



Dorchester Town Council

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9th July 2025

Agenda for the meeting of the **Management Committee** which will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER** at **THE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, HIGH EAST STREET, DORCHESTER** on **MONDAY 14th JULY 2025** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

Public Speaking and Attendance at the Meeting

The Chair has discretion to allow members of the public to speak at the meeting. If you wish to speak please **contact the Clerk by 9.00am on the morning of the meeting**. We ask speakers to confine their comments to the matter in hand and to be as brief as possible.

Member Code of Conduct: Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to disclose interests where appropriate. A Member who declares any interest must leave the room. A Member who declares a registerable interest as a Council nominee to a partner organisation may first address the meeting as a member of the public.

Membership of the Committee

Councillors P. Farmer, L. Fry, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger (Vice-Chair), D. Leaper (Chair), R. Major, R. Potter, M. Rennie and The Mayor ex-officio.

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Interests

3. Minutes

To read, confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th May 2025 (adopted by Council on 20th May 2025). A copy of the Minutes can be found at <https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk/Committees/Management+Committee/Minutes>

4. Council policy on use of glyphosate

To receive the enclosed report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services).

5. Outdoor Services – Update Report – Summer

To receive the enclosed report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services).

6. Carbon Reduction Measures – Progress by Outdoor Services

To receive the enclosed report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services).

7. Dorchester Bowls Club

To receive the enclosed report from the Town Clerk.

8. Advertising banner at Fairfield Skate Park

To receive the enclosed report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate).

9. Grant Applications

To consider the following applications for financial assistance:

- (a) A request from Dorchester Disabled Club for a grant of £500 towards the cost of a new minibus.
- (b) A request from Dorchester Trust for Counselling & Psychotherapy for a grant of £500 towards the cost of 20 low-cost counselling sessions.
- (c) A request from the Jawbone Collective CIC for a grant of £286 towards the cost of the Dorchester Bard Competition event.

10. Minutes of Dorchester Arts Board Meeting

To receive the minutes of the board meeting on 14th May 2025 (enclosed).

11. Notes of Member Site Visit on 3rd June 2025

To receive the enclosed notes from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate).

12. Cemetery Matters

(a) Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes

To note the grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial issued and the number of interments, burials of ashes and uses of the South Chapel at Dorchester Cemetery since the last meeting of the Committee (enclosed).

(b) Headstones and Inscriptions

To confirm the action taken by the Town Clerk in approving applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions received since the last meeting of the Committee. The Register of Memorials will be available to view at the meeting.

ITEM 4.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 14TH JULY 2024 USE OF GLYPHOSATE BASED PRODUCTS

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Dorchester Town council adopted its Biodiversity Statement and Action Plan in 2018. Part of that plan considered the use of pesticides and the potential for reduction in both the range and quantity of pesticides. The Biodiversity Statement can be viewed on the council's website at: <https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk/Our-Services/Open-Spaces>
- 1.2 The action plan was periodically updated throughout the life of the plan the last revision being in 2023. It is anticipated that a new version will be produced in the autumn of 2025-26 when the final wider Dorset Council *Dorset Nature Recovery Strategy* is due to be published.
- 1.3 An extract of the council's revised Biodiversity Action Plan is shown below:

Pesticides	22. No use of nicotinoid insecticides outside of closed environments.	OSM	July 2018 <i>Completed</i>
	23. Cessation of Nicotenoid use	OSM	Jan 2020 <i>Completed</i>
	24. Introduce biochemical control alternative (predators) to insect pests in greenhouses e.g. Scarid fly, whitefly.	OSM	June 2018 <i>Completed</i>
	25. Trial use of biological control (nematodes) for use on molluscs and if successful adopt no slug pellet practice	OSM	<i>Completed</i>

- 1.3 Changes to working methodologies, were and continue to be, made to deliver the requirements of the statement and action plan.

2.0 Current position

- 2.1 Since the adoption of the statement and delivery on the action plan, pesticide use has reduced significantly. Pesticides are used only in the following situations
- Weed control where cultural methods have failed or are un-economic. This is particularly relevant where areas of adopted land have been left to overgrow, and control will need to be achieved before a non-chemical based alternative regime is implemented. It may also be relevant when significantly overgrown allotments or areas of allotment sites need to be brought back into cultivation.
 - Applications of fungicide and insecticide in closed (greenhouse) conditions only as part of growing nursery plants - not used since 2020

- Occasional application of bait to control rats on allotment sites (this was formerly routine) - not used since 2022
- Use of Algaecide on tennis court surfaces - Continued twice annual applications on the grounds of player safety.
- Use of herbicide plugs to kill the stumps of felled trees - limited to tree species/ locations where regeneration would cause damage /nuisance such as tree stumps from trees removed above Fordington Cemetery wall.

2.2 The use of herbicides and specifically Glyphosate based herbicide has been reduced very significantly by the adoption of the following working practices:

- Use of brush cutters to remove weed in hard surface areas where safe to do so or removal of weeds by hand.
- Use of geotextile fabric and bark /wood chipping mulch to suppress weed growth in shrub beds/hedge bases.
- Thorough cultivation of soils ahead of planting to remove deep rooted perennials and pernicious weed roots/rhizomes/stolons where safe and economically viable to do so.
- Use of salt in non-crop areas where safe to do so.
- Increased frequency of manual cultivation techniques where financially viable
- Increased density of planting to achieve more rapid ground cover where financially viable to do so.
- Conversion of heavily infested areas to routinely cut grass to remove the visual or cultural problem.

