



Dorchester Town Council

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29th April 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 **TUESDAY 5th MAY 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 16th March 2026 (adopted by Council on 27th March 2026). A copy of the Minutes can be found on the [council's website](#).

- 4. Outdoor Services – Update Report – Spring**

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

5. Town Pump renovation project

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

6. Grant Applications

To consider the following applications for financial assistance:

- (a) A request from the South West Dorset Multi-Cultural Network for a grant of £500 towards the One World Festival 2026.
- (b) A request from Dorchester Trust for Counselling and Psychotherapy for a grant of £500 towards the cost of counselling sessions.
- (c) A request from Dorchester Middle School for a grant of £500 towards the cost of the Community First Hub events.
- (d) A request from the Daytime Brass Band for a grant of £304.99 towards the cost of an A-board and music books.
- (e) A request from Kushti Bok for a grant of £500 towards the cost of the annual Roma history event in Borough Gardens.
- (f) A request from Dorchester Youth & Community Centre for a grant of £450 towards the cost of a Summer Family Fun Day in 2026.
- (g) A request from Litter Free Dorset for a grant of £500 towards the cost of the *Frome to Grow* project.

7. Minutes of the Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel

To receive the minutes of the Board meeting on 16th March 2026 (enclosed).

8. 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.

9. 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".

10. Refurbishment of Weymouth Avenue Skate Park

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

ITEM 4.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 5TH MAY 2026 OUTDOOR SERVICES UPDATE REPORT – SPRING 2026

1. The late-winter -spring period saw ongoing maintenance work initially being heavily influenced by the continued very wet weather which resulted in saturated ground conditions which again caused changes to normal working patterns. This was then followed by a rapid change to dry conditions which allowed a prompt start to be made to grass cutting operations which have progressed well.
2. **Borough Gardens**
 - 2.1 Main work has revolved around the maintenance of winter flowering annual plants. In keeping with the new methodology, a high number of bulbs were planted in the autumn to provide a display and this has been very successful with a bright display of bulbs for over 6 weeks in the gardens which were not affected by the wet winter. Many of the reduced number of bedding plants again succumbed to rotting off. Public reaction to the bulbs has been very positive with many people making positive comments both to the team and online.
 - 2.2 Work to propagate the bedding plants for the coming summer commenced early in the period and is almost complete. The greenhouses are full of young plants and the coming few weeks should see them moved outside to harden off before planting commences towards the end of May.
 - 2.3 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 careful selection of planting sites based on the cultural and light requirements of each variety. This work was carried out by the junior members of the team as part of a project to help with their professional development with limited help from the HG and ATCOS. Due to the need to propagate annual bedding planting was delayed but is taking place of the next week. Low key fencing will be placed around the perimeter of the bed to try to protect the newly planted stock.
 - 2.4 The gates at the Cornwall Road entrance are in a reasonable paint condition but will see the decorative plaques featuring the marabout removed and have the old paint removed before priming and being re-painted.
 - 2.5 The row of decayed plane trees growing on the Bowling Alley Walk 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. This work has been a success with all the trees now bursting into leaf and giving a glimpse of what the future holds.



2.6 A significant amount of work was completed pressure washing the paved surface adjacent to the new row of limes, this also included light cleaning of the sculpture and renovation of the various seats on the raised perimeter of the tennis courts, completing the improvement to that area of the gardens.

2.7 Work to re-point the steps by the tennis pavilion toilets has been completed as has the replacement of the four main timber pillars supporting the gutter and roof of the building.

3. **Outdoor Services team**

3.1 The Outdoor Services team have been carrying out maintenance works to ensure facilities are of a good standard. Staff have carried out routine maintenance and repairs in several play areas. The main focus of attention being repainting of equipment in Edward Road. This is a light refurbishment as it is now known the lease will be renewed. Members are asked to consider the request for transfer of funds from the play area reserve in item 9.2 of this report.

3.2 The team has been undertaking works within the Council offices to enable the team to move back into the finance office, these have been completed and the team has moved back in.

