

Dorchester Town Council

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10th September 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 15th SEPTEMBER 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 14th July 2025 (adopted by Council on 28th July 2025). A copy of the Minutes can be found on the [council's website](#).

- 4. Proposal for Dorchester Kite Festival in 2026**

To receive the enclosed report from the Tourism Development Officer.

5. Outdoor Services – Update Report – Late Summer

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

6. Proposed planting of Japanese Maples at Borough Gardens

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

7. Allotments Annual Report and Fees for 2026

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

8. Conservation of Council Monuments

To receive the enclosed report from the Town Clerk.

9. Grant Applications

To consider the following applications for financial assistance:

- (a) A request from *Sexual Trauma & Recovery Services – Dorset Rape Crisis* for a grant of £300 towards the cost of volunteer training.
- (b) A request from Dorchester Arts for a grant of £300 towards the cost of a visit to the Corn Exchange of the *Ungrievable Lives* Project.
- (c) A request from the Durnovaria Silver Band Trust for a grant of £442.80 towards the cost of music stand banners.

10. Minutes of Dorchester Arts Board Meeting

To receive the minutes of the board meeting on 21st August 2025 (enclosed).

11. Notes of Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel

To receive the enclosed notes from the meeting on 14th July 2025.

12. Notes of Member Site Visit

To receive the enclosed notes from the Member Site Visit on 9th September 2025.

13. 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 – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025 PROPOSAL FOR DORCHESTER KITE FESTIVAL IN 2026

1. Following the success of the Roman Festival in April 2025, the council's Tourism Development Officer has worked up a proposal for a new community event in Dorchester – one which will also attract visitors to the town. Following discussions with the Dorchester Tourism Partnership, the idea of a Kite Festival at The Great Field was developed.
2. The details of the proposed Kite Festival are set out in **Appendix A** with the proposed date for the event being Saturday 6th June 2026. The event will be supported by professional kite fliers from around the region and several recently visited The Great Field to undertake trial flights to assess the wind conditions on the site. Although the event will offer a range of activities for families, it will also include spectacular demonstrations by these professional kite flyers.
3. The proposed date of 6th June is the day before the Lions' Summerfest event on The Great Field and, following discussions with the organisers, it's clear that there are opportunities for the two events to share facilities such as temporary toilets and waste disposal and to help with marketing.
4. The Kite Festival proposal has also been considered by the council's Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel (see item 11 of this agenda) and was broadly welcomed.
5. The likely maximum cost for the Kite Festival is £4,000 and it is proposed that the council allocates this additional amount to its In-house Events budget (£12,750 in 2025-26), which is used to cover the cost of other council events such as summer music performances in Borough Gardens, Love Parks event and the Anonymous Festival. It is hoped, however, that a significant proportion of the Kite Festival cost can be covered by commercial sponsorship.
6. **Recommendation.** That the Committee approves the proposal for the Kite Festival in 2026 at The Great Field and that the allocation of funding for this event of £4,000 be considered as part of budget setting process for 2026-27.

Matilda Manley
Tourism Development Officer

ITEM 5.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025 OUTDOOR SERVICES UPDATE REPORT – LATE SUMMER

1. The summer period has seen ongoing maintenance work being heavily influenced by the very dry weather which resulted in drought conditions and the use of irrigation in several areas. Currently the ground is very dry, placing a significant demand on staff time to undertake irrigation, this was offset by the corresponding cessation in grass cutting operations until early/mid-September. 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 irrigating and maintaining the annual bedding plant displays for summer flowering. No irrigation water was used to maintain lawn areas although some benefited from being adjacent to flower beds. The displays have been very well received by users of the gardens this year, this could also be due to the bright flower displays strongly contrasting with the brown grass areas. It is anticipated that some displays will cease a little earlier than usual this year and others may extend a little longer.
 - 2.2 By careful use of a range of bedding plant species in some beds a colourful display has been maintained for longer which has offset sun damage and inevitable drought failures. The team have been able to keep on top of work to other areas such as numerous shrub beds, helping to lift the overall impact and standards of cultivation in the gardens to a good level.
 - 2.3 During the course of two events held in the gardens, damage was sustained to a pop-up electrical unit and a gate pillar on the main Princes Street entrance. A claim will be made against both third parties involved to recoup costs.
 - 2.4 The actual gate leaves at the Princes Street entrance are now in poor decorative condition so the opportunity will be taken to temporarily remove them, remove the old paint and repaint them. In addition, one leaf that has sagged over time will be straightened before re-decoration. These works should lead to a more attractive entrance to the gardens from Princes Street/ Cornwall Road.
 - 2.5 Following an incident requiring the fire brigade to remove the small pedestrian gate adjacent to Borough Gardens House, a new gate has now been made and re-fitted and the entrance is back in use.
 - 2.6 Bedding plant production for the coming winter spring period is well underway with many species currently being grown on in the nursey area.
 - 2.7 Tree works in Borough Gardens. See para 8.3 arboricultural works.