2.3 The above measures have resulted in very infrequent application of glyphosate-based products. Such products may still be applied most commonly in situations where problem / pernicious weeds are present and typically where manual control will not remove or reduce the problem to an acceptable level. This is usually to control pernicious or problem weeds causing a direct nuisance, committing legal trespass or where permitting growth may break the law or cause physical harm. For example:

- Bindweed/creeping thistle/horsetail etc. in shrub beds.
- Bindweed or similar encroaching into wildflower areas/ nature reserves having a detrimental impact of the desirable species contained there-in
- Removal of similar weeds prior to creation of shrub beds or wildflower areas where failure to remove and achieve a “clean” bed would result in detrimental impact to desirable plantings.
- Tree stumps and associated roots that would cause damage to surrounding structures by regrowth, this is particularly relevant to walls and buildings.

2.4 The law requires the council as a landowner not to allow Japanese knotweed to spread into the wild and similarly onto adjacent privately or publicly owned land. There is also a requirement placed upon the council to control certain weeds when they are growing in positions where they may spread to land used for livestock, grazing etc. The council cannot escape these obligations.

3.0 Glyphosate based materials

- 3.1 The council only uses glyphosate-based materials when no other chemical alternative is available. (this is after cultural / alternative methods have been evaluated).
- 3.2 Currently there are no alternative chemicals available for the control of deep-rooted perennial, invasive or problem weeds in crop situations. A crop situation exists where the soil in which the weed is growing is also host to desirable species such as grass, shrubs, trees and wildflowers. A range of alternative non glyphosate-based chemicals exist for use in non- crop situations such as hard surface areas, gravel areas, building walls etc. these kill the weed but also kill any other desirable plants growing in the soil. This effect can persist in the soil for a long period of time.
- 3.2 Cost of alternative practices can be a factor in selecting glyphosate-based chemicals if the problem is on a large enough scale. For example, in shrub beds, costs to maintain by manual means can double compared to spraying where problem weeds exist.
- 3.3 There are concerns that Glyphosate based chemicals can be harmful to both the environment and humans. Members will be informed of these by the speaker at this management committee meeting. As can be seen in this document the council already does not apply these products where alternatives are available and indeed the council remains ahead of many authorities by limiting use in the Biodiversity Statement.
- 3.4 Approximately 70-80 of councils across the country are committed to finding alternatives to Glyphosate (source: S. Stazicker, 20/05/25).
- 3.5 Glyphosate has not been banned. Some authorities like Brighton tried to move away from this product and then started using it again for logistical and financial reasons. As has been done in Dorchester, Brighton have put their own parameters on use of the chemical to try to limit quantities applied.
- 3.6 The most recent assessment of Glyphosate was carried out between 2019 and 2023 by Member State Competent Authorities, The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and showed that there is no scientific or legal justification for a ban. This could however change over the coming years.
- 3.7 The European Commission has made the following statement about the latest Global Glyphosate study undertaken by the Ramazzini Institute:

"The Commission is aware of the publication of 10 June 2025 in the journal Environmental Health of some of the results of a study on glyphosate undertaken by the Ramazzini Institute as part of their Global Glyphosate Study (GGS).

The Commission has mandated the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to ask the study authors to provide all raw data without delay, and when the data will be received, to conduct a robust and thorough scientific evaluation as to whether the new information, considered alongside all other available data, changes their previous conclusions concerning the hazard (ECHA) or risk assessment (EFSA) conducted for glyphosate.

This work will be carried out based on the relevant procedures of the agencies.

ECHA already concluded two times (in 2017 and 2022) that based on the available information, including animal data and human epidemiological data, and using a weight of evidence approach, no classification for carcinogenicity is warranted for glyphosate. Therefore the new information by itself does not immediately call into question the outcomes of the previous reviews.

If, in the light of a review of the new information, ECHA or EFSA would confirm that glyphosate does no longer meet the approval criteria in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 or indicate that the conditions of approval should be amended, the Commission will act immediately to amend or withdraw the approval, as appropriate.”

4.0 Officer recommendation:

- 4.1 It is recommended that the council maintains the current position shown in the council’s Biodiversity Statement and action plan, element 4:10, regarding pesticides and does not ban Glyphosate based products.

Extract of element 4.10 Dorchester Town Council Biodiversity statement and action plan 2023 revision:

“Dorchester Town Council does not use pesticides unless as a matter of last resort and usually where the opportunities afforded by integrated pest management either can’t be applied or have failed. It is the case that significant reductions in applications of herbicide and fungicide have already been achieved.

Pesticide application is now limited to the following:

- Weed control where cultural methods have failed or are un-economic
 - Applications of fungicide and insecticide in closed (greenhouse) conditions only as part of growing nursery plants
 - Occasional application of bait to control rats on allotment sites (this was formerly routine)
 - Use of Algaecide on tennis court surfaces.
 - Use of herbicide sticks to kill felled tree stumps.
 - Use of Molluscicides”
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5. Decision

- 5.1 Management Committee is asked to decide on whether to ban the use of glyphosate-based products by Dorchester Town council.