- 3.3 Current warm weather conditions are ideal for spring grass growth and the team have been busy undertaking grass cutting operations at all of the councils' sites. The initial round was completed well, and the team are almost at the end of the second round.
- 3.4 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, were suspended due to bad weather. They will remain on hold for the moment due to works being required at Edward Road play area and Poundbury Cemetery building.
- 3.5 Water leaks were repaired at Herringston Allotments, Hawthorn Road allotments and at the Louds Mill depot.

4. Cemeteries

- 4.1 Routine maintenance has continued within the cemeteries including small tree maintenance, litter collection and grave digging. Full burials have again been fewer in number with only one over this reporting period whilst ashes interments have remained roughly consistent.
- 4.2 Grass cutting commenced and has continued throughout this period.
- 4.3 Improvement works to the Poundbury Cemetery toilet building and mess room building are about to start (**see photos below**). The works will include replacement of external doors, replacement of timber gates to the spoil area, repairs to the water supply system, internal decoration and renewal of sanitary ware where required in the public toilet area. These works will enable the toilet to be opened again for public use during ceremonies in the cemetery and improve the water protection afforded to the building. Members are asked to consider the request for transfer of funds from the cemeteries reserve in item 9.3 of this report.





5. **Biodiversity**

- 5.1 Small tree maintenance was again carried out at Great Field. Works included pruning of low branches, removal of epicormic growth, crown formative pruning and removal of any dead diseased or dangerous growth
- 5.2 Watering will commence across all recently planted areas in the coming weeks unless natural rainfall occurs.
- 5.3 The snowdrop wildflower area at Borough Gardens has seen excellent growth with naturally occurring cowslips starting to spread and populations of buttercup increasing. This area provides a nice display for many weeks and a useful resource for insects at the Princes Street entrance.

6. **The Great Field**

- 6.1 Town Council staff have carried out 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 Litter bins have been vandalized on two occasions. The team reacted quickly after reporting, to ensure reconditioning and replacement.
- 6.3 Brown tail moth infestations were removed in two separate operations during late March and April. The moth creates tents in which eggs are laid and the caterpillars then hatch in very large numbers. Host plants are mainly hawthorn and Cornus and these can be quickly defoliated. The caterpillars have hairs which can cause severe allergic reactions and trigger breathing problems and skin irritation. This is the first time they have been reported at The Great Field. Routine inspections will be carried out annually from now on to try to remove

any “tents” discovered before hatching takes place, total eradication is unlikely but populations may be kept low.

- 6.4. Some shrub areas in the play area received an application of mulch to reduce the prevalence of annual weed.
- 6.5 An accident has been reported involving the play area water pump feature, the equipment was not working at the time. This is being investigated and a report will be presented to management committee at the next meeting.
- 6.6 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 April/May when temperatures allow seed to germinate.

7. **Arboriculture**

- 7.1 An inspection of the trees located at Maumbury Rings was previously ordered and this has now been completed and the report has been received. No immediate concerns were identified. Some works to ensure continued health and good formative growth have been identified along with removal of overextended branches and a crown reduction. A Conservation Area application for the works will be made in early May. Works will then be carried out, following Dorset Council’s agreement. 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 Herrington Road allotments. Further work to resolve a water leak at Louds Mill Depot was also carried out.
- 8.2 Work to remedy a problem with the gate at Herrington Road allotments will be carried out in early May.

9. **Recommendations**

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to approve, by vote, the following works and to request Policy Committee release funds from the allocated reserves. These proposals have already been discussed with the Responsible Financial Officer who is content.
- 9.2 Members should note that there is also a confidential item at the end of this meeting’s agenda regarding the use of funds from the Play Area reserve for another project.
- 9.3 **Recommendation: Edward Road play area**

- a) That the Committee agrees works to improve Edward Road play area over the course of the summer. The major elements requiring Play Equipment reserve funding are the renovation of a section of boundary fencing which has corroded and replacement of

safety surfacing. It is hoped equipment already in stock will replace the main climber unit and avoid further capital outlay, existing equipment will not be removed until this is certain.

