



Dorchester Town Council

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11th March 2026

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 16th MARCH 2026** 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 12th January 2026 (adopted by Council on 26th January 2026). A copy of the Minutes can be found on the [council's website](#).

- 4. Proposal For Town Centre Public Art**

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

5. Outdoor Services – Update Report – Late Winter

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

6. Proposal for Circus at The Great Field

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

7. Grant Applications

To consider the following applications for financial assistance:

- (a) A request from the Daytime Band for a grant of £500 towards the cost of insurance and music stands.
- (b) A request from St Marys Catholic First School for a grant of £500 towards the cost of a community greenhouse project.
- (c) A request from the Talk About Trust for a grant of £500 towards the cost of a summer music programme at the Pavilion in the Park (PiP).
- (d) A request from the William Barnes Society for a grant of £500 towards the cost of specialist cleaning of the William Barnes statue.
- (e) A request from the Dorchester Cricket Club for a grant of £500 towards the cost of a patio extension.

8. Minutes of Dorchester Arts board meeting

To receive the minutes of the Board meeting on 19th February 2026 (enclosed).

9. Minutes of the Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel

To receive the minutes of the Board meeting on 12th January 2026 (enclosed).

10. 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 and burials of ashes 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.

11. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

To resolve “That in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during their discussion”.

12. Fordington Cemetery Wall - Land Purchase

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

13. People Need Nature – Transfer of Grant to Volunteer Centre Dorset

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

ITEM 4.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 16th MARCH 2026 PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC ART IN DORCHESTER

1. A proposal for the creation of a new public art installation to celebrate Susie the Cat has been subject to recent public discussion on social media and has now been submitted to the Town Council for consideration. If the project sponsors are successful in securing both planning consent and highways permission from Dorset Council, then it is proposed that the Town Council be asked to take on both ownership and responsibility for the upkeep of the artwork once installed.
2. A brief proposal from the project sponsor is attached in **Appendix A**.
3. The project sponsors would like to position the statue of the cat, on a small plinth, on the pavement area on South Street outside of the Julia's House charity shop. However, the exact location will need to be determined by the presence of underground utility cables if located via a pre-installation survey. A similar ground survey/scan identified underground cables when the Sylvia Townsend Warner statue was installed and resulted in changes to the exact position of the artwork.
4. Dorset Council has indicated that in order to give permission for the statue to be located on Dorset Council-owned highway, the Town Council will need to agreed to take ownership within a reasonable timescale. The project sponsor has proposed to transfer the statue to the Town Council within 2 years and to meet all maintenance costs within that period.
5. **Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Committee agrees to the Council taking ownership of the proposed cat statue within two years of installation by the donor at the proposed location in South Street.

Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 4 - Appendix A – Proposal for new public art installation

Proposed statue of “Susie as a Roman Dorchester cat”

The successful Sylvia Townsend Warner statue campaign provided a useful lesson --- people supported it for different reasons. But another lesson learned is that support for a statue of Susie is out there.

So, combining those two lessons, how about a Susie statue with another angle, a Roman Dorchester angle, a statue of her bearing the inscription:

SUSIE THE DORCHESTER CAT
posing as a cat of Durnovaria, Roman Dorchester
wearing a Roman cat collar of glass beads
leaving a paw print on a Roman tile
MMXXVI

This Roman Dorchester angle is historically correct. It is well known that Romans kept pet cats. Cat bones were excavated from a Roman site in Poundbury. A Roman cat collar of glass beads was found in a Roman pet cemetery in Egypt. And the cat paw print on a Roman tile would be inspired by one found in Gloucester and another in London.

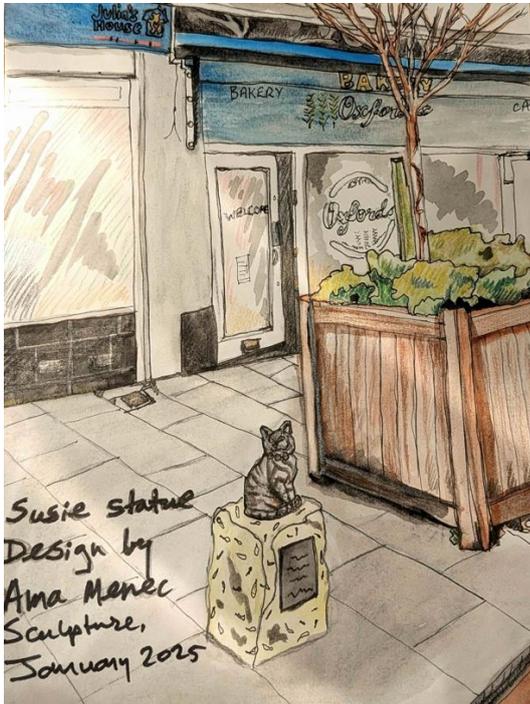
So, there’s two reasons why a statue of Susie as a Roman Dorchester cat is likely to be welcome: it’s Susie, and it has a local history angle.

And there is a third reason to expect support: people like statues of animals, especially ones they can touch. Unusually, this Susie statue would be on a low plinth, 75cm high, at eye level for small children. It’s intended that children will interact with the statue by petting it. Perhaps rubbing Susie’s nose for luck would become a tradition for generations of Dorchester children. That is also wheelchair user height. And visually impaired people will appreciate being able to connect with Susie by freely touching the statue.