Carl Dallison
Assistant Town Clerk, Outdoor Services

ITEM 5.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 14TH JULY 2024 OUTDOOR SERVICES – UPDATE REPORT - SUMMER

1. The summer period has seen ongoing maintenance work being heavily influenced by the dry weather which resulted in the commencement of irrigation in several areas. Currently the ground is very dry, placing a significant demand on staff time to undertake irrigation, this is offset by the corresponding reduction in grass cutting frequency. Water is usually harvested from one of the councils' two boreholes thus reducing the amount of treated water from the drinking water system used by the councils' operations.
2. **Borough Gardens**
 - 2.1 Main work revolved around the planting and subsequent ongoing maintenance of annual bedding plants for summer flowering. The displays have been very well received by users of the gardens with compliments to the team, especially regarding this year's carpet bedding design which features the anniversary of Dorchester Civic Society. If members are not already aware, a time lapse film of the planting out process has been created by the Tourism Development Officer, it shows the team producing the display and can be found on both the Discover Dorchester and Borough Gardens' Facebook pages (24th June).



- 2.2 By careful use of biennial plants in some bedding areas which retain a colourful display for long after the spring, the team have been able to keep break off from annual planting to keep on top of work to other areas such as numerous shrub beds, helping to keep the overall impact and standards of cultivation in the Gardens to a good level.

- 2.3 Members may recall the team worked very hard to achieve as high a standard as possible for the annual green flag judging which this year took place on the 11th April. The Gardens looked at their best, which was assisted by warm and sunny weather on the day. On the day comments from the judge were very positive. Due to a press embargo on results the ATCOS will verbally report results and final judges' comments to the committee.

3. Outdoor Services team

- 3.1 The Outdoor Services team have been carrying out maintenance works to ensure facilities are of a good standard. Staff have carried out routine maintenance and repairs in several play areas. The shrunken and raised margins of safety surfacing at Borough Gardens play area requiring removal and replacement have been repaired.
- 3.2 At Poundbury Crescent play area, the old, corroded roundabout has been removed from site and has been replaced by a reconditioned slide, (roundabout to be replaced on site during 2025/26). Works to replace the safety surface are programmed to be completed before commencement of school summer holidays. Quotations have been sought for the replacement of the fencing running along the roadside boundary for commencement post school summer holidays, these works will include the positioning of two new self-closing pedestrian gates.
- 3.3 The team facilitated the lighting of the beacon at Salisbury field to mark VE day and also installed the new commemorative VE/VJ seat on site.
- 3.4 Works have been carried out to repair deteriorating surface areas at the skate park.
- 3.5 Elsewhere the team have undertaken grass cutting operations on all areas owned by the Town Council to maintain them in good order.

4. Cemeteries

- 4.1 Routine maintenance has continued within the cemeteries including small tree maintenance and watering, litter collection and grave digging. Full burials have again been lower in number over this period.

5. Biodiversity

- 5.1 As part of the ongoing conversion of as much of the council's internal combustion engine equipment to battery powered, the outdoor services and gardens team trialed new battery-operated equipment and the response from staff was very favorable. See separate updated report on the Management Committee Agenda for 14th July 2025.
- 5.2 Grass cutting has been carried out to the banks of Maumbury Rings that are managed to encourage wildflower development which in turn leads to a valuable resource for insects etc. Wildflower growth and spread within the actual rings themselves continues to improve.
- 5.3 Wildflowers and moths see paragraph 6.3

- 5.4 A volunteer “Balsam pulling” event took place at the riverside nature reserve in early July. This was arranged with the rotary clubs in Dorchester. Himalayan Balsam is a problem weed that can grow very quickly and when combined with a high plant density and can quickly overwhelm native plant species. Balsam is not native to the UK, so there are few animals that can take advantage of this biomass, usually resulting in a net loss of biodiversity in an area where populations become too large.

6. The Great Field

- 6.1 Town Council staff have carried out routine maintenance to the flat turf area, play equipment inspections and repairs and checking trees on site, along with routine litter collection and bin emptying operations.
- 6.2 Wildflower development on the field continues to improve with the grass becoming a little weaker in growth due to the management regime of removing cut grass. The summer has been dry which has also helped to suppress grass growth. Some cutting of dock seed stems has taken place to reduce the amount of seed spread into the area.
- 6.3 Flowering of various species reached a peak in late June / early July, and overall, the visual impact was very high. Some ragwort pulling has been carried out but with attention being given to ensuring that any plants populated by the caterpillars of the Cinnabar moth which has a conservation status as a priority species under the UK post 2010 biodiversity framework were left undisturbed as were a halo of unpopulated plants around colonies to allow for potential expansion and alternative food sources. Populations were confined to the easter section of Poundbury Cemetery wildflower area.
- 6.4 In the coming weeks, hedgerows will be trimmed back (once the bird nesting season is over) and later in July the first cut and collect of earlier flowering wildflower areas will take place.

7. Staffing

- 7.1 Ongoing staff training was completed by members of the team for both safe working at height and in the safe use of woodchippers.
- 7.2 A member of staff also completed training in the safe use and operation of tractors to increase trained driver capacity.
- 7.3 The newest member of the team at Borough Gardens has completed their Brush cutter refresher training.
- 7.4 Future refresher training has been booked in the safe use of pesticides for two existing members of the team.

8. Arboriculture

- 8.1 Works to remove dead and diseased trees and trees that present a danger to adjacent property has been completed at the riverside nature reserve. Prunings and logs have been retained on site so as to create eco piles providing food and habitat for a wide range of

wildlife. In addition, where safe to do so, trees are being left as standing monoliths to again provide food and habitat.

Carl Dallison
Assistant Town Clerk, Outdoor Services
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 6.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 14TH JULY 2024 PURCHASE OF BATTERY POWERED GROUNDS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT

For information

1. Background

- 1.1 Dorchester Town Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. As part of the workstream that followed it was decided that vehicles and power tools currently powered by internal combustion engines (ICE) would be gradually replaced with electric/ battery powered equipment as older equipment reached the end of its useful life.