- b) That Policy Committee is requested to agree the release of £6,000 from the Play Equipment reserve.

9.4 Recommendation: Poundbury Cemetery Building:

- a) That the Committee agrees works to renovate the main Poundbury Cemetery building over the course of the early summer. The major elements requiring reserve funding are Doors, gates, limited roofing and plumbing. Additional decoration works and rendering repairs will require funding for materials but will be carried out by the in-house team.
- b) That Policy Committee is requested to agree the release of £5,000 from the Cemetery reserve.

Carl Dallison
Assistant Town Clerk, Outdoor Services
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 5.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 5TH MAY 2026 REFURBISHMENT OF TOWN PUMP

1. Over the last year, the Dorchester Civic Society has developed a project for the renovation of the Town Pump at Cornhill in Dorchester. The aim being to realign the structure (via disassembling and rebuilding), clean the stonework and reinstate a drinking-water dispenser near the base.
2. This preparatory work has involved liaison with Wessex Water with regard to the installation of a drinking fountain – which would need to meet Wessex Water’s hygiene / public safety requirements and a connection to the mains supply.
3. The preparatory work has also involved a ‘cover survey’ (funded by the Joint Heritage Committee) to reveal the internal structure of the monument and inform its rebuilding/realignment. It is clear that the upper section of the Town Pump has been struck by passing vehicles and is no longer properly aligned on its base – although the structure is safe.
4. Both the structural survey and the discussions with Wessex Water have informed the drawing up of a costed renovation scheme prepared by Crickmay Stark Architects and which has secured listed building consent from Dorset Council. Click on this link to see the details of the planning application and consent:
<https://planning.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/plandisp.aspx?recno=420060>
5. The likely cost of the project will be between £50,000-£60,000 including VAT, and up-to-date estimates are being sought from the architects.
6. The Dorchester Civic Society would now like to raise the necessary funds for the project and secure consent for the works from the monument’s owner, Dorchester Town Council.
7. The renovation of the Town Pump fits well within the Town Council’s overall plan to refurbish the Cornhill area with improved surfacing and street furniture in order to provide a more attractive setting for the Pump. The Town Council has set aside funding for the overall Cornhill enhancement project, and perhaps some of this money could help part-fund the renovation of the Town Pump with other funds sought from the appropriate heritage lottery grants programme.
8. It should be noted that although the Dorchester Civic Society has led on the project to date, with a particular focus on reinstating a water supply/dispenser, the Town Council has ultimate responsibility for the management of the monument and will, inevitably, need to cover the cost of its rebuilding in order to align it properly on its base.
9. The Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee has considered this project and funding request as agreed the following: *that the Town Council is requested to consider approving the Town Pump renovation project and contribute significantly towards its cost.*

10. The design for the enhancement of the Cornhill area surrounding the Town Pump is currently being developed by Crickmay Stark architects and draft plans should be available to discuss with members in June ahead of a report to Policy Committee in July.

11. **Recommendations:** That the Committee:

- a) supports the Dorchester Civic Society's plans for the renovation of the Town Pump;
- b) requests that Policy Committee considers providing funding for the project from the public realm reserve as part of the overall Cornhill enhancement scheme.

Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)

Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 6.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 5TH MAY 2026 GRANT APPLICATIONS

1. In the current financial year, the Council's small grants budget is £10,500. This budget comprises the agreed annual allocation of £10,000 and the grant of £500 awarded last year to the Dorchester Disabled Club and which has now been relinquished by the Club.
2. The grant scheme is used to support discrete projects which directly benefit the Dorchester community. Grants are typically between £50 and £500.
3. A list of all the grants awarded by Management Committee in previous years can be viewed here: <https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk/Supporting-Our-Community/Town-Council-Grants#gsc.tab=0>
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 6 (a) – Application from the South West Dorset Multi-Cultural Network