A few key details to add:

- The project would not cost the town anything. It would be paid for entirely by an anonymous donor, someone who is not a cat lover but has an interest in ancient local history.
- The cat statue would be of genuine bronze.
- Firmly attaching the bronze statue to a heavy plinth will be all that can be done to discourage metal thieves from stealing it.
- The plinth would be of a fossil bearing Portland stone, as a nod to the Jurassic Coast.
- The caption would be of inscribed Purbeck stone.

- The sculptor lives and works in Weymouth. So, Dorset artist, Dorset Purbeck and Dorset Portland stone — those Dorset “bragging rights” features would not be labelled on the statue. A QR code could link to the Discover Dorchester website, which could add a Susie statue page to its online gallery of four other statues.



Dorset Council will not grant planning permission for an art installation in South Street without evidence of local community support. That is attested by response to the project announcement on the Facebook group Susie’s Travels in Dorchester, where it received 413 Like/Loves and 107 enthusiastic supporting posts within the first hour. The count after 24 hours was 1,100 Likes/Loves, 247 supporting posts, and 851 votes for and 7 against on a Facebook Poll. (Note that responses include some from people who are not Dorchester residents. Among the more than 11,000 members of the Susie’s Travels in Dorchester Facebook group are people living elsewhere in the UK and in at least 15 foreign countries.)

Among the heartfelt comments were these:

- *I love this! What a wonderful idea to celebrate Susie cat and her Roman ancestors!*
- *What a wonderful idea and I like the way it has been woven into the historical Roman past as well as making it accessible to children and those with disability.*
- *Please accept my comment as 100% in support of this proposal. The bead collar and roman tile is very clever. Height for children... BRILLIANT! Local designer and materials!*
- *What a super idea. Especially at it being a level that children can touch it, and a tile of her paw prints. It would certainly bring visitors into the town.*
- *100% yes, we come down to Dorset from Scotland every October, and come to Dorchester especially to see Suzie. X*

- *It's a wonderful idea - she's a real Dorchester ambassador present and past.*
- *100% support this, a great idea. Susie helps promote Dorchester. I have visited a number of times and always look out for her.*
- *100%, full support. I love that Susie will be part of Dorchester's history in years to come!*
- *This is such a wonderful idea to honour Susie who brings so much joy to the people of Dorchester. People travel from far and wide in the hope of meeting her! And there are so many fans on her Facebook page evidencing how much pleasure people get from hearing the adventures of this dear little cat. A wonderful project!*
- *What a wonderful idea combining Dorchester past & present for future years to come. Love it.*
- *Definitely a great way to celebrate Susie cat and all that she has brought to Dorchester and the wider community*
- *What a lovely idea. She has done so much to promote the town so she deserves the honour of a statue. I hope it gets the support and comes to fruition. You certainly have my support. Well done Susie.x*
- *Absolutely support this wonderful gesture to honour Susie and her world wide support. Dorchester is so lucky to have such a great ambassador. She has reached out across the oceans and makes every day beautiful for us who are able to read of her adventures. This note comes from across the pond in Plymouth, Massachusetts.*

Also, Dorset Council will require "written confirmation from Dorchester Town Council that they will adopt this statue and carry out any future maintenance." The agreement of one of the North Ward councillors is also needed.

I note from your minutes about the Sylvia Townsend Warner statue that DTC would assume ownership of the statue as soon as it is installed, DTC would bill the donor for any maintenance within the first two years, and the Town Clerk will negotiate and collect from the donor a sum of money for future maintenance in perpetuity.

James Honeychuck
Poundbury

ITEM 5.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 16th MARCH 2026 OUTDOOR SERVICES UPDATE REPORT – LATE WINTER

1. The mid-winter period saw ongoing maintenance work being heavily influenced by the continued very wet weather which resulted in saturated ground conditions which again caused changes to normal working patterns.
2. **Borough Gardens**
 - 2.1 Main work has revolved around completing the maintenance and pruning of many shrub beds, care of winter flowering annual plants, leaf clearance, edging, weeding and cleaning/maintenance works to the nurseery.
 - 2.2 Work to propagate all the bedding plants for the coming summer will commence shortly. Members are reminded that bedding schemes this winter will feature more bulbs as previous winters as well as this one, have proved very wet and mild causing losses of bedding plants due to rotting off. Reaction to last year's bulb displays was very good.
 - 2.3 The row of decayed plane trees growing on the Bowling Alley walks boundary at the southern end of the gardens was removed and stumps ground away. Replacement pleached lime trees have been planted on the same line as the old trees. The trees are supported by below ground guying systems, and each has a watering kit installed to allow them the best possible start. The work progressed well with many positive comments from the public. At the same time self-grown holly plants were planted into the adjacent hedge to thicken it up for future years.
 - 2.4 The gates at the Princes Street entrance which were removed for repair, were relocated in late October and were painted with primer and new colour coating. The adjacent Portland Stone pillars were cleaned along with the small bronze seals on each pillar. The decorative plaques featuring the marabout on each leaf have been re-painted and have been re-positioned.
 - 2.5 The project to plant young Japanese maple trees in the shrub bed adjacent to the fountain was delayed due to excessively wet weather and also staff sickness. Works commenced in the first week of March. This included the cautious pruning of shrubs in the area to be replanted to allow for an assessment to be made of which to remove and which to keep. This was then followed by planting in the flowing days. All prunings were shredded on site and taken to great field play area to provide a weed suppressant mulch on shrub beds.
 - 2.6 A significant amount of work has been completed pressure washing the paved surface, safety surface and woodwork in the play area and around the fountain to improve the general appearance and reduce the risk of users slipping on the surface.
 - 2.7 Further improvement works are taking place to the step area leading to the bowls pavilion toilets and the paving around the newly planted lime trees has been re-configured to allow for more root development. Work has been completed to reduce the slope on the paviors outside Borough Gardens House entrance that was previously quite steep.