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.
- 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 2026/27). Quotations have been received for the replacement of the corroded fencing running along the roadside boundary for commencement in October/November, these works will include the positioning of two new self-closing pedestrian gates.
- 3.3 The team have been undertaking a lot of street and park seat maintenance, and this will continue until later in the autumn.
- 3.4 More work has been carried out to repair damaged surface areas at the skate park and small damaged areas of safety surfacing in play areas.
- 3.5 Elsewhere the team have undertaken limited grass cutting operations on all areas owned by the Town Council to maintain them in good order. Regular irrigation has also taken place to some annual bedding displays in the town centre and recent tree plantings.
- 3.6 The team have carried out watering operations to the hanging baskets situated in the town centre area. This year has been challenging for hanging basket planting due to very strong sun and latterly unseasonably high winds. Baskets will be maintained until mid-September and removed later in the month.

4. Cemeteries

- 4.1 Routine maintenance has continued within the cemeteries including small tree maintenance and increased watering, litter collection and grave digging. Full burials have again been fewer in number over this period whilst ashes interments have increased slightly.
- 4.2 Three new donated seats have been installed along the newer section of roadway at Poundbury Cemetery which offers a resting and reflection point for visitors to the site.
- 4.3 The larger wildflower areas have been cut and the cuttings removed; the displays of flowers were very good this year despite the dry weather. However, many species did flower, seed and die back earlier than normal. The wildflower burial area will be mown by the end of September due to some species still being in flower or not yet setting seed.

5. Biodiversity

- 5.1 As part of the ongoing conversion of as much of the council's internal combustion engine equipment to battery powered as possible, the outdoor services and gardens team trialed new battery-operated equipment. Following council approval, equipment was purchased and is in use by the team at the depot. The Borough Gardens team also has battery

powered hand power tools. This now leaves only very specialized equipment, ride on mowers, tractors and four vehicles left with internal combustion (ICE) engines.

- 5.2 Grass cutting has again 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 see paragraphs 4.3 and 6.3
- 5.4 Irrigation has been carried out to the young trees in the tree nursey at the depot. In addition, formative pruning has also taken place. It is anticipated that approximately 20 willow trees will be large enough to be planted out this coming winter. Planting will take place at The Great Field, Kings Road and Salisbury field.

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 of trees on site. Additionally routine litter collection and bin emptying operations have continued. Tree irrigation was carried out this summer to prevent the severe drought killing some specimens, it is however anticipated that many tree crowns will reduce in volume overall this year due to drought stress.
- 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 grass cuttings. The summer was very dry which saw a suppression of growth overall. Some cutting of dock seed stems took place to reduce the amount of seed spread into the area.
- 6.3 Flowering of various species reached a peak in late June and early July, and overall, the visual impact was very high. Cutting and collection of arisings took place in the early cut area in August; the remainder of the wildflower areas will be cut and arisings collected in the third week of September.
- 6.4 Hedgerows were trimmed back (when the bird nesting season was over) in very late August and September.
- 6.5 The team intensively inspected and lubricated all play equipment moving parts that are accessible and replaced all bearing bushes that were able to be renewed. This has resulted in a lower level of noise associated with use, despite the dry weather conditions.
- 6.6 Members will recall an initiative to site two seats outside the pharmacy and Doctors surgery at St Johns Way. A second seat was donated recently and fixed in week commencing 8th September 2025, the project is now complete. In addition, the team has been removing reconditioning and replacing seats around all of The Great Field. The project is approximately halfway through and will be completed before Christmas.
- 6.7 Three corroded metal dog waste bins have been replaced on The Great Field. These are located on the dog bag dispenser posts.

7. Staffing

- 7.1 Structured horticultural training for gardens staff commenced in mid-August. This takes the form of 2–3-hour sessions covering aspects of a selected area of operation within the garden's environment. The initiative aims to make sure that all members of the gardens team have the same minimum level of training and knowledge, both theoretical and practical, to ensure increased standards are achieved and maintained. The short courses will take place over the next 12 months.
- 7.2 The newest member of the team at Borough Gardens will commence day release training in Horticulture on the 9th September as part of their professional development.
- 7.3 Training in the safe application of wet pour safety surfacing materials (safety surfacing in play areas mainly) was completed in early September by two existing members of the team. This helps to support their existing knowledge in this field and allows them to undertake safety surfacing repairs in the knowledge that they are up to date on professional practice.