1.	Name of organisation.	South West Dorset Multicultural Network (SWDMN)
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Vikki Williams Address: provided
3.	Address where activities are based.	One World Festival to be held in the Borough Gardens, Dorchester on 8 th August 2026.
4.	What area (community) is served?	Dorchester and surrounding villages.
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	No
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	The SWDMN aims to end the isolation felt by people from Black and Ethnic Minority backgrounds in SW Dorset, as well as to foster good relations between different communities. The Network does this by promoting positive relationships between people from a diverse range of cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds, living or working in SW Dorset, and by taking steps to proactively address any incidents of racism or harassment reported to us.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	N/A
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	No
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>Our request is for funding to support the One World Festival (OWF) event, which aims to celebrate the diversity of cultures in SW Dorset through world food, music and cultural activities. The OWF was previously (prior to 2024, when it returned) a partnership event, led by the Dorset Race Equality Council (DREC).</p> <p>It was the brainchild of local resident Khalique Miah and his friends, the 'Speak Easy' group, who sought to encourage networking and socialising between ethnic minority groups and the wider community.</p> <p>This is a free event open to all and showcases world food, music, art and culture that reflect the various ethnic communities in and around SW Dorset. The SWDMN took on responsibility for organising these events in 2024, with the support of Dorchester Town Council, and has been supported by various</p>

		<p>grants, including from Dorset Council.</p> <p>The event in 2024 was the first post-COVID and was very well received and supported in the community, particularly as it took place very shortly after the riots across the UK, following the Southport stabbings. The one in 2025 was similarly well-received. The atmosphere at both events was hugely positive and served to demonstrate what unites, rather than divides, the wider community.</p> <p>Feedback from attendees, performers and stall holders has unanimously supported running the event on an annual basis.</p>
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	<p>In 2024, the event was run as a partnership between the SWDMN and Dorchester Town Council. In 2025, DTC made a contribution of £500 towards it.</p> <p>The Network is a voluntary organisation, run without subscription, and wishes to continue the legacy of previous OWF events by making the events free to attend. Hence, we will also continue to seek grants to cover at least some of the costs.</p>
11.	<p>a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.</p> <p>b) Estimated completion date.</p>	<p>Planning for the event is commencing this month. It will make use of contacts, facilities and equipment acquired in previous years.</p> <p>Event date: Saturday 8th August 2026</p>
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	£5,500
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	<p>£500 from Magna Housing's Community Fund.</p> <p>£2,000 from the DCF's Neighbourhood Fund.</p> <p>We have also applied to the SNG's ConnectED Communities Fund, but we are still awaiting news on this. There is also the possibility we may receive funding of £1,000 from Unite, but this is still to be confirmed.</p>
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	<p>Contribution towards the following costs:</p> <p>Security £160 First Aid Provision £250 Contribution to volunteer expenses £90</p> <p>Total grant requested: £500</p>

15.	Any other relevant information.	
16.	<p data-bbox="233 255 389 282">Declaration</p> <p data-bbox="233 327 1337 398">I declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p data-bbox="233 443 1422 595">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 data-bbox="233 640 831 672">Signature of Applicant(s): <i>V.Oriogun-Williams</i></p> <p data-bbox="233 716 528 748">Position Held: Trustee</p> <p data-bbox="233 792 1126 824">For and on behalf of: The South West Dorset Multicultural Network.</p> <p data-bbox="233 869 440 900">Date: 24/03/26</p>	