2.8 A new pop-up electrical point was purchased and installed to replace the one damaged at an event in Borough Gardens. A second pop up which could not be fixed in below ground position was also repaired. All have been fixed wiring condition checked and are ready for use this summer.

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. (see also The Great Field section 6)

3.2 The team has been undertaking further street and park seat maintenance including removal of graffiti and sanding to seat on bowling alley walks and a dog/litter bin at great field. Works within the Council offices to enable new carpeting, were completed promptly and new carpeting has been installed.

3.3 The previously rotten and illegible information board located near Poundbury Camp has been reconditioned and will be reinstated with a new panel.

3.4 Weather conditions will determine when grass cutting operations commence again for the spring with soil conditions being monitored. It is anticipated that Borough Gardens will be cut by the time of the Management Committee meeting on the 16th of March.

3.5 Works to repair damaged and failed sections of wall, rendering and to renew paint work on the greenhouses and old boiler room building at the southern entrance to the garden, have been suspended due to bad weather. They will remain on hold for the moment due to staff sickness reducing capacity. Work was also carried out to renew the interior staging for plants in both the large greenhouses.

3.6 Fencing either side of the new gates at the corn exchange car park has been replaced after removal of old paint and rust, welded repair and grinding to replace very rusted sections. Anti-rust painting and final topcoat painting.

4. **Cemeteries**

4.1 Routine maintenance has continued within the cemeteries including small tree maintenance and planting, litter collection and grave digging. Full burials have again been fewer in number with only one over this reporting period whilst ashes interments have increased slightly.

4.2 No grass cutting has continued throughout this period, it is planned to recommence in March.

4.3 Improvement works to the Poundbury toilet building, mess room building are planned for late this winter were delayed due to weather and staff absence but will commence in the spring.

5. **Biodiversity**

- 5.1 Two owl boxes were placed in mature trees at both ends of Borough Gardens in late January/February. It is unlikely they will ever both be occupied at the same time due to owls having territories, however having two boxes will increase the opportunities for nesting to take place.
- 5.2 Small tree maintenance was carried out at The Great Field. Works included pruning of low branches, removal of epicormic growth, crown formative pruning and removal of any dead diseased or dangerous growth. Across all recently planted areas, stakes and ties were also checked, adjusted and, where appropriate, removed.
- 5.3 Sowing of wildflower seed and Yellow Rattle seed took place in selected area in the “green burial area” at Poundbury Cemetery. It is hoped these will increase the biodiversity already present and also help with the reduction of soil fertility and contribute to the suppression of grass growth.
- 5.4 A further five Whitebeam trees have been planted at Poundbury Cemetery.

6. **The Great Field**

- 6.1 Town Council staff have carried out limited routine maintenance to the flat, turf areas, play equipment inspections and repairs and the checking of trees on site. Additionally routine litter collection and bin emptying operations have continued.
- 6.2 Hedge planting took place to the north of the swale area to try to prevent pedestrians’ shortcutting through the vulnerable wildflower areas and also to the perimeter of the green burial area. Plant species will be native to the UK to be of maximum value to native wildlife.
- 6.3 The team carried out surface cleaning in the play area. They removed many of the loose safety surface pebbles that had migrated onto the path network. The pebbles were returned to the safety surface areas.
- 6.4 Additional intensive works took place to grass seed shrub areas that have been trampled or were contaminated with pernicious weed to reduce the need for pesticide application. Other areas were replanted with more robust shrubs. Some mulching has also taken place to reduce the prevalence of annual weed.
- 6.5 Some areas of fencing protecting now mature shrubs have been removed and a deep clean has taken place to most of the shrub beds.
- 6.6 The Duchy of Cornwall have replaced the drinking fountain tap and the water supply is back on. This, in turn, allowed for a maintenance check to be made of the play area water pump feature which discovered leaks which have now been repaired. The feature itself will not be turned on until the early summer after work has been completed to remove accumulated stones, soil and debris in the drainage for the feature.

- 6.7 The seat to be located near to the bus stop at The Great Field has been installed and a plaque fitted.
- 6.8 The team were scheduled to re-locate the football goal posts on the main sports area in January/early February. This work has been delayed until early spring due to the very wet soil conditions. Work will be carried out to re-instate the grass surface in old goal mouths in late March / April when temperatures will allow seed to germinate.

7. **Arboriculture**

- 7.1 See section 5.2 in regard to small tree maintenance and section 5.4 in reference to tree planting.
- 7.2 Works to numerous trees within Borough Gardens have been completed. These works were to maintain tree health and form and to remove any dead, diseased or dying material, plus to allow light to reach new under-storey tree plantings.
- 7.3 Inspection of the trees located at Maumbury Rings has been ordered for completion during March 2026. Works will then be carried out, following Dorset Council agreement to works under planning consent (Conservation Area). In addition, works to remove nuisance growth impacting on adjacent properties and the removal of overextended branches will be carried out. Further sites will be inspected as part of a rolling programme through 2026.