2. Current position

- 2.1 Over the years since the declaration, two ICE powered road vehicles have been replaced the most recent being approx. 5 weeks ago. Some battery powered hand operated equipment (brush cutters and blowers) was replaced in 2019/2020; this was a relatively small number due to the good condition of the pre-existing ICE power tool stock at that time.
- 2.2 That pre-existing ICE equipment is now reaching a stage where it requires replacement. It appears to be an appropriate time to replace the majority of small, powered maintenance tools with their electrical equivalents which will assist in reducing the carbon footprint of the council's operations. The battery powered equipment market has matured over the intervening years and more modern equipment options are now available that the council can take advantage of. The equipment to be replaced includes:
- Brush cutters
 - Hedge trimmers
 - Long reach hedge trimmer
 - Leaf blowers
 - Pedestrian rotary mowers
- 2.3 As worldwide equipment development has taken place, a new system has emerged allowing for the use of smaller batteries (less weight for staff to carry) which can be rapidly charged in approximately 8 minutes from a reservoir battery which is carried on the council vehicle. By using a low number of batteries, it is then possible to operate all day in an efficient manner as opposed to other systems which utilise larger heavy backpack batteries that can be used for approx. 2-3 hrs before requiring overnight charging, or smaller batteries with a short run time and longer recharge time. This has proved problematic for the staff in terms of longer full day working and also staff complain about the heavy weight being carried all day.
- 2.4 Staff were given the opportunity to loan the new equipment manufactured by Kress to test it over two weeks, giving them the opportunity to evaluate how it compares to ICE and battery equivalents, and understand how comfortable it is to use from a weight and

ergonomic point of view and also how robust and fit for purpose the equipment is. The new equipment was very positively received by the teams who tested it.

- 2.5 In keeping with financial regulation three quotations were sought for replacement equipment.
- 2.6 Due to a significant price uplift occurring before the meeting of Management Committee on 14th July, permission was sought from the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee to purchase the specific manufacturer's equipment from the local, joint-lowest price supplier. The Chair and Vice-Chair agreed this purchase decision.

Carl Dallison
Assistant Town Clerk, Outdoor Services
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 7.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 14 JULY 2025 DORCHESTER BOWLS CLUB

1. As Members will know, the Council has, for some while, been trying to relinquish part of its lease back to the Dorchester Bowls Club. The part of the lease it has been trying to relinquish is the two main changing rooms which are no longer used.
2. The Town Council decommissioned the changing rooms some years ago having previously changed the way the hot water to the showers and sinks was supplied. The decommissioning included fully disconnecting the water supply. The radiators were also disconnected from the boilers.
3. The lease from the Bowls Club to the Council requires that the Town Council return the premises in the same manner as they were when the lease was signed.
4. Returning the changing rooms to their original condition will require the Council to undertake some general maintenance but, more importantly, replacement of toilets and sinks together with some significant plumbing works to resupply the changing rooms with hot water from the boilers.
5. The Bowls Club have confirmed to the Chairman and Town Clerk that this work is essential as the space is going to be used by the Bowls Club as changing rooms for visiting teams, therefore the toilets and a hot water supply to the sinks and the radiators will need to be operational.
6. The Bowls Club have also confirmed that they will not require the showers to be operational and so there is no requirement for them to be made good.
7. The Bowls Club have obtained quotes for the work and the lowest is attached. The total cost of returning the changing rooms to their original condition is around £10,000.
8. Relinquishing the changing rooms back to the Bowls Club will reduce the Council's proportion of rates payable by about £250 per year. More importantly it will help the Bowls Club be more financially sustainable by allowing it to have the capacity for visiting bowls clubs throughout the year.
9. **Recommendation:** The Committee is asked to agree to the necessary works to the bowls club changing rooms to be carried out as per the requirements of the Council's lease.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

ITEM 8.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 14 JULY 2025 REQUEST FOR ADVERTISING BANNER AT SKATE PARK

1. The council has received a request from a local business requesting permission to place an advertising banner on the railings at the council's Fairfield skate park.
2. The request has come from Mr Simon Loveless who runs The Skate Shop in Antelope Walk in Dorchester. Mr Loveless is a prominent members of the local skating boarding community and has supported events at the skate park since it was built.
3. Although Mr Loveless initially suggested using an existing sign from one of his shops which is 8ft x 27". However, he would be prepared to install a smaller size which would be approximately 4ft wide by 2ft high. Whatever the size, Mr Loveless would want to sandwich the railing with a sign each side. The proposed location and the design of the sign are shown in the photographs below.



4. In return for this permission, Mr Loveless has offered to make a donation to the Mayor's charities either one-off or annually.
5. The council does not normally allow advertising banners on the railings of any of its sites except for banners advertising one-off events at that particular site.

6. **Recommendation.** The committee is invited to consider this request for the placement of an advertising sign on the railings at the Fairfield skate park.