ITEM 6 (b) – Application from Dorchester Trust for Counselling & Psychotherapy

1.	Name of organisation.	The Dorchester Trust for Counselling and Psychotherapy
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Kate Hooper Address: C/O Key Digital Stowey House Bridport Road Poundbury DT1 3SB
3.	Address where activities are based.	The counselling sessions are based at counsellors' practices in Dorchester and the surrounding areas.
4.	What area (community) is served?	Our service supports people living in Dorchester and the surrounding areas who are struggling both with their Mental health and financially. Those supported are in need of counselling but are not able to afford to pay for it privately or access it adequately via the NHS as waiting. Lists are long and support is usually only available on a short-term basis and often only via phone.
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	We enable local people to access low-cost counselling when they would be unable to access it in a timely and appropriate way otherwise.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees. Please attach schedule if available.	We ask those we support to make a contribution to their counselling based on what they can realistically afford. This helps them to have a sense of ownership and also helps with our running costs. Most people contribute around £15 per session. We are very flexible around this and if people are genuinely unable to contribute anything then we will still support them.
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees? If so please advise effective dates.	Nothing different to the above.

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 are asking for funding to support local men to receive counselling. We know that men are less likely to access counselling but that they often need support: three times more men die by suicide than women in England. (source: mentalhealth-uk.org) Last year, only 21% of those we supported were male and we would like to be able to reach out to more men and provide them with the support when required.</p> <p>£500 would enable us to provide approximately 20 hour-long counselling sessions to men living in Dorchester who are struggling both with their mental health and financially.</p> <p>We know what a huge impact our service has on the lives of those we support. Examples of comments from those we help are:</p> <p>‘The support I have received from counselling through the DTCP has been life changing. I have recognised the need to ask for help is okay. This realisation and the support, empathy and compassion from my counsellor has made a significant impact in my recovery for the better. I will be forever thankful for your support.’</p> <p>‘Thank you for all your support over last couple of years, you helped me tremendously and I feel in a much better place than I was. The chats were so easy with you and I always felt better after them. You have given me some good advice and tips which I will continue to apply to my lifestyle. I would definitely recommend using this service to anyone that needs it. I am a new me and will always be grateful to you for helping me get where I am today. Thanks for everything.’</p> <p>You can read further examples of comments from those we have supported via Testimonials - Dorchester Trust for Counselling and Psychotherapy .</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>We are constantly applying to funders and also diversify our income via community fundraising, sponsored events, collections and so on. This is our twenty-first year of operation and we hope to be here to help as many people as possible for as long as possible.</p>

11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.	1 st June 2026 19 th October 2026
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	The cost of 20 counselling sessions for men living in the Dorchester area would be £500. This would include the associated costs of the counsellor fees, Operation Manager fees and insurance.
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	We have recently received funding to support our service from: The Elmgrant Trust £550 Anton Jurgens Trust £3000
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	Please see 'About Us' document and Summary 2025 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: K Hooper</p> <p>Position Held: Operations Manager</p> <p>For and on behalf of The Dorchester Trust for Counselling and Psychotherapy Date 19-03-26</p>	

ITEM 6 (c) – Application from Dorchester Middle School

1.	Name of organisation.	Dorchester Middle School
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Claire Stewart-Pope Address: Dorchester Middle School Queens Avenue Dorchester
3.	Address where activities are based.	Dorchester Middle School Queens Avenue Dorchester
4.	What area (community) is served?	Dorchester Middle School and local community
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	No We have a food bank with a support hub that offers 1-1 support on the day , the support agencies will follow up with future appointments
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	Community First Food and support hub has reached out to many families since we launched in January. It has made a huge difference to many of our families, financially and emotionally. We have created a support hub that has strengthened our school attendance and education and reduced family's anxiety, providing up to 12 meals at each event per family. Children have been able to access school uniform, coats and many more items. This is a great cause and we would like to raise more funds to support our local community. We are the heart of the community and strengthening our positive relationships is making a wonderful impact.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	We spend around £200 each event on food.
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	No