8. **Allotments**

- 8.1 Works to identify and resolve water leaks have been carried out at Hawthorn Road and Herringston Road allotments. Further work to resolve a water leak at Louds Mill Depot was also carried out.
- 8.2 A large amount of fly-tipped wood from tree cutting operations was removed from Herringston Road allotments.

Carl Dallison
Assistant Town Clerk, Outdoor Services
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 6.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 16th MARCH 2026 PROPOSAL FOR CIRCUS ON THE GREAT FIELD

1. The Town Council takes bookings for events and activities on The Great Field, as it does with its other open spaces. These bookings by third parties are taken in accordance with the council's adopted policy on the hire of its land and its agreed site hire fees.
2. In recent years, The Great Field has hosted food festivals, summer fetes, inflatable 'theme parks' and children's shows in marquees (e.g. Mad4Animals). All these events have been held successfully with minimal disruption to adjacent neighbourhoods.
3. This coming Spring/Summer, the site will host a number of returning events including the Dorchester Kite Festival, Summerfest, Mad4Animals, Age UK Summer Fayre and the Dorset Food & Art Festival – and also an inflatable theme park (dates to be confirmed).
4. However, the council has now received an enquiry from Show Productions Ltd requesting permission to use The Great Field for their *Circus Cortex* ([Welcome | Circus CORTEX](#)). This touring circus is described by Show Productions as follows:
 - A relatively small Circus but our productions have built up a following in other areas of the UK with a reputation of high quality of performance with lighting, sound and costuming in excess of most other Circuses touring.
 - The Circus has 6 small caravans, 5 small lorries, and 6 small trailers and once in situ they won't move until moving to the next venue.
 - There would be two performances each day (afternoon and an evening performance finishing each day at 9.00pm weekdays and 6.00pm on a Sundays) with a maximum audience of 250 at each show.
 - The performances take place in a small intimate Circus Big Top, only 24 meters in diameter allowing for a more enhanced immersive audience experience.
 - Requires a rental area which in total can be as small as 40 x 60 metres in size or variations of this.
 - Normally have 4 days of performances and a 2 or 3 day arrival and set up time. The preferred performance dates are 13th - 16th August 2026 with set up and arrival from the 10th August and departure by 18th August at the latest.
 - References, risk assessments and public liability insurance certificate can be provided.
 - The circus does not include any animals in its performances.
 - The circus will have its own toilets.
 - The circus will deploy staff to act as traffic marshals to deter customers parking on St John Way.
5. Given that this type of entertainment is new to The Great Field, members are invited to consider this request and decide whether or not to accept the booking.

6. Although, the council has other open spaces, The Great Field is ideal for many types of activity as it has good vehicle access (for setting up), is level, and very visible to passers-by – thereby both ensuring security and attracting visitors.
7. If the committee does agree to allowing the circus booking, then it might wish to require the operator to lodge a bond of £1,000 to be used by the council to cover the cost of any damage but which would be returnable following site inspection by council staff.
8. **Recommendation:** The committee is requested to consider permitting the hiring of an area of The Great Field by Show Productions Ltd for its Circus Cortex in August 2026.

**Assistant Town Clerk
Dorchester Town Clerk**

ITEM 7.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2026 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
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
STARS	Volunteer training	£300	£300
Durnovaria Silver Band Trust	Music stand banners	£443	£443
Dorchester Chamber	Insurance for Cracker	£500	£500
Dorchester Chamber	Venue hire for Cracker	£500	£500
Dorchester Family Support	Food hampers	£500	£500
Homestart Wessex	Volunteer expenses	£500	£500

Transition Town Dorchester	Scythes	£335	£335
Dorchester Death Café	Venue hire	£500	£250
Total awarded			£7,653
2025-26 budget remaining			£2,347

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 7 (a) – Application from the Daytime Band

1.	Name of organisation. (If your application is successful the grant cheque will be made payable to the name used here.)	Daytime Brass Dorchester
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Sally Young Address: provided
3.	Address where activities are based.	Rehearsal Venue: Durnovaria Silver Band Band Hall, Kings Road, Dorchester. DT1 1NJ Events: Dorchester and the surrounding area
4.	What area (community) is served?	Dorchester & Surrounding Areas - Weekdays Only
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	Durnovaria Silver Band & Weymouth Concert Brass are brass band the same as Daytime Brass the difference is that this organisation will be weekdays only and this is a community outreach project which neither of the other bands currently support
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	A free at source outreach community project the "Brass Cafe" will provide free concerts on a quarterly basis at a suitable venue for audiences and refreshment (provided free of charge) with invitation to external agencies to attend to provide support to the audience which may be low income, vulnerable, isolated, retired or stay at home members of our community.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	There are currently no members subscriptions the rehearsal space is currently paid by personal weekly donations
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees? If so please advise effective dates.	There are currently no plans to charge a subscription or fee
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.)	A free at source outreach community project the "Brass Cafe" will provide free concerts on a quarterly basis at a suitable venue for audiences and refreshment (provided free of charge) with invitation to external agencies to attend to provide support to the audience which may be low income, vulnerable, isolated, retired or stay at home members of our community. We aim to bring friendship and joy to the community through music.