8. Arboriculture

- 8.1 Works to remove overhanging trees and vegetation have been carried out on the boundary of the riverside nature reserve and the adjacent Swan Bridge site.
- 8.2 Significant irrigation has taken place to all recently planted trees in Dorchester Town Council sites. This has undoubtedly resulted in less damage to and potential death of the trees.
- 8.3 An application has been submitted to Dorset Council for a wide range of tree works in Borough Gardens. The works to approximately 38 trees includes, removing dead wood and branches, raising lower branches, pruning back branches to allow light to reach newly planted next generation trees and the felling of 8 trees. Of these, one was wind damaged, one is suffering from basal decay and the remainder comprise the row of pleached lime trees adjacent to bowling alley walks, which, members will recall, are due to be removed due to poor condition and decay. These will then be replaced by a new row of nursery pruned pleached limes this coming winter.

9. Fordington Cemetery Wall

- 9.1 A verbal report on the progress being made with the repair/replacement of the collapsed section of the cemetery wall on Holloway Road will be provided to the Committee at the meeting.

Carl Dallison
Assistant Town Clerk, Outdoor Services
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 6.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025 CREATION OF JAPANESE MAPLE BORDER AT BOROUGH GARDENS

1. Background

- 1.1 Since 2001 Borough Gardens has been listed as Grade II in the English Heritage Register of Parks & Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England and are also designated as a Conservation Area.
- 1.2 Borough Gardens was originally designed by William Goldring (plantsman, designer, editor of 'The Garden' and President of the Kew Guild) and were opened on 30 July 1896. The original design, heavily influenced by the 'Picturesque' style and to a lesser extent by the 'Gardenesque' style. It provided for sparse planting amongst lawns and a curvilinear footpath network in the style of a 'Jardin Anglaise'. Goldring's design was further enhanced during the early years of the Garden's existence by amongst other things, the addition of the Gregory Memorial Fountain (1898).
- 1.3 The fountain is 16ft high with four seated lions backed by fern leaves supporting a 7'6" diameter basin, a column of three carved birds below a 4' diameter basin above, and an inverted scalloped basin with cherub and cornucopia on a flowered column at the top. It was donated by Charles Hansford in memory of G.J. Gregory JP, his brother-in-law and five times Mayor of Dorchester, and was officially named the Gregory Memorial Fountain.
- 1.4 The fountain was originally intended to be set in a romantic glade or dell area, surrounded by paths which were in turn bordered by trees and shrub beds.

2. Current situation

- 2.1 Over time the original planting specimens have been lost and have been replaced by well-intentioned but non structured plantings of general shrubs. This has resulted in the loss of visual structure and theme to the surroundings of the fountain, which in turn lead to the loss of the landscape theme more widely when viewed for other areas of the gardens.
- 2.2 Whilst visually acceptable, the current plantings in the shrub bed located between the fountain and the boundary with West Walks, lack visual impact or coherence and do not in any way afford the effect of a glade or dell. (See photographs overleaf). Current species are quite jumbled in both variety and planting locations. Species include, Rosa rugosa, Lilac, Berberis, Forsythia and Pampas grass. Some larger trees existing within, and adjacent to, the beds affording varying degrees of shade.
- 2.3 The shrub bed along the West Walks boundary (the eastern boundary of the fountain) extends for several metres both before and after the fountain.



3. Proposal

- 3.1 The northern half of the shrub bed that borders the West Walks side of the fountain is to have several large over dominant shrubs removed. Others are to be pruned or moved to allow for the planting of several varieties of Japanese maple.

- 3.2 The maples to be planted in such a way as to provide visual features in the shrub bed and, over time, to create an acer glade showing excellent foliage colour and architectural interest.
- 3.3 Later the maples are to be under planted with relocated lower growing shrubs and plants which will, over time, be removed as the acers grow and replaced with low growing shade tolerant species.
- 3.4 The friends of Borough Gardens have generously offered £1,500 towards the cost of purchasing Japanese maple plants to be used in the project.

4. Decision

- 4.1 **Recommendation.** Management Committee is asked to decide on whether to support the creation of a Japanese maple border in Borough Gardens.

Carl Dallison
Assistant Town Clerk, Outdoor Services
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 7.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025 ALLOTMENTS ANNUAL REPORT & FEES FOR 2025

1. This report provides an update on the administration and management of the council's allotments.
2. Over the past year, the following key issues has arisen with regard to the on-going management of the council's allotment sites:
 - ground-water levels at the Frome Terrace site have resulted in several allotments being very wet in winter;
 - there have been a number of break-ins and thefts from allotments;
 - tenants struggled with poor growing conditions due to heat and lack of rain;
 - a growing number of tenants struggle to adequately maintain their plots due to personal commitments and ill-health.
3. All the sites have an allotment representative, providing a useful link with the tenants in exchange for free rent of an allotment. This arrangement works well with the representatives often being available to provide advice and assistant to both new and existing tenants.
4. The council maintains a waiting list for each site and works actively to keep these to a minimum. At present, the Frome Terrace and Herringston Road sites that have the longest waiting list (approximately 6 people at most) whereas some of the other sites, such as Louds Mill and Alington Avenue have vacant plots. The council works to highlight the availability of vacant plots through social media.
5. Following a decision by Management Committee the Louds Mill site is now open for new tenants and has been actively marketed. However, these plots have not been easy to let out due to their condition, tree shade, and smell from the adjacent sewerage works, and so there are still three plots vacant.
6. The 2024-25 costs of operating the Council's c.330 full and half-plot allotments were as follows:

2024-25	Expenditure	Income	Net
	£	£	£
Site maintenance, rent & administration	£33,610	£9,550	-£24,060
Water (5 sites)	£1,861	£3,475	£1,614
Total	£35,471	£13,025	-£22,446

7. The table below gives a detailed breakdown of expenditure for the allotment service. Maintenance and water costs were lower in 2024-25 compared to the previous year, although staffing cost increased due the 2024-25 pay award.

Expenditure	2023-24	2024-25
Water	£3,230	£1,861
Rent	£1,119	£1,119
Maintenance	£604	£49
Subscriptions	£55	£55
Staffing	£25,510	£32,387
Total	£30,518	£35,471

8. The Council has for many years pursued an agreed strategy of reducing the cost to the taxpayer of providing this service and increased both the allotment rent and water charges by £1 each year. It is recommended that the council continues with this policy of gradual, yearly increases in fees.
9. It is proposed, therefore, that the charge for water be increased from £12.50 to £13.50 for a quarter or half plot and from £14.50 to £15.50 for a full plot.
10. In respect of the allotment fee element of the charge, it is proposed to increase this by £1.00 per plot no matter what the plot size. This will further reduce the subsidy to the service and, for the majority of plot holders, means a total increase in fees (including water) of £2.00 for the year.
11. Set out below is the schedule of charges for 2025 and proposed charges for 2026. No increase is proposed for the one-off, upfront administration fee.

	Current	Proposed
	2025	2026
	£	£
Rent - Full plot on any site	42.00	43.00
Rent - Half plot on any site	26.00	27.00
Rent - Quarter plot on any site	18.50	19.50
Water Charge – Full plot	14.50	15.50
Water Charge – Quarter or Half plot	12.50	13.50
(excludes Frome Terrace as no water supply)		
Administration Fee for new tenants	50.00	50.00
A double fee will be charged to non-residents (living outside of DT1 area).		
For a typical half-plot the charge will therefore be:		
Rent - half plot on any site	26.00	27.00
Water charge – half plot	12.50	13.50
Total charge for full year	38.50	40.50

12. **Eligibility.** To be eligible for an allotment you must live in the DT1 area, although if there is no one on the waiting list then the council will rent plots to those living within a 4-mile radius of the centre of Dorchester.

Recommendations:

13. It is recommended that:

- a) the committee notes the update on the management and administration of the council's allotment sites;
- b) the allotment rent, from January 2026, be increased by £1.00 per plot no matter the size;
- c) the water fee, from January 2026, be increased by £1.00 per plot no matter the size;
- d) the practice of charging double fees for non-Dorchester residents continues.

Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 8.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025 CONSERVATION OF COUNCIL MONUMENTS

1. Following comments from the Thomas Hardy Society with regard to the condition of the Thomas Hardy statue, the council has obtained a quote from conservation specialists Tudor Rose Masonry & Conservation Ltd for the cleaning and minor restoration of the statue and its plinth.
 2. The work will comprise the steam cleaning of the bronze and stonework, repointing joints with lime mortar, minor repair to the stonework and applying bronze protective sealant. The quote for this work is £2,218 (exclusive of VAT).
 3. As the work will involve the use of a steam cleaner (suitable for stonework) which will be on hire for one week, the company has also quoted for:
 - the cleaning of the War Memorial and some repointing of open joints.
 - steam cleaning the stone main gate and pedestrian entrance pillars at Borough Gardens and allow for some repointing.
- The quote for this work is £1,500 exclusive of VAT. If commissioned at the same time as the cleaning of the Thomas Hardy statue.
4. The combined cost of all the above work is, therefore, **£3,718** exclusive of VAT. The cost of the cleaning / maintenance of these two monuments can easily be accommodated within the council's Public Realm reserve. If this expenditure is agreed by committee, then it is hoped that the work will be completed before Remembrance Sunday.
 5. **Recommendation:** That the committee approves the allocated of £3,718 from the Public Realm reserve for the cleaning and conservation of the Thomas Hardy statue, the War Memorial and stone gate pillars at Borough Gardens.

Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 9.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025 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
Dorchester Disabled Club	New mini-bus	£500	£500
Jawbone Collective	Dorchester Bard Competition Event	£286	£286
Total awarded			£4,325
2025-26 budget remaining			£5,675

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//Grants/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//Grants/Grant-application-form-2025.doc>), however it is worth noting the following key requirements:

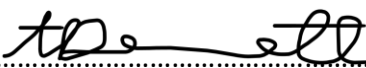
- The Council will usually only consider requests for specific projects, not on-going or revenue costs.
 - Grant applications for events/activities that have already taken place will not normally be considered.
 - Grant applications for events aimed at raising money for distribution to a wide range of 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.
5. 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) – Application from STARS

1.	Name of organisation.	STARS Dorset (cheque to be made out to: Sexual Trauma and Recovery Services – Dorset Rape Crisis)
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name Adam Dennett Address supplied Email: adam.dennett@starsdorset.org
3.	Address where activities are based.	Stanley House, 3 Fleets Lane, Poole, BH15 3AJ & Paceycombe House, Paceycombe Way, Poundbury, Dorchester, DT1 3WB
4.	What area (community) is served?	Geographic county of Dorset / Dorset and BCP council localities
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	No – most similar is ACTS FAST, which is based in Wimborne and supports families affected by childhood sexual abuse; they are currently closed to new referrals.
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	We provide free, specialist counselling, ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Adviser), and CYP (Children and Young People) services to survivors of sexual violence and abuse across Dorset, with support centres located in Poole and Poundbury. Of our current clients, 96 are from Dorchester; 18 of those are under-18s in our CYP services.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	N/A – all services are free for clients.
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees? If so please advise effective dates.	N/A – there has been some discussion regarding offering paid services on a Saturday to increase service capacity and contribute to the diversification of our income streams, but there are no imminent plans to implement this.

9.	<p>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>	<p>We provide free, specialised ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor), counselling, group work, and CYP (Children and Young People) services for survivors of sexual violence and abuse who live at a Dorset postcode, and our Engagement Team work in the community, at events, and with local schools, colleges, and universities to offer education, training, and workshops about consent and combatting harmful sexual behaviours.</p> <p>Approximately 60% of our workforce is made up of volunteers, including volunteer counsellors who make a 24-month commitment to STARS Dorset after their induction and training; we are seeking funding to continue training and maintaining this volunteer workforce by covering their expenses, such as travel costs and refreshments, and providing supervision to ensure they can meet their obligation to their clients.</p> <p>As mentioned previously, one of our support centres is based in Poundbury, and of the 1,484 clients currently on our system, 96 of these are from Dorchester; that works out to just over 6.4% of our service users.</p>
10.	<p>How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.</p>	<p>The project – our volunteers supporting survivors – is ongoing, and this application is just a small part of our efforts to diversify our income stream to ensure sustainability.</p> <p>This year, we established a trading subsidiary with future plans to offer paid consultancy, training, and workshops to help with the funding of our services, and we may introduce paid counselling sessions on Saturdays to increase both our income and service capacity, enabling those who are able to pay to access support on their terms and opening space for those who are able to attend the free sessions during weekdays.</p> <p>Our Engagement Team's presence at local community events helps with bringing in small cash donations, and as awareness of our organisation grows and our impact is felt across the communities we serve, we have found recently that several local groups and individuals have taken it upon themselves to name STARS Dorset as a beneficiary and fundraise on our behalf.</p> <p>We are also working to create a 'donation station' in our waiting area at our Poole support centre (which may be extended to the Poundbury office depending on its success)</p>

		with a contactless device to encourage card donations from clients and/or their families.
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.	Our next cohort of volunteers are due to start with us in September 2025; we typically onboard two groups a year depending on interest.
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	<p>Projected volunteer costs for 2025 =</p> <p>Supervision: £6,877 DBS checks: £300 Expenses: £11,131 Training costs: £1,000</p> <p>Training costs remain stable due to the sessions being delivered as group workshops; however, supervision costs rise as more volunteers join us, and due to the increased cost of living we are seeing more volunteers claiming expenses.</p>
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	<p>We have approached several of the Town and Parish Councils where our clients are from for funding towards our volunteer costs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verwood Town Council: £1,000 granted - Chickerell Town Council: £100 granted - Ferndown Town Council: £300 requested
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£300
15.	Any other relevant information.	
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).....</p> <p>Position Held: Fundraising and Compliance Assistant</p> <p>For and on behalf of: STARS Dorset Date: 18/07/2025</p>	

