

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

29th September 2026

Present: Councillors: The Mayor (L. Fry), R. Biggs, S. Biles, J. Germodo, W. Gibbons, F. Hogwood, G. Jones, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, R. Potter, K. Reid, M. Rennie. and D. Taylor.

Officers: Charmaine Denny – Town Clerk

Public: One member of the public and Sergeant Tom Harness (Dorset Police)

Apologies: Councillors: J. Hewitt, P. Farmer, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Major and R. Ricardo

Absent: Councillor A. Cannings

29. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

30. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council meeting held on 27th July 2026, were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

31. Police Matters

Sergeant Tom Harness introduced himself to the meeting; he is temporarily in post. The Sergeant reported on the following:

- Earlier in the summer there was no major issues with the World Cup taking place
- There have been a number of attacks on ducks by the river. This has hit national news. Although there is a lot of evidence, there has been no identification of culprits. Working with Dorset Council youth outreach team
- In recent weeks there has been an increase in graffiti across the town. It was highlighted how it's a nuisance and in various prominent positions. Police are looking at reviewing CCTV footage
- There has recently been a premises closure of a flat in Poundbury. This has happened at speed over the last 3-4 months.
- Police recently had a warrant for a property at the Grove. Although no arrests it led to a lot of intelligence relating to drug supply.
- Members highlighted how there has been an increase in noisy bikes/mopeds. Any incidents should be reported to the police.

32. Presentations, Communications and Motions

The Mayor gave an update on recent events that he and the Mayoress have recently attended. The Town Clerk stated that she has recently introduced fortnightly update emails, and that she would continue with these rather than give an update at each Full Council.

No motions had been submitted.

33. **Planning and Environment Committee – 3rd August 2026**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. Thanks was given to Jo Witherden for her support with the North of Dorchester application.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3rd August 2026 be adopted.

34. **Planning and Environment Committee – 7th September 2026**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7th September 2026 be adopted.

35. **Management Committee – 14th September 2026**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 13 July 2026 be adopted.

36. **Policy Committee – 21st September 2026**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 21st September 2026 be adopted.

37. **Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Dorchester Markets Informal Committee be noted.

38. Update from Dorset Council Members

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Councillor R. Biggs announce that the new Dorset Destination Management Plan was launched last week. It was also detailed that Dorset Councils budget setting process has commenced and that a number of assets have recently been disposed of.
- It was detailed by Councillor Stella Jones that the Dorset Council Local Plan initial consultation has launched. Wessex Water are undertaking lots of work in the East Ward, and reminded the Council that Dorset Councils foster service continues to seek foster parents. Monthly as Chair of Dorset Council Councillor Jones also attends citizenship ceremonies; details of these were shared.
- Councillor Fry gave an update on the electoral boundary review, and said that the Council had prepared a response that the Town Clerk was submitting

Council rose at 7:47pm

Chairman.....