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 will apply for grants, and financial sponsorship, Also possibly charge a concert fee to support the “Brass Cafe” performances.
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.	End of March 26 On going
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	We are looking for a grant in the region of £500.00 but any type of grant would be gratefully received as we require equipment (music stands) sheet music, hymn books, carol book. To enable us to perform outside we require Public Liability Insurance and Performing Rights.
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	None to date as we were only established on the 09.09.25
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	Any monies would be gratefully received but the maximum grant would be £500.00
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	This is a brand new initiative which will benefit the People of Dorchester and surrounding areas especially those that may be on low incomes, aged, stay at home, of nervous dispositions, vulnerable & isolated
16.	<p>Declaration</p> <p>I declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>I 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) Position Held: Finance & Administration</p> <p>For and on behalf of Daytime Brass Dorchester Date: 07/01/26</p>	

ITEM 7 (b) – Application from St Mary’s Catholic First School PTA

1.	Name of organisation.	St Mary’s Catholic First School PTA
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Mrs Gannon Address: St Mary’s Catholic First School, Lucetta Lane, DT1 2DD
3.	Address where activities are based.	St Mary’s Catholic First School, Lucetta Lane, DT1 2DD
4.	What area (community) is served?	St Mary’s Catholic First School in Dorchester, surrounding families and community.
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	Community greenhouse & outdoor learning space St Mary’s children will grow seasonal fruits, vegetables, and herbs tracking the full cycle from seed to harvest. The produce can be used in meals, cooked by the children, sold at local town/school markets, shared with families, or donated to local community kitchens. Parents and community volunteers will be invited to help maintain the space and run after-school or weekend sessions. It is hoped the grounds will be opened up to the community (being part of Open Gardens) once a year to showcase the learning that is going on with the gardening space being led by the children. The garden area will also inspire children with their families to take part in the Dorset County Show growing competitions, grow their own fruit and vegetables at home and promote sustainable living in our community.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	NA
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	NA
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.)	In the past, our school’s gardening area included a polytunnel and raised beds, but unfortunately, these have become unusable. The tunnel was vandalised and the wooden sleeper beds have rotted over time. As a result, the space can no longer be safely used by children or staff. With grant support, we aim to rebuild this area with stronger, more sustainable materials and renewed purpose, making it a long-term learning and community asset.

The proposed greenhouse will be located on St Marys Catholic School grounds and will be equipped with raised beds, accessible planting areas, water collection systems, and seating for group learning. The large greenhouse will also be used for lessons, workshops, and community gardening sessions. Children will grow seasonal fruits, vegetables, and herbs tracking the full cycle from seed to harvest.

Project Objectives:

By creating an outdoor classroom through the addition of a new greenhouse, we aspire to:

- Grow our own fruit and vegetables, helping the children to develop a closer connection to the food they eat.
- Support children to develop practical skills, such as gardening and food preparation.
- Enable year-round access to nature, getting children outdoors and active regardless of the weather or season.
- Encourage appreciation for the wonders of nature and the importance of caring for our environment.
- Boost children’s wellbeing by providing a calming space that supports relaxation, confidence, and positive mental health.
- Foster cross-generational learning and connections by creating opportunities for family members to share their skills and expertise with students.
- Build a stronger, more sustainable school community through a shared project which will benefit all students.

Benefits to the community:

St Mary’s has a strong community and a hugely supportive PTA. Our school and families are very keen for this project to establish stronger community links and involvement going forward. This will happen through maintaining and managing this unique learning space, sharing expertise in gardening and horticulture and inspiring our young minds to grow food from seed which we hope will, in turn, benefit our wider community. We have a very good relationship with the community in our local parish in Dorchester. This includes parishioners of all ages and is a vibrant and diverse community. We would like to develop these relationships further through wider community involvement. We hope the community

		can be involved in our project through the food we grow, prepare and distribute. We are passionate about the environment at St Mary's and have been awarded the Eco School Green Flag for our projects for many years, with distinction for the past two years. In essence, our children care deeply for our environment and planet. It is our children that help to drive our projects forward and we hope our growing area will both support their learning and benefit our community for many years to come.
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 already have more than £4,600 of our £10,000 goal through grants, online donations to our <u>fundraising campaign</u> and other PTA fundraising events. We are confident our ongoing fundraising efforts will support this long-term campaign.
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.	a) Spring/Summer 2026 b) Spring 2027
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	An estimated £10,000 for foundations, construction and fitting out the outdoor growing space with raised beds.
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	Dorset Gardens Trust Barbara Valance Trust Tesco Stronger Starts
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500
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).....Sinead Gannon.....</p> <p>Position Held... Year 2 Teacher and Eco Schools Lead...</p> <p>For and on behalf of..... Date 22.1.26.....</p>	

ITEM 7 (c) – Application from Talk About Trust

1.	Name of organisation.	The Talk About Trust – Pavilion in the Park
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name Kerry Smith Address Pavilion in the Park St John Way Poundbury Dorchester DT1 2FG
3.	Address where activities are based.	Pavilion in the Park
4.	What area (community) is served?	Poundbury, Dorchester and surrounding villages
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	Music events are held throughout Dorchester but no other similar free events are held on The Great Field.
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	Music in the Park Events: Putting on a free event in the community means that it will be accessible, without financial barriers and therefore be inclusive for all residents. Holding these events at lunchtime will encourage those who may feel socially isolated and lonely to attend something which is during daylight hours. We would also encourage young families to attend to give them an activity to do with a calm and relaxing atmosphere. These events will also help to showcase and promote local musical talents.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	Music in the Park events are free to attend.
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	No, we would like to keep this event as accessible as possible for all residents.
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.)	Music in the Park We would like to host free music sessions again this Summer. Local musicians and singers perform and we invite anyone to come and enjoy a picnic on the Great Field and be entertained. Some of the musicians will gladly play for free but we are finding it difficult to rely on their kindness. Most acts are now asking for a fee to perform which we need to find extra funding for but we would like to keep the performances free to those who attend.