<p>9. Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)</p>	<p>PLEASE SEE A COPY OF MY INITIAL APPEAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Community First Hub</u></p> <p>My name is Claire Stewart-Pope, and I am the Attendance Officer at Dorchester Middle School. We are proud to be at the heart of our community, supporting families who face difficulties that often create barriers to children attending school.</p> <p>Over the past year, we have worked closely with many families who require ongoing support from a range of agencies to overcome challenging circumstances. Among them are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young carers who look after siblings with complex health conditions • Children living in poverty who rely on vouchers for school uniforms and food • Families struggling with housing issues and mental health challenges • Households affected by domestic violence and addiction • Parents and children in need of early help interventions <p>Every child matters, and we know that attending school not only provides them with a future but also keeps them safe.</p> <p>With this in mind, I am reaching out to request financial support for a Food Bank and Support Hub we plan to have several events over the next few months.</p> <p>Our vision is to break down barriers within our community by offering multiple forms of assistance through our established local partnerships. This initiative will also provide targeted support for young carers and children with limited life conditions, who attend our school.</p> <p>We believe that a food bank and support hub, particularly during the winter months, will be a vital resource for our families and will make a meaningful difference to the lives of children in our school and the wider community.</p>
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		<p>We would be deeply grateful for your consideration and support in helping us bring this project to life.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, Claire Stewart-Pope</p>
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	<p>I will continue to raise awareness for the need of support for many families in our community.</p> <p>Approaching companies and applying for funding.</p>
11.	<p>a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.</p> <p>b) Estimated completion date.</p>	January 2026 we launched
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	Each event is around £200, however we are growing and in need of resources as there are many more families reaching out.
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	I am waiting to hear from Waitrose in Dorchester. We received a grant in January for £450 from Pernco, which we have now used for food at our last 3 events.
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500 would be able to support 2-3 further events.
15.	Any other relevant information.	
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).....C.S.POPE.....</p> <p>Position Held.....Attendance officer.....</p> <p>For and on behalf of.....Dorchester Middle School, The Community First Project..... Date.....15.04.26.....</p>	

ITEM 6 (d) – Application from Daytime Brass 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: Daytime Brass Dorchester Email: daytimebrass.info@gmail.com
3.	Address where activities are based.	Brownsword Hall Pummery Square Dorchester DT1 3GW
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	We provide community based free daytime cafe style concerts with free refreshments providing a safe place for the community members to enjoy concerts in a relaxed informal environment, with representatives present from external agencies (Age Concern and Religious) Our community is open to anyone but especially for those who may be classed as elderly, vulnerable, stay at home parents, financially challenged and those that may feel isolated at home.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees. Please attach schedule if available.	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 ho members of our community. We aim to bring friendship 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 would like if possible a A1 pavement style display board can be sourced via Amazon £94.99 for advertising events. Also a Brass Band set of Christmas Collection Music Books available from Just Music £210.00 (quotes attached)
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	Previous unsuccessful grant applied for in March
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£304.99
15.	Any other relevant information.	Quotations provided.
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) S. Young</p> <p>Position Held Finance and Administration</p> <p>For and on behalf of Daytime Brass Dorchester Date 21.04.26</p>	

ITEM 6 (e) – Application from Kushti Bok

1.	Name of organisation.	Kushti Bok
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Elizabeth Billington Address: provided
3.	Address where activities are based.	Borough Gardens, Dorchester
4.	What area (community) is served?	Roma, Gypsy, and Traveller, and General Public
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	No
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	<p>The Roma History Day celebration is all about bringing people in Dorchester together in a way that feels welcoming, open and shared. For many residents, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities are still not well understood, and opportunities to meet, talk and learn from one another are rare. Our event creates that space. In Borough Gardens, people can sit together, listen to real stories, enjoy music and culture, and have conversations that feel natural rather than formal. It helps break down barriers in a simple but powerful way - by bringing people face to face. For Dorchester residents, it is the chance to meet neighbours they may never have spoken with, to taste unfamiliar food, hear live music, and encounter a history that is rarely taught in schools, including the devastating persecution Roma people suffered under the Nazi regime, in which hundreds of thousands of lives were lost. Understanding that history makes us better, more compassionate citizens. Many people are also looking for information on their heritage and family history, and to see how their communities lived in the past and present.</p> <p>We work closely with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community members to shape the day, so it reflects real voices and lived experiences. Local organisations are also part of the day, creating opportunities for residents to find support, ask questions, and build connections they might not otherwise have.</p> <p>The feedback from local Dorchester and surrounding areas is always positive, and the</p>

