS**

The Committee considered an invitation received from the National Association of Local Councils for the nomination of clerks to larger councils to be considered for co-option to the Larger Councils Committee. The Committee met quarterly and travelling and subsistence expenses were met by the National Association.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Council nominate the Town Clerk to serve in this capacity.

Chairman