10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.	Music in the Park – various afternoon dates from June – Sept 2026.
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	Music Acts are requesting between £80 - £150. We will book the acts according to the donation we receive. £500 to £600 approximate cost.
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	None for Music in the Park.
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	
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).....Kerry Smith.....</p> <p>Position HeldCommunity Relationship Manager</p> <p>For and on behalf of...The Talk About TrustDate.....23/02/2026.....</p>	

ITEM 7 (d) – Application from the William Barnes Society

1.	Name of organisation. (If your application is successful the grant cheque will be made payable to the name used here.)	William Barnes Society
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Jane Ashdown, WBS Secretary Address: <i>provided</i>
3.	Address where activities are based.	Society activities are based in different locations; for example, talks and presentations are typically held at the Dorford Centre. We hold an annual service of Thanksgiving at Came Church and a musical event at Whitcombe Church during Heritage Week.
4.	What area (community) is served?	About a third of the WBS members live in Dorchester and others live in surrounding towns and villages as well as other parts of the UK. We also have some international members in the USA and Australia. The Society has an annual calendar of events that is open to the public.
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	The Society is the only organisation dedicated to promoting William Barnes, his life and work.
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	The Society's mission is to celebrate the life and work of William Barnes as a dialect poet, educator and parish priest. Barnes life and poetry, especially his dialect poetry, are integral to the history of Dorchester in the nineteenth century. His statue (Roscoe Mullins, sculptor) in St. Peter's Churchyard reflects his importance to the town. Barnes was instrumental in founding what is now the Dorset Museum; his intervention with others to save Maumbury Rings from demolition for the new railway leaves a permanent legacy to Dorchester. Barnes and his wife Julia ran a school in Dorchester (Durngate Street & later South Street).
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees. Please attach schedule if available.	Society membership fees are £14 family membership and £12 individual membership.

8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	There are no plans to raise annual dues at this time.
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.)	The William Barnes statue is a Grade II listed statue and stands in the precinct of St. Peter's Church, Dorchester. Representatives of St Peter's Church drew to the Society's attention the need for repair and conservation work on the statue and asked the Society to assist in this project. The statue is in a significant position within the St. Peter's precinct and is visible to all who pass by. It's listed status reflects its importance as a Monument. The statue of the Reverend William Barnes is a heritage asset for the town and benefits the visitor attractions for Dorchester. The statue is in need of cleaning, restoration and conservation work.
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	A reputable stone mason (Tudor Rose Masonry and Conservation) has submitted an estimate to St. Peter's Church for one-time conservation work on the statue at a cost of £2,149.00. The Barnes Society intends to raise £500 through a dedicated event with the aim of matching the £500 requested through this application. Representatives from St. Peter's Church have indicated that they will also contribute in the region of £500-£700. This still leaves approximately £500 to be raised which will be undertaken in cooperation with St. Peter's Church.
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.	The starting date has yet to be determined, but it should take place within the next 6 months. The work itself will take 2-3days. Representatives from St. Peter's Church are seeking the necessary permissions for the work to be carried out and will provide access to Church property as needed to access a water supply.
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	£2,149.00
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	This is the only grant for this project that the WBS has applied for to date which will go toward the total cost of the restoration work.
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500.00

15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	Additional information about the Society can be found on our website at: https://williambarnessociety.org.uk/ Please note, the Town Council did award the Society a community grant of £300 two years ago in support of our "Barnes For All" campaign for archival work on the William Barnes archive at the Dorset History Centre. This work is now well underway.
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.....Secretary.....</p> <p>For and on behalf of...William Barnes Society.....</p> <p>Date...27th February 2026.....</p>	

ITEM 7 (e) – Application from Dorchester Cricket Club

1.	Name of organisation.	Dorchester Cricket Club
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Simon Joslin Address: provided
3.	Address where activities are based.	Dorchester Cricket Club Weymouth Avenue Pavilion Dorchester
4.	What area (community) is served?	Dorchester and surrounding areas
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	Open to all residents in Dorchester who can enjoy the facilities.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	£140 per year subscription
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees? If so please advise effective dates.	No
9.	Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community.	To increase the [patio so people can enjoy the outdoor space at the Recreation area.
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	There is only a one-off cost as it can be maintained
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.	April 2026 May 2026

12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	£900
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	none
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	
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).....Simon Joslin.....</p> <p>Position Held Dorchester Cricket Club Chairman.....</p> <p>For and on behalf of...Dorchester Cricket Club. Date 9th March 2026.....</p>	

ITEM 8.

Minutes of Dorchester Arts Board Meeting 19th February 2026

Welcome

Present:

Mark Tattersall MT Artistic Director
Simon Veale SV Chair
Annabel Eigeland AE
Amanda Wakeman AW
Toby Frere TF
Mike Willdridge MW
Sasha Constable SC
Helen Hutchinson HH
Denise Exall DE
Stella Jones SJ Dorset Council
David Leaper DL Dorchester Town Council

Apologies - none

Interests and Conflict of interests - none

Approval of minutes of last meeting

Approved MW, seconded DE

Matters arising

HH queried the raising of fees for submission of scripts for The Script's the Thing TSTT. MT replied that a sum of £15 had been decided on which would state each script being seen by professional readers.