Tony Hurley
Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)

ITEM 9.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 14TH JULY 2024 GRANT APPLICATIONS

1. In the current financial year, the Council's small grants budget is £10,000. The grant scheme is used to support discrete projects which directly benefit the Dorchester community. Grants are typically between £50 and £500.
2. The Committee has already allocated the following grants from the **2025-26** budget:

Organisation	Project	Requested	Awarded
Visible Women UK	Sylvia Townsend-Warner statue	£1,000	£500
Dorchester Cricket Club	Cricket nets	£1,000	£500
Kushti Bok	Gypsy, Roma & Traveller history event	£500	£500
Katy Jones	Hardy Har! comedy festival	£500	£300
South West Dorset Multi-cultural Network	One World Festival	£500	£410
Bean on the Green Cafe	Noticeboard	£500	£0
Vinyl Van	Pride Picnic event	£500	£360
Dorchester Transport Action Group	Room hire	£69	£69
Dorchester Transport Action Group	First aid and PA for family cycle ride	£500	£400
Talk About Trust	Holiday Hangouts	£500	£500
Total awarded			£3,539
2025-26 budget remaining			£6,461

3. A full list of all the grants awarded by Management Committee from April 2024 until March 2025 can be viewed here: <https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk/docs/downloads/Grants-awarded-2024-25.pdf>
4. The grant application form sets out all the essential criteria that applicants must meet (<https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk/docs/downloads/Grant-application-form-2024.pdf>), however it is worth noting the following key requirements:
 - The Council will usually only consider requests for specific projects, not on-going or revenue costs.

- Grant applications for events/activities that have already taken place will not normally be considered.
 - Grant applications for events aimed at raising money for distribution to a wide range of other charities and organisations will not normally be considered.
 - The Town Council as a body does not affiliate to any political party or religion therefore will not provide grant aid to support any religious group or activity in the town. By law the Town Council cannot offer financial assistance to any political party.
 - The size of the grant should be commensurate with the benefit delivered.
6. The Committee is requested, therefore, to consider the applications below which have been received since its last meeting.

Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 9 (a) – Grant application from Dorchester Disabled Club

1.	Name of organisation.	Dorchester Disabled Club
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Jonathan Anderson Address: contact details provided.
3.	Address where activities are based.	Dorchester Day Centre Acland Road, Dorchester DT1 2AX (Used for bi-weekly club meetings – not a correspondence address)
4.	What area (community) is served?	Elderly and disabled people in Dorchester and the surrounding area
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	Not that we are aware of.
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	<p>The Club provides support and friendship for elderly and disabled people in Dorchester and the surrounding area. It offers bi-weekly Club meetings and provides transport to enable as many members as possible to attend. Club meeting typically involve a guest speaker, refreshments and a raffle.</p> <p>The Club also provides outings for its members and other local disabled and elderly people e.g. shopping trips for sheltered housing and care home residents and transport for Blind Club activities.</p> <p>The Club operates another, similar, bi-weekly group in Poundbury, Discover and Connect, also supporting disabled and elderly people.</p> <p>For many of its members and other users, the Club is a highly valued lifeline, offering activities, companionship and support which would not be available otherwise. The minibuses are essential to the Club being able to offer its services.</p>
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees. Please attach schedule if available.	<p>Members pay £10 annual membership and for members using the Club's minibuses to attend activities, we ask for a £1 contribution.</p> <p>For other groups using our vehicles (eg residents of care homes and sheltered accommodation), we ask for a</p>

		contribution to cover the bus running costs – between £2 and £2.50 per mile		
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	None other than above		
9.	Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	<p>One of the Club's minibuses is over 11 years old and we would like to replace it with a more modern and reliable vehicle.</p> <p>Based on a quotation received in November 2024, a new minibus would cost either £62,122 ex VAT for a Citroen Relay wheelchair conversion or £87,488 ex VAT for a Mercedes Sprinter conversion.</p> <p>The Club is seeking to raise a further £45,000 to £50,000 to purchase a replacement Mercedes Sprinter, also using £33,000 of its existing reserves and assuming that we can sell the old bus for £5,000 to £10,000.</p> <p>The Mercedes is the nearest equivalent to the vehicle it would replace and the most suited to our requirements.</p> <p>We are seeking capital grants from a number of donors to cover the capital cost of the new vehicle.</p>		
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future.	As at present, we aim to cover the vehicle running costs through user contributions. This is a long-standing approach which has proved sustainable so far.		
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.	Fundraising has started now and we are hoping to reach our target by December 2025.		
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	Vehicle	Mercedes Sprinter	Citroen Relay
			£	£
		Cost	£87,500	£62,200
		Available cash reserves	£33,000	£33,000
		Sale of old bus – estimated proceeds	£10,000	£10,000
		Amount needed	£44,500	£19,200
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	As noted above, we are approaching a number of donors, We can supply names if needed.		

14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	Up to £500
15.	Any other relevant information.	N/A
16.	<p>Declaration</p> <p>I/We declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>I/We understand that the information provided on this application form will be used by the Council to judge whether or not to award a grant and that the information will be available in the public domain. If you have provided any information which you do not wish to be made publicly available please make this known when submitting the application.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant(s) Jonathan Anderson</p> <p>Position Held... Treasurer</p> <p>For and on behalf of Dorchester Disabled Club Date 2 May 2025</p>	

ITEM 9 (b) – Grant application from Dorchester Trust for Counselling and Psychotherapy

1.	Name of organisation.	The Dorchester Trust for Counselling and Psychotherapy
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name Kate Hooper Address : provided.
3.	Address where activities are based.	The counselling sessions take place at counsellors' practices so there isn't one set address for our activities.
4.	What area (community) is served?	Dorchester and the surrounding towns and villages
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	Not as far as we know: there is private counselling available (can cost as much as £70 per session) and support via the NHS but very often this has long waiting listed and offers a limited number of sessions. We believe we are really quite a unique service as we combine the provision of low-cost and long-term counselling and those we help contribute only what they can realistically afford.
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	Our service benefits the residents of Dorchester by enabling those who are struggling both with their mental health and financially to access low-cost counselling for up to a full year. Without this service, those we support may not be able to access the support they often desperately need.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees. Please attach schedule if available.	We ask those we help to contribute whatever they can realistically afford (starting from just £5) towards their counselling sessions and we then 'top up' this amount to ensure the counsellor supporting them receives £35 per session. This amount is far less than our counsellors would charge privately but shows their willingness to help those in need. Without our top up payment, these counsellors would be unlikely to be able to afford to support low-cost clients. Comments from our counsellors include: "This opportunity has been a life line to my client as access to support has been completely unachievable otherwise." "I feel passionately that counselling should be accessible to everyone, and not just those who can afford the normal fees for a session. Unfortunately, most counselling available on the NHS is short term so this scheme means that I am able to work on a longer-term basis with people who may be struggling financially as well as emotionally."