ITEM 9 (b) – Application from Dorchester Arts

1.	Name of organisation.	Dorchester Arts
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Mark Tattersall Address: Dorchester Arts, The Corn Exchange, High East St, Dorchester DT1 1HF Tel: 01305 266926 Email: mark@dorchesterarts.org.uk
3.	Address where activities are based.	Corn Exchange
4.	What area (community) is served?	Dorchester and the surrounding area
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	Dorchester Arts is the main provider of arts performances and participation in the county town.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	The exhibition that is the subject of this application will be free to attend.
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	n/a
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>As well as providing a year-round programme of entertainment, Dorchester Art seeks to use the arts to the benefit of the community by exploring important and topical issues through the arts. From October 18th – 20th, two large-scale artworks exploring issues of migration and cultural diversity will be exhibited in the Corn Exchange: Caroline Buarraway's <i>Ungrievable Lives</i> and Gil Mualem-Doron's <i>A New Union Flag</i>.</p> <p>Caroline Burraway's Ungrievable Lives comprises 13 children's dresses handmade from life jackets the artist gathered from the Life Jacket Graveyard, Lesvos, each hung from a weighing scale and stood on a bed of sand. Each dress represents 1 million of the 13 million child refugees worldwide (pre-</p>

		<p>Ukraine). This powerful and moving installation has been exhibited in music venues in the UK, Europe and the USA as part of a collaboration with the composer Charlotte Bray who responded to the piece with a string quartet of the same name. A recording of Bray's music will be played at various points during the exhibition.</p> <p>Gil Mualem-Doron's New Union Flag reimagines the traditional Union Jack to reflect the UK's rich multicultural heritage. Made from fabric designs sourced from across the globe, the flag becomes a vibrant and evolving symbol of the communities that have shaped British culture. Once a commentary on the UK's colonial past, it now celebrates the ever-changing diversity of the nation.</p> <p>A specially commissioned soundtrack will be played throughout. Alongside the exhibition, which is being presented in association with Shire Hall and b-side, we will hold a panel discussion involving the artists to allow the issues to be with the public on the Saturday evening and Gil Mualem-Doron will run free workshops for the public on the Sunday morning. We will work with local organisations engaged in similar areas of interest (migration, race equality, human rights) as well as the media more generally to ensure that local people are aware of the events and encouraged to take part.</p> <p>The intention is for it to be an open event for the whole community, where those who are actively engaged in these topics are welcomed as well as those who have concerns about the issues which are being explored.</p>
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future.	n/a
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.	Oct 18 th – 20 th 2025
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	£650 (artist fees, travel and subsistence, accommodation, workshop fees)

13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	Dorchester Arts Dress Circle donations: £250 (confirmed) Donations during the event: £100 (expected)
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£300
15.	Any other relevant information.	Photographs of the artworks attached.
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)</p> <p>Position Held - Artistic Director</p> <p>For and on behalf of Dorchester Arts Date 28/08/25</p>	

Supporting information from Dorchester Arts:

Photograph from *Ungrievable Lives* project:



Photograph from The New Union Flag project:



ITEM 9 (c) – Application from Durnovaria Silver Band Trust

1.	Name of organisation.	Durnovaria Silver Band Trust Charity Number 1156408
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Angela Fox Address: <i>supplied</i>
3.	Address where activities are based.	Durnovaria Band Hall Kings Road Dorchester DT1 1NJ
4.	What area (community) is served?	Music and the Arts
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	Durnovaria Silver Band are the only Brass Band in Dorchester.
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	<p>The Band plays a wide variety of music at numerous local events throughout the year.</p> <p>The Band have a Beginners Brass class and a Brass Band Training Band both groups are open to children from aged 8 and adults who wish to learn a brass instrument.</p> <p>Learning to play a brass instrument is proven to help with your breathing (asthma) and is certainly good for your mental health. All tuition and instruments are provided free of charge.</p> <p>The Hall is used by other local bands and arts groups.</p>
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees. Please attach schedule if available.	<p>Training Bands are free. The main Band, players pay £10 per month subscriptions.</p> <p>The Band charge for playing at venues ranging from £100 for charities, £150-200 for engagements or individual tickets for an indoor Band Concert</p>
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	No change of subscription fees are planned.

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 band has increased in size over the last couple of years with Training Band members achieving the ability to join the main band, with the increase in size of the Band more music stand banners are required.</p> <p>The banners will need to match the current ones:</p> <p>Music Stand Banner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour-Black • Standard Size Velcro Fixing • Pointed Bottom • Gold Fringe • 7 Colour Embroidery • 1/8" Gold Braided Border.
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	The Band charge for playing at venues ranging from £100 for charities, £150 - £200 for engagements or individual tickets for an indoor Band Concert.
11.	<p>a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.</p> <p>b) Estimated completion date.</p>	<p>October 2025</p> <p>December 2025</p>
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	<p>6 banners are required @59.50 each</p> <p>Carriage £12</p> <p>Vat 73.80</p> <p>Total cost £442.80</p>
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	None
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£442.80
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	<p>The Durnovaria Silver Band along with Durnovaria Band Hall is part of the DSBTrust both parts are self financing within the Trust.</p> <p>The Band play for the Town Council Remembrance Service and other Civic events if required, and as they represent the Town wish to look professional in their appearance.</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).....Angela Fox.....</p> <p>Position Held.....DSB Trust Treasurer.....</p> <p>For and on behalf of.....Durnovaria Silver Band Trust..... Date...28.08.2025.....</p>
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ITEM 10.