Artist Director's Report

Not circulated prior to meeting and will be an addendum (**Appendix A**) to minutes.

DTC

DL reported that People Need Nature is to be dissolved, and that he would clarify the nature of the 5-year review of the partnership between DA and DTC with Steve Newman. DL, SV and MT to liaise about text for DL's presentation to the Town Meeting. MT updated the board about the works to the front and roof of the Corn Exchange. MT reported that he had a discussion with Michael Dooley, Lord Lieutenant, about work towards a project related to King Charles' Harmony Project and the associated fund and film.

Finance Review

SV's report as below:

- Box office – a number of shows at CX are not performing as hoped. Poor margins and issues over programming. Loss making shows to be cut.
- Bar is ahead of budget, especially helped by events on the CX.
- Café – 12k loss .
- Hires – ahead of budget.
- Membership – good. Up to 562 from 420, mainly from café enquiries.
- Fundraising – low due to no events.
- Expenditure – increase on mkt and photocopier, otherwise on track.
- At the Q3 point we are forecasting a 25k loss, with the café and poor box office being the main reason for this. Q4 should show some improvement due to Jess Beale’s salary not being, gaining 4,500, and two significant donations, both of which can be gift aided.
- ‘Moat’ (High East St) was a visible barrier for customers to cross. Neon sign has now been put up in the cafe easily seen from across the road. It has already attracted more customers.
- DTC overtime budget for THKs has all been used up, contrary to expectations. Difficult to balance - as we get more hires, and more hire income, more of their time is needed
- As noted, Jess’s salary will not be in this figure going forward (MT covering additional workload).
- Electricity usage is ahead of budget due to the café and gallery usage.
- Marketing costs are high but all 3 brochures have now been printed and distributed.

Board membership

DE to contact potential new Treasurer.

Fundraising

MW reported that events were already mentioned in AD Report.

Policies

DE reported Safeguarding Policy review due in April. As part of this, the names and contact details of SV, MT and DE would be as appendices rather than part of policy. Since Jess Beale left, DE has taken over as Designated Safeguarding Lead until MT can have the relevant training (summer). She has met with all the relevant leads of the participation programme and passed recommendations on to MT. Version numbers to be added to policies as part of future review processes.

Any other business - none

Next meeting: Thursday 14th May 4pm

Item 8 - Appendix A

Dorchester Arts - Artistic Director's Report Feb 2026

Programming:

Autumn 2025

Sales for the Christmas season were generally good, with established performers (Opus Anglicanum, Bournemouth Sinfonietta Choir) bringing in good audiences and a new act (The Albion Christmas Band) doing good business at the Hardye.

Spring 2026

The year started well in terms of box office, although as ever the margins are quite tight. The Comedy Club and Janet Street Porter did well at the Hardye and most shows at the Corn Exchange sold more than 70% of seats – the exceptions being Rank (which did well for a new theatre show, selling 71) and Michael Gray's talk about Bob Dylan which made a small loss. James Phelan's sold out magic show sadly had to be postponed due to a broken down van, but has now been rescheduled. Joe Stilgoe and Liza Pulman's *Hooray For Hollywood* was an outstanding show and sold out, and although it didn't make a huge profit due to the very high costs of staging the concert, Martin James Bartlett and Mariam Batsashvili's concert in Sherborne was extremely well received (one seasoned concert-goer describing it as the best recital he had ever attended in 65 years of concert-going!). Last Saturday's *Complete Works of Jane Austen: Abridged* sold out.

Pre-sales for the rest of the spring season are positive: very pleasingly, our half term family show (*The WOW Bubble Show*) sold out and *Attention All Shipping* is also a few seats short of a sell-out. *The Noise Next Door* and *Mike Denham* are both above 80% sold and it is really positive to see another piece of new writing (*Across The Square*) above 60% with more than a week to go. Strangely, the Coldplay tribute scheduled for Friday had to be postponed due to poor sales (possibly because the band had asked for it to be a standing gig) but *Beatles Complete* has now taken off and is now above 60% with two weeks to go. A few shows (*Susie Dent*, *Stolen Ram*, *All For Your Delight* and *Our Little Hour*) are slower than expected and Dan and Jacky are working with the performers/agents to improve the situation.

Plans for Helios are now complete and a full programme of events has been published.

Summer/Autumn 2026

The summer and autumn seasons are 95% programmed and are included with this report.

Pot licker/Stolen Ram

As mentioned in the last report, a tour of *Stolen Ram*, the sequel to *Pot licker*, is planned for March and although sales are a bit slow in most venues we are providing more marketing assets to all and expect sales to improve. As guarantees are being paid by all venues, there is no risk of financial loss relating to the tour even if sales are below expectations.

Visual Arts programme:

The gallery space continues to get excellent feedback but sales are modest – Andrew Haydon's photography show sold 2. The costs of each exhibition are, however, very low (around £60) so we are not too concerned at this point but will give some consideration to how we can improve

sales in the near future. The past two Private View events have unfortunately been hit by very poor weather, meaning numbers were low.