		We ask for a client contribution to help fund the service, but also as it encourages client commitment.
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees? If so please advise effective dates.	Please see above.
9.	Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	<p>The project we are asking for funding to support is 20 low-cost cost counselling sessions for men living in Dorchester. It would cost approximately £500 to provide this work – depending on the client contribution.</p> <p>We know that 12.5% of men in England have a mental health disorder (NHS Digital) and men are 3x more likely to die by suicide than women (Samaritans 2022). Despite this, we know that men are far less likely to seek help with their mental health struggles.</p> <p>The results of mental illness can be devastating and have a huge impact on the sufferer’s life and lead to relationship breakdowns, problems at work, crime and suicide. We know that counselling makes a huge difference to those who are struggling with their mental health.</p> <p>The provision of 20 low-cost counselling sessions for a local man needing support would allow them explore and address issues at the root of their mental health problems and therefore to live their lives fully again. This would benefit not only the person themselves but also their families, friends, employers, colleagues and the wider community. We offer clients a way of receiving the help they need, in a reasonable time-frame and in an affordable way.</p> <p>We hope that the following testimonials from people we have helped will show the impact our service – and therefore your potential funding – has:</p> <p>“I really think counselling has help me so much, and I don’t want to get back in that dark black hole again anytime soon. Taking therapy is one of the best things you can do. I would like to thank DTCP for part funding my counselling sessions, and most of all thank you to my DTCP counsellor for all your support.”</p> <p>“With your guidance and assistance, I have made significant strides and am now in a much better place emotionally. I feel equipped to navigate life’s challenges with resilience and positivity. Your dedication to helping others has made a profound difference in my life, and I cannot thank you enough.”</p>

		<p>"Once again, thank you to you and the entire Dorchester Trust for Counselling and Psychotherapy for your unwavering commitment to providing essential mental health services to those in need."</p> <p>Please see further testimonials which show the benefits of our work via https://dtcp.org.uk/ .</p>
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	We offer those we help up to a full year of counselling to ensure that they have sufficient time to fully work through and deal with the problems they face. A grant of £500 from the Town Council would cover the costs of 20 sessions and we would use Core funds to cover the remaining costs if the person supported needed more than 20 sessions.
11.	<p>a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.</p> <p>b) Estimated completion date.</p>	1 st August 2025.
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	£500 to provide 20 low-cost counselling sessions.
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	We have the remaining funds in our reserves to cover the cost of the remaining sessions, should more than 20 sessions be required.
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500
15.	Any other relevant information.	N/A
16.	<p>Declaration</p> <p>I/We declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>I/We understand that the information provided on this application form will be used by the Council to judge whether or not to award a grant and that the information will be available in the public domain. If you have provided any information which you do not wish to be made publicly available please make this known when submitting the application.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant(s) Kate Hooper</p> <p>Position Held Operations Manager</p> <p>For and on behalf of The Dorchester Trust for Counselling and Psychotherapy Date 29th May 2025</p>	

ITEM 9 (b) – Grant application from the Jawbone Collective CIC for Dorchester Bard competition event

1.	Name of organisation.	The Jawbone Collective CIC (running The Bard of Dorchester Competition)
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Megan Simson Address provided.
3.	Address where activities are based.	Corn Exchange High E St, Dorchester DT1 1HF
4.	What area (community) is served?	The Bard of Dorchester Competition serves the community of Dorchester and Surrounding towns and villages
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	No
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	<p>The Bard of Dorchester Contest is community performance event which will be held in the Corn Exchange on 14th September.</p> <p>The Bard of Dorchester Contest selects a Bard (Poet / Storyteller/ Singer Songwriter) from the Dorchester or surrounding area who will play a civic role in attending local events, holding performances and workshops for the community of Dorchester. The incoming Bard has the support of The Jawbone Collective to make there community activities come into fruition throughout the year. (September to September)</p> <p>There are more detail on how impact full this event is on the community after this form.</p> <p>The contest was run in Pummery Square last year. To see all about last years event click here https://bardofdorchester.substack.com/</p>
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	It is a free community event