		amount of people attending each year speaks for itself. Roma History Day is about creating a Dorchester where people feel they belong, where differences are respected, and where communities feel confident connecting with one another.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	It is a free event
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	No
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.)	Visitors can step inside a traditional Gypsy wagon and bender tent, watch age-old crafts like basket and peg making being demonstrated, browse books, research their family roots, try flower making, and enjoy live Gypsy music - all led by Romany Traveller facilitators who are the living keepers of these traditions.
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	Donations and grants
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.	13 June 2026 (one day only)
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	Approx. £2,000-£2,500
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	None yet
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500 (five hundred pounds)
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: E K Billington Position Held: CEO For and on behalf of: Kushti Bok Date 23/04/2026</p>	

ITEM 6 (f) – Application from Dorchester Youth & Community Centre

1.	Name of organisation.	Dorchester Youth and Community Centre
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Sarah Davies Address: DYCC Kings Road Dorchester DT1 1NJ
3.	Address where activities are based.	DYCC, Kings Road, Dorchester DT1 1NJ
4.	What area (community) is served?	All of Dorchester
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	No
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	<p>Dorchester Youth and Community Centre provides an inclusive space where residents of all ages can connect, build relationships, and access supportive activities—from youth clubs and toddler groups to our Networks project for young people not in education, employment or training, home education sessions, and our new “Young at Heart” club for over 60s. Our work helps reduce social isolation, supports wellbeing, and strengthens community connections across Dorchester.</p> <p>However, despite the wide range of services we offer, many local residents are still unaware of the Centre and the support and opportunities available here.</p> <p>Our proposed free Summer Family Fun Day will help us raise awareness, reach new families, and strengthen our presence as a welcoming hub at the heart of the community. By removing financial barriers, the event ensures that all families, regardless of income, can participate.</p>
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	We charge £2.50 for entry to our evening Youth Club sessions.
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	No

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 would like to hold a free Summer Family Fun Day at Dorchester Youth and Community Centre, open to all residents of Dorchester.</p> <p>The event will provide a range of free, family-friendly activities including a bouncy castle, face painting, craft activities, games, and opportunities for families to come together in a safe and welcoming environment.</p> <p>By offering the event free of charge, we can ensure it is accessible to all families, including those who may be experiencing financial hardship and would otherwise be unable to attend paid activities during the summer holidays.</p> <p>The event will help reduce social isolation by bringing together families, children, and residents of all ages to connect, socialise, and build stronger community relationships.</p> <p>The Family Fun Day will also provide an opportunity to raise awareness of Dorchester Youth and Community Centre and enable individuals to access ongoing support, activities, and opportunities at the Centre.</p>
10.	<p>How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future.</p>	<p>It is not ongoing</p>
11.	<p>a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.</p>	<p>Summer 2026 Summer 2026</p>
12.	<p>Please give details of the cost of the project.</p>	<p>£450</p>
13.	<p>Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.</p>	<p>None</p>
14.	<p>Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.</p>	<p>£450</p>
15.	<p>Any other relevant information.</p>	
16.	<p>Declaration</p> <p>I/We declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</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.**