82 submissions have been received for the *Catch The Sun* community art exhibition and we will start selecting works after the closing date (Fri Feb 20th)

Participation/community:

As mentioned in my last report, *Rise* and *Parkinson's Dance* will continue in both Sherborne and Dorchester until Easter, but *Art Life* has been stopped due to a lack of funding.

We were turned down for funding for *Rise* in Dorchester by the Dorset Council Local Alliance Group, citing low numbers as the reason for rejection (frustratingly, the *Rise* model relies on targeting small numbers but with high impact in order to be effective, but we are struggling to make the case for this). An academic study of the results of the *Rise* programme is under way and we hope that the results may support our case for funding, but in the short term the programme will have to stop in both Dorchester and Sherborne after Easter. We have sufficient funds for *Parkinson's Dance* to continue in Dorchester until the summer at least and are confident that funds will be found for it to continue in Sherborne as well.

Connect and *Art For Memory* will continue in Dorchester for the foreseeable future – we are recruiting new tutors for the latter and the aim is to restart after Easter. Discussions are taking place with the Arts Development Company regarding a bid to National Lottery for a three year programme of Creative Health activities, as piecemeal funding is not sustainable.

DYT continues to thrive and we meet with Jo Simons regularly to discuss how we can best support them.

Lucy Allen's new folk music participation venture, *Folk Tunes By Ear*, has started really well and we hope to make this a regular fortnightly part of the programme. Since Jess Beale's departure we have reviewed the arrangements for safeguarding, and as no members of staff have the relevant training Denise Exall has kindly offered to step in as Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) until I can be suitably trained later this year. Denise is meeting with all the relevant course leaders so that they know her in case a referral of any kind has to be made.

Projects:

The Script's The Thing 3 is planned for October 10th and 11th 2026. We are awaiting the results of funding applications to the Backstage Trust and others – should the full amount not be reached we have some contingency plans for delivering the event at lower cost.

Mark Tattersall – 16.02.26

ITEM 9.

TWINNING & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PANEL NOTES OF MEETING ON 12TH JANUARY 2026

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

Officers: Tony Hurley (Assistant Town Clerk).

In attendance: Barbara Coleman and Ian Coleman (Dorchester Bayeux Society).

1. **Apologies.** Cllrs J. Hewitt and R. Major.
2. **Declarations of interest.** None were declared.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Agreed.
4. **Potential projects with Dorset Museum to compliment the British Museum's Bayeux Tapestry exhibition.** Claire Dixon of Dorset Museum attended seek the Panel's views on how Dorchester could undertake activities to compliment the British Museum's exhibition starting in September. Dorset Museum has been invited to a meeting convened by the British Museum which would involve heritage organisations from across the country to discuss how regional museums could benefit from the London exhibition.

Claire suggested that there could be a programme of talks about the Norman period and Dorchester, and perhaps a display of any relevant collections. Cllr Jones highlighted Dorset Council's links with the La Manche region and also suggested that there could be a project to invite local schools to make tapestries.

It was suggested that the Mayor of Bayeux may be invited to the exhibition launch event in London and then perhaps they could be invited to Dorchester. Officers were asked to enquire about this with Christine Cabon (Deputy Mayor of Bayeux).

Matilda Manley suggested that perhaps there could be a Bayeux tapestry theme to the BID's summer campaign in the town centre.

5. **Twinning update.** The meeting was attended by Barbara Coleman and Ian Coleman (Dorchester Bayeux Society). The Society was doing well and is in communication with Bayeux Council regarding an invitation to visit Dorchester in 2027 although this may clash with Bayeux's 1,000th anniversary of the birth of William I. The visit to Bayeux in September 2026 had yet to be confirmed.

With regard to the Lubbecke Society, it appeared to be moribund. Cllr Jones suggested that the council could ask for interested members of the community to come forward to join the Society. They could perhaps be a link with the Town's beer festivals.

Action: It was agreed that officers would explore whether links with the Town's beer festival could help raise interest in twinning with Lubbecke.

6. **Twinning information boards.** Cllr Stella Jones proposed that there could be small information boards located at Holbaek Close, Lubbecke Way and Bayeux Court to explain the twinning origins of the place names. It was suggested that Magna be asked to contribute.
7. **Update on cultural projects including Holocaust Memorial Day and Dorchester Kite Festival.** Matilda Manley updated on arrangements for the Kite Festival and the significant amount of commercial sponsorship that had been raised to offset the majority of the event costs and further income would be generated from stallholder fees. Matilda confirmed that links were being established with a local Afghan group.

Tony Hurley update on arrangements for the Holocaust Memorial Day commemorative event on 27th January at the Corn Exchange.

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

ITEM 10.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 16TH MARCH 2026 EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL, 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 in January and February 2026:

Cemetery	Burial/Ashes	Grant No:	Grave Number
Dorchester Cemetery	-	-	-
Poundbury Cemetery	Ashes	2377	T.B.A.
	Burial	2378	T.B.A.
	Ashes	2379	T.B.A.
	Burial	2381	T.B.A.
Fordington Cemetery	Ashes	2380	GOR84

2. Interments: During January and February 2026, the following interments and scattering/burial of ashes have taken place in Dorchester's cemeteries:

1/01/26 – 28/02/26	Dorchester	Fordington	Poundbury
Interments	1	-	1
Ashes	3	2	1
Garden of Remembrance	-	-	-
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**