8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees? If so please advise effective dates.	<p>No Fee's - however we will be asking for donations for a Bardic Purse to enable the Bard to cover some out-of-pocket expenses eg.</p> <p>Transportation cost to events, accessibility needs and materials for workshops or activities produced as their part of the role.</p> <p>This will be held with The Jawbone Collective CIC</p>
9.	Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	<p>The Bard of Dorchester Competition for 2025</p> <p>This annual cultural event features aspirants competing for the title of The Bard of Caer Dur / Dorchester by presenting interpretations of Thomas Hardy poems, original pieces celebrating Dorchester or West Dorset, and a Bardic Manifesto.</p> <p>The competition provides a platform for local poets, singers, and storytellers to showcase their talent and engage with the wider community. It benefits the community by connecting residents through storytelling, honouring Dorchester's history, celebrating its diversity, and inspiring others to share their own stories.</p> <p>The competition helps create a vibrant cultural tapestry and uses digital media to reach a wider audience, fostering a deeper understanding of the community. The appointed Bard for 2024/25, Molly Dunne, will set the theme for the competition and compere the event and is coproducer of the event.</p>
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	<p>This event is annual and is somewhat low cost to facilitate.</p> <p>It will be run annually and seeing how well it is attended this year there will be consideration to have small charge for attendance next year.</p>
11.	<p>a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.</p> <p>b) Estimated completion date.</p>	<p>There is an immediate start for the producing the event</p> <p>Completion date is Sunday 14th September 2025 2pm – 5pm the day of the contest</p>
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	<p>£286 to produce the event.</p> <p>Breakdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £96 Corn Exchange Venue Hire

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £40 design of images for promotion of the competition flyers and social media graphics • £50 printing of promotion of material • £40 Event Program: Design and Printing • £60 Advertising <p>The man hours of producing and administration of the event will done voluntarily.</p>
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	Nil
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£286
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	<p>The Jawbone Collective CIC is grass roots arts organisation that is run by volunteers; people who wish to develop opportunities for underrepresented voices to have a platform to perform and be published in their communities of West Dorset. The core of our community involvement is in Dorchester. We have been running an Open Mic monthly for two years in Poet laureate in Poundbury and we are run a monthly free community workshops at the Dorset Museum.</p> <p>www.thejawbonecollective.co.uk</p>
16.	<p>Declaration</p> <p>I/We declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>I/We understand that the information provided on this application form will be used by the Council to judge whether or not to award a grant and that the information will be available in the public domain. If you have provided any information which you do not wish to be made publicly available please make this known when submitting the application.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant(s)..... Megan Simson.....</p> <p>Position Hed Treasurer / Event Producer /Communications Director</p> <p>For and on behalf of The Jawbone Collective CIC Date . 9th July 2025</p>	

ITEM 10.

Minutes of Dorchester Arts Board Meeting 14/5/25

Present

Mark Tattersall, Artistic Director MT
Simon Veale, Chair SV
Annabel Eigeland AE
Sasha Constable SC
Helen Hutchinson HH
Amanda Wakeman AW
Mike Willdridge MW
Fiona Kent-Ledger rep DTC
Denise Exall, potential trustee, DE

Apologies

Stella Jones, David Leaper, Hanna Trevorrow, Toby Frere

Welcome to Denise Exall from SV

Register of Interests and Conflicts of Interest

SC questioned if it is appropriate for the 2 artists who are both trustees involved in the Corn Exchange Gallery planning, to show their own work there. Her ancestor, John Constable, is being celebrated for the 250th anniversary of his birth next year, and SC and her work are part of events nationally, including possibly in this area. There was general discussion about the likely events with potential links to the museum. It was thought that as long as the interest had been declared and a process for selection followed, there was no reason why a trustee should not exhibit in the space. For further clarification once the criteria for selection to exhibit have been finalised.

Minutes of last meeting

Approved by MW, seconded HH

Matters arising

Parking for PMLD events. Now that works on the building are complete, it is not a problem for them to use the carpark. MT clarified that officially there are only 2 spaces for DA but that flexibility may be possible on occasions with proper permission from DTC and DA.

Artistic Director's Report

MT gave a verbal report and the written report was circulated subsequent to the meeting. The spring programme had shown poor family programme attendance. HH asked about term-time programming and MT explained the many factors in the way of school attendances and that it had been attempted in the past with no success. MT explained that Dress Circle funding would be explored for the autumn season to underwrite and kickstart family programming, with the hope that the new spaces would make the venue more attractive to family audiences. MW suggested use of the gallery to encourage family audiences. AW asked about pantomime but MT explained the unsuitability of the venue in terms of space and expense with large cast etc. Also there are so many others within easy reach the competition would be high.

FKL mentioned Christmas touring companies of the past and felt the TC may help support similar events. DE asked about going into schools and there was general discussion. Some music events are not getting the numbers hoped for though Tenebrae had done as well as ever.

The summer season started slowly but is now picking up. There had been clashes with special theatre events shown at local cinemas which had not been predictable at the time of booking. The autumn season is almost complete and a draft programme was circulated.

Pot licker had been a great success and made a surprisingly good profit. A further week of touring has been secured in the autumn. There is a possibility of a sequel next year.

Visual Arts

The first show in the new gallery space is to open in 2 days after this meeting and the next 2 are planned and booked.

There was discussion over the structure of applications, commissions and/or hire fees for future exhibitions.

SC asked if finances were separate for this and MT said it was likely these would go into general DA funds.

FKL asked about bar/cafe and was told it was DA Trading who managed that side of the space.

Participation

The Art Life founder would like to incorporate Sherborne into DA funding and administration which will benefit all. Funding for Parkinson's Dance to continue is needed urgently for Dorchester, but a donation of £12k has made for the Rise and Art for Memory.

Pop Club

Very sadly the founder of this successful group, Mickey Wills, has died this week after a short illness and the group is unable to continue for the time being. Mickey's huge contribution to DA over the past 20 years was acknowledged by the Board. There will be an event to celebrate his work later in the year with a concert from previous members and it is possible that in the future Pop Club may restart if a suitable leader can be found.