Signature of Applicant(s) Sarah Davies

Position Held: Youth Worker in Charge

For and on behalf of: Dorchester Youth and Community Centre

Date: 23rd April 2026

ITEM 6 (g) – Application from Litter Free Dorset

1.	Name of organisation.	Litter Free Dorset
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Emma Teasdale Address: County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester DT11XJ
3.	Address where activities are based.	As above
4.	What area (community) is served?	Dorchester
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	Not that I am aware of
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	Litter Free Dorset aims to improve the local environment by reducing waste, improving bathing water quality, and enhancing Dorset’s blue and green spaces. With extensive experience working with local communities and businesses, we focus on collaboration to create impactful and sustainable projects. As a hosted partnership within Dorset Council, we act as a neutral party to support larger organisations in driving positive change across Dorset.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees. Please attach schedule if available.	Litter Free Dorset is a Hosted Partnership at Dorset Council, funded by a combination of grant funding, sponsorship, and support from Dorset Council. We deliver projects and campaigns across Dorset, which are each costed and funded individually.
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. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	Following Dorchester achieving Watermark Town Status, Dorchester Town Council is developing a funding bid for an arts education project. The ‘Frome to Grow’ project will be based around the River Frome and funded by Wessex Water. Litter Free Dorset has been asked to contribute resource and officer time to support project delivery between autumn 2026 and spring 2027.

		<p>The first phase of our contribution will focus on delivering workshop sessions at three of Dorchester’s middle/first schools. Workshops will cover topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the River Frome ○ the water cycle ○ impacts on the river e.g. surface water, litter ○ calls to action e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ reducing water consumption & rainwater harvesting ▪ what not to flush ▪ community actions to help protect and look after our river <p>LFD input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plan and deliver three x half-day school sessions = 1 officer for 2 days
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 current project is linked to Dorchester Town Council’s Watermark town work and timeline. LFD has proposed ongoing work that could be done to create long-term legacy for the Watermark project, which is in discussion.
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.	Workshops – Autumn 2026 Riverside Trail – Spring 2027
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	£780
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	
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>	

	Signature of Applicant(s).....Emma Teasdale.....
	Position Held.....LFD Coordinator.....
	For and on behalf of.....Litter Free Dorset..... Date.....27/4/26.....

ITEM 7.

TWINNING & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PANEL NOTES OF MEETING ON 16TH MARCH 2026

Present: Cllrs M. Rennie (chair) and Cllrs J. Hewitt.

Officers: Tony Hurley (Assistant Town Clerk).

1. **Apologies.** R. Major, S. Jones and F. Hogwood
2. **Declarations of interest.** None were declared.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Agreed.
4. **Twinning update.** The Panel received an update on the Lubbecke Society via an email from Cllr Hogwood. Unfortunately the Society did not currently have a chair and was not active.

With regard to the Dorchester Bayeux Society, Cllr Rennie reported that there was a twinning society visit to Bayeux in September and requested that the Assistant Town Clerk provide the Panel with more information when available.

Cllr Rennie reported that councillor Patrick Gomont has just stood down having held the position of Mayor of Bayeux for 25 years and suggested that the Mayor of Dorchester write to Mr Gomont to congratulate him on his public service.

5. **Twinning information boards.** Cllr Stella Jones had proposed that there could be small information boards located at Holbaek Close, Lubbecke Way and Bayeux Court to explain the origins of the place names. Draft wording was circulated to the committee based on text provided by Cllr Jones. The wording was agreed by the Panel and it was suggested that the signs include the seals of Dorchester and each of the twinned towns. In terms of locations, the panel would be placed as follows:
 - **Holbaek panel** – adjacent to footpath leading from Melstock Avenue to Holbaek Close.
 - **Lubbecke** – on a post near the bench on the riverbank not far from the junction of Lubbecke Way and Kings Road.
 - **Bayeux** – mounted on the outside of the Bayeux Court sheltered housing complex (with Magna's permission).
6. **Update on cultural projects.** The Assistant Town Clerk provided an update on planning for the Dorchester Kite Festival (which had secured significant corporate sponsorship).
7. **Date of next meeting.** To be agreed.

ITEM 8.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 5TH MAY 2026 EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS 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 March and April 2026:

Cemetery	Burial/Ashes	Grant No:	Grave Number
Dorchester Cemetery	-	-	-
Poundbury Cemetery	Ashes	2382	TBC
	Burial	2383	TBC
	Ashes	2384	TBC
	Ashes	2385	TBC
Fordington Cemetery	-	-	-

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

1/03/26 – 30/04/26	Dorchester	Fordington	Poundbury
Interments	-	-	2
Ashes	3	-	2
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**