Minutes of Dorchester Arts Board Meeting 21st August 2025

Present:

Simon Veale Chair SV
Mark Tattersall Artistic Director MT
Annabel Eigeland AE
Toby Frere TF
Mike Willdridge MW
Helen Hutchinson HH
Amanda Wakeman AW
David Leaper Rep Dorchester Town Council DL

Welcome SV

Apologies

Sasha Constable SC, Hanna Trevorrow HT, Stella Jones SJ, Denise Exall DE

Register of Interests/Conflict of Interests

Last minutes record SC requesting consideration of her showing her sculptures as part of a future exhibition in the Corn Exchange Gallery. Since then MT and MW have discussed and do not feel there is a conflict of interest issue.

Minutes of last meeting approved by HH and seconded by AE.

Matters arising

Parking issues for PMLD resolved at last meeting.

Artistic Director's Report

A full report was circulated prior to the meeting and MT talked the meeting through it. AW reported lack of awareness of DA in younger people. There was a discussion about use of social media, school leafleting and the timings of shows for the young. Some performance companies do their own publicity which helps. There was discussion over the effect on attendance at outdoor performances such as weather and alternative summer activities. These issues are apparent in other venues, it is reported. The autumn season brochure is out and bookings are doing reasonably well. There is another tour of *Pot licker* booked for several new venues this autumn. SV asked about profits from the play and MT explained the percentages earned and that there was satisfactory profit made. There is also a follow-up play being written which will tour in spring.

Visual Arts

Arts Council had visited the morning of the meeting and been pleased with the combination of visual arts and performance that the organisation was now presenting. Since the AD report was written there have been 4 sales in the gallery of works by Fernando Velazquez. Subsequent shows include Dylan Lloyd's hedgerow works and a printmakers' show at

Christmas time. There are other shows under consideration including an exhibition of work by Tor Eigeland, photojournalist, which is likely to take place in the spring, and will demonstrate variety in the type of works to be shown in the gallery.

The winner of the Dorset Open competition to take place soon will have a solo exhibition at the gallery during Dorset Art Weeks in May/June 2026.

Participation/Community

MT talked through planning for succession for Jo Simons who will be leaving DYT in around 2 years' time.

Projects

MT explained the Ungrievable Lives installation (Caroline Burraway, Oct 18th – 20th) to be accompanied by the New Union flag by Gil Mualem-Doron, reflecting issues of migration and the changing face of British society.

Helios, the sun sculpture from Luke Jerram, will go ahead following a £5k donation from the Valentine Trust, and successful bids to DC and DTC, providing a realistic chance of obtaining the full funding in time. There will be daily events "under the sun" plus an art exhibition made up of submissions from the public.

Leigh Hamilton-Davis has been appointed as new Catering Supervisor when Brenden Gabe-Fry leaves to go to university. DL suggested liaising with the staff at the Borough Gardens cafe for potential new staff for the Corn Exchange cafe over winter. Herbie Hudson is leaving to go to so a new Assistant Caretaker is being sought, 4 to be interviewed.

Capital Projects

There is progress with plastering in the Town Hall and by mid-October, the hall should be completed. HH asked about repair of a patch of leaching plaster in the auditorium and MT explained the alternatives for repair being considered.

DTC

DL reported no issues but expressed gratitude for MT's work. He mentioned upcoming festivals run by the council and wondered if DA could be involved in these. MT explained that he would be speaking at the Anonymous Festival on the Bank Holiday but that DA had limited capacity to take on more. Given that the festivals are successful in their own right, DA will look to play a supporting role.

Finance and Board Recruitment

SV circulated a report prior to the meeting. There is still not an appointed treasurer and other organisations report the same problem with recruitment. Discussion over whether to pay for one would be a board decision. Meanwhile TF and AW have agreed to attend Finance Committee meetings to give any appropriate input. AE enquired as to whether there had been action on recruiting Lizz Pavey/Armstrong yet and it was clarified that Lizz had failed to respond to correspondence so far.

Fundraising

MW reported that Summer Sunday had raised £2750 this year, a record profit. A date has been confirmed for next year's event for 26th July.

The Members' Elevenses take place next week and there is a Jane Austen-inspired fundraiser in November and a wine-tasting event in December.

Policies

MT reported that DE is happy with them with some updating of details and thanked her for her valuable input. All have been circulated to the Board for perusal and any suggested amendments considered. Where appropriate, they have been amended accordingly. All have been dated with schedule to review in 2 years. Board approved all updated policies.