The Script's The Thing was a great success with 800 visitors. Feedback has been very good including very positive comments from David Byrne, Artistic Director of the Royal Court Theatre. Brenden Gabe-Fry, the new Catering Manager of the cafe/bar is doing very well and working with Sam to make the most of the new spaces, with deals set with local companies to provide food and wine. Initial opening times will be kept under review to see if it is viable to extend those in the future.

There was discussion over promotion of the cafe and gallery.

The Helios project planned for next year requires £20k and funding applications will be required.

DTC

FKL reported councillors were pleased to attend the opening of the new spaces and any initial doubts that some had were allayed.

It was acknowledged by all that there was a genuine love for the building and an appreciation that it had been improved so substantially.

DC

Stella Jones was absent but FKL knew of no issues.

Finance

MT and SV reported on the 2024/25 year end results: year-end management accounts demonstrate that instead of the forecast of £15k loss, there is a £3.5k profit, with the unrestricted reserves at a satisfactory £62,877. Work continues on preparing the updated

2025/26 as information is accumulated from the café/bar operation. Judging from the early results of café operation Brenden Gabe-Fry's salary is manageable. MT wanted it noted the contribution of Sam Wood in managing room hire so successfully during the works and for her work with Brenden in setting up the new bar.

Board Recruitment

There has been no luck with the Treasurer post as yet. MT is attending the Dorset Law Society dinner this week with Fundraising and Development Manager, Jacky Thorne, and they will promote the need there.

AE mentioned Lizz Armstrong who had experience in the film industry and previous involvement with schools as a potential trustee. It was agreed that she should be approached about meeting up with MT/SV for an initial discussion.

FKL mentioned a link to be sent that could potentially be shared with prospects...SV to follow up

Capital Project

There have been some snagging issues including minor problems with the bar surface. The fire strategy is being updated (Ben Moss is visiting the premises to undertake the post-works fire risk assessment on which this will be based).

FKL reported clock repairs needed and MT requested a meeting regarding timing of this in respect of the plastering and decorating in the Town Hall and stairs. (*Post-meeting note: Steve Newman confirmed that the clock works will not interfere with this and that the plastering and decorating can go ahead this summer if suitable dates can be found*)

Fundraising

MW mentioned the annual Summer Sunday fundraiser on 27th July and an autumn event celebrating the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. There will also be a wine-tasting event in December.

Policies

Denise Exall gave the meeting a history of her experience of safeguarding in her roles as drama teacher and psychotherapist. She worked at a volunteer centre and is keen on safeguarding at all levels of contact with the organisation. If she becomes a trustee she would like meet all staff, to look at policies, do a mini-audit and report to other trustees.

There was discussion over existing security in the building and MT explained the CCTV in all areas of the building with care given to solo working and that portable panic buttons are in reception. SV gave a short speech of thanks and appreciation for all that MT had contributed to the improvements to the building. The meeting congratulated him with applause.

Any other business

None

Next meeting

Thursday 14th August 4pm

ITEM 11.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 14 JULY 2025 NOTES OF A MEMBER SITE VISIT HELD ON 3RD JUNE 2025 AT 9.30AM.

Sites visited: Holmead Walk (Centenary Field), Hawthorn Road allotments, Weymouth Avenue Cemetery and Louds Mill depot & tree nursery.

Attending: Councillors P. Farmer, L. Fry, J. Germodo, W. Gibbons, D. Leaper, S. Jones, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Officers attending: Carl Dallison, Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) and Tony Hurley, Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate).

1. Members noted the poor level of tree management across Holmead Walk and Jubilee Woods and understood the need to ensure that a full tree survey was carried out by the Duchy of Cornwall and a proper woodland management plan was in place before the council takes on responsibility for the site.
2. At Hawthorn Road members noted the variable level of plot management by the allotment holders. There was also a discussion on the use of glyphosate for the targeted use in specific circumstances. Members were also briefed on the current waiting list for allotment plots and the number of vacant plots.
3. At Weymouth Avenue Cemetery, members observed the digging of a grave in progress and received an explanation of the equipment and techniques used by the Outdoor Services team to ensure that the operation is safe.
4. At the Louds Mill Depot members visited the tree nursery and then visited the council depot. The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) explained the essential role of the depot in ensuring the security of council vehicles and machinery and in providing a clean and well-equipped workshop facility to enable staff to undertake maintenance and repairs to, for example, play equipment and benches.

Meeting closed 12.00pm.

ITEM 12.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 14TH JULY 2025 EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL AND INTERMENTS AND BURIAL OF ASHES

1. Exclusive Right of Burial:

Recommendation: To note that grants of Exclusive Right of Burial have been issued for the following grave spaces:

Cemetery	Burial/Ashes	Grant No:	Grave Number
Dorchester Cemetery	ASHES	2365	TBC
Poundbury Cemetery	BURIAL	2363	665B
	BURIAL	2364	TBC
Fordington Cemetery	BURIAL	2366	OG266

It should be noted that ERB grant number 2366 was issued with no fee as the plot previously purchased could not be used as residual human remains were encountered during the excavation of the grave.

2. Interments: During May and June 2025, the following interments and scattering/burial of ashes have taken place in Dorchester's cemeteries:

1/5/25 – 30/6/25	Dorchester	Fordington	Poundbury
Interments	1	-	1
Ashes	2	-	-
Garden of Remembrance	-	1	-
Poundbury Chamber			
Children's Plot			-

3. Headstones and Inscriptions:

Recommendation: To confirm the action taken by the Town Clerk in approving applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions received since the last meeting of the

Committee. The Register of Memorials will be available to view at the meeting.

Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)
Dorchester Town Council