

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

14th July 2025

Present: The Mayor (Councillor A. Canning) and Councillors P. Farmer, L. Fry, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper (Chair), R. Major, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Apologies: None

In attendance:

Councillors S. Biles, V. Lloyd-Jones and R. Biggs.

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

1. Declaration of Interests

None.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 6 May 2025, adopted by Council on 20 May 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. Council policy on use of glyphosate.

The committee was addressed by Ms Samantha Stazicker from the organisation Pesticide Free Dorset with regard to the council's use of Glyphosate in public open spaces and its potential impact on wildlife and human health. Ms Stazicker urged the council to cease the use of pesticides and to include this as a commitment in the review of its Biodiversity Statement.

The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) then presented his report on the matter, stating that the council followed industry safety guidance and that it had voluntarily developed its own Biodiversity Statement even though this was not a requirement of town councils. Where the council did rarely use glyphosate, it was only when other approaches would not work. The use of glyphosate on The Great Field was only because appropriate weed management techniques had not been put in place before the site was transferred to the Town Council.

The Assistant Town Clerk explained that there were no plans to use glyphosate in future with the exception of a discrete area of weeds. Cllr Major expressed his trust in the judgement of council staff and stated that it would be irresponsible to completely ban the use of glyphosate. Members stated their concern about the use of glyphosate but were pleased that it was used very sparingly, and hoped that effective alternatives would be available in future. It was agreed that the matter should be kept under review and

considered as part of the new Biodiversity Statement.

Resolved:

That the Council maintains the current position shown in the Council's Biodiversity Statement and action plan, element 4.10, regarding pesticides and does not ban Glyphosate-based products but that this position is reviewed annually.

4. Outdoor Services – Update Report - Summer

The committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services). It was noted that the Borough Gardens' team was benefitting from a new team member. The Chair offered to send a letter of thanks, jointly with the Mayor, to the Gardens' team in recognition of all their hard work. The success of the Kings Road tree planting scheme was highlighted.

The Borough Gardens use of a borehole as a source for watering the plants was noted and it was suggested that, in due course, this could be communicated to the public.

Cllr Rennie highlighted concerns about dogs fouling in cemeteries and asked that officers bring forward a report to the next meeting of the Committee regarding this matter.

Resolved:

That the Outdoor Services update report be noted.

5. Carbon Reduction Measures – Progress by Outdoor Services

The committee received the report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) on the purchase of electric battery powered grounds maintenance equipment. Due to imminent price rises, the decision was taken to purchase the tools prior to the Committee meeting but that this decision was taken in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.

Resolved:

That the decision to purchase electric battery powered grounds maintenance equipment noted.

6. Dorchester Bowls Club

The Committee received a report from the Town Clerk (Corporate) on the need for the council to fund the refurbishment of the changing rooms within the Dorchester Bowls Club building as part of the council's relinquishing of the lease. These works will return the changing rooms into a usable condition and include the replacement of toilets and significant plumbing works to make the sinks and radiators operational.

Resolved:

That the works needed to the bowl's club changing rooms be carried out as per the requirements of the Council's lease.

7. Advertising banner at Fairfield Skate Park

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on a request for the installation of an advertising banner for The Skate Shop on the railings at the Fairfield skate park. The committee discussed the matter but considered that agreeing to the request might encourage unauthorised and unwanted advertising on other council and public spaces.

Resolved:

That the request for the placing of an advertising banner for The Skate Shop on the Fairfield skate park railings be refused.

8. Grant Applications

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance and it was

Resolved:

- (a) That a grant of £500 be awarded to Dorchester Disabled Club towards the cost of a mini-bus but that the grant only be released once the Club was closer to reaching its funding target.
- (b) That no grant be awarded to Dorchester Trust for Counselling & Psychotherapy towards the cost of counselling sessions.
- (c) That a grant of £286 be awarded to the Jawbone Collective CIC towards the cost of the Dorchester Bard competition event but subject to the submission of financial accounts to the satisfaction of the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) in consultation with Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

9. Minutes of Dorchester Arts Board meeting.

The minutes of the Dorchester Arts board meeting were considered by members. The issue of parking in the Corn Exchange car park was raised. It was noted that new electric gate motors, with a restricted number of access fobs, were to be installed soon and that this would hopefully resolve unauthorised parking.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

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

The notes of the Member Site Visit were considered by members.

Resolved:

That the notes be noted.

11. **Cemetery Matters.**

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

The report which detailed the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces and the number of interments and burials of ashes, and the use of the South Chapel, at Dorchester Cemetery since the last meeting of the Committee had been circulated with the agenda.

Resolved:

That the report on the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(b) Headstones and Inscriptions

The Committee received and noted applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions.

Resolved:

That the action of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 5481 to 5496 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Chair.....