It is established that business insurance cover is required for cars used for transport to do with DA. This usually meant no increase in fee.

HH asked about backup for when the internet goes down or protection against malware/hacking. MT explained that an external hard drive exists for Dropbox backups but they are overdue, so was grateful for the question. Backup are lengthy and must be done on a drive which can be removed, as they are vulnerable when left plugged in.

The system is cloud-based so is less sensitive than were we to have our own servers, but MT to back up critical data more regularly.

AOB None

Date of next meeting

November 20th 2025 at 4pm

ITEM 11.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2025 MINUTES OF THE TWINNING & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PANEL MEETING ON 14TH JULY 2025

Present: Cllrs M. Rennie (chair), F. Hogwood, S. Jones, R. Major and R. Potter.

Officers: Tony Hurley (Assistant Town Clerk) and Matilda Manley (Tourism Development Officer).

1. **Apologies.** None.
2. **Declarations of interest.** None were declared.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Agreed.
4. **Twinning update.** Cllr Hogwood reported that the Lubbecke Society was struggling with recruitment and was mostly inactive. The Assistant Town Clerk reported that approaches had been made to the councils for both Lubbecke and Bayeux but detailed feedback as to how they support their twinning groups was still awaited.

Cllr Rennie mentioned that the Mayor was unable to attend Lubbecke's 1250th anniversary celebrations in late August and that perhaps, in future, such invitations could be circulated to all members in case any would like to represent the council.

It was also noted that the reception for a group from Bayeux was taking place in September and it was hoped that an invitation would be sent to all members soon.

Action: It was agreed that the invitation from Lubbecke for its 1250th anniversary be sent to all members and a discussion held with the Town Clerk with regard to identifying a member to attend.

5. **Proposal for new community event in 2026.**

Matilda Manley reported on a proposed new community event that had been developed in conjunction with the Tourism Partnership. It has been agreed with the Partnership that the Roman Festival would take place every other year (next in 2027) and that in 2026 there would be a Kite Festival on The Great Field. Members welcomed this proposal and Cllr Major suggested that commercial sponsorship be sought. Cllrs Hewitt and Hogwood highlighted the need to avoid clashing with other large events such as Summerfest and the Community Bike Ride. Cllr Jones suggested that the local Syrian and Afghan communities given the significance of kite flying in their cultures.

6. **Arrangements for Remembrance 2025.**

The Assistant Town Clerk outlined the discussions that had been held with various parties with regards to improvements to layout and practical arrangements. Efforts would be made to make use of marshals or volunteers to better distribute the Order of Service throughout

the crowds and addressing the issue of the crowd in South Street being encouraged to move to a better viewing location. There would also be the better marshalling of wreath layers.

Arrangements for the 80th anniversary of VJ Day were discussed and it was agreed that the council should hold some sort of gathering / ceremony and involve the Dorchester branch of the RNA in particular.

7. **Date of next meeting.** To be agreed.

ITEM 12.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

NOTES OF A MEMBER SITE VISIT HELD ON 9th SEPTEMBER 2025.

Sites visited: Poundbury Cemetery, Maumbury Rings and Borough Gardens.

Attending: Councillors Poppy Farmer, Janet Hewitt, Frances Hogwood, David Leaper, Molly Rennie, Fiona Kent-Ledger, Stella Jones and David Taylor

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

1. Poundbury cemetery.

- Officers explained the different areas and burial options within the cemetery and the options for memorialisation.
- The administration of the cemetery was explained – including applications for interments, memorials and Exclusive Rights of Burial. The application of the council's 'next in line' procedure for allocation grave spaces was explained.
- Officers explained their plans for the development of a Cemetery
- Long-term plans for the future expansion of the cemetery southwards in order to meet demand were discussed.

2. Maumbury Rings.

- The future management of trees on the site was discussed along with the ongoing management of the grass on the monument banks in order to promote wildflowers.

3. Borough Gardens.

- Officers explained plans for the planting of Japanese maple trees along the bank near the fountain and a report on this would be presented to Management Committee.
- The need to repaint the bandstand was discussed and the methodology used for the refurbishment of the clocktower was recommended. A report on this repainting and refurbishment of the bandstand would be presented to the Committee in due course.

Meeting closed 11.50pm.

ITEM 13.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 15TH SEPTEMBER 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	2368	T.B.A.
	Ashes	2370	T.B.A.
Poundbury Cemetery	Ashes	2367	C81
	Ashes	2369	T.B.A.
	Burial	2371	T.B.A.
	Ashes	2372	Children's Plot 35
Fordington Cemetery	-	-	-

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

1/7/25 – 31/8/25	Dorchester	Fordington	Poundbury
Interments	-	1	3
Ashes	4	-	1
Garden of Remembrance	2	-	-
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