

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

5th May 2026

Present: Councillors L. Fry, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, D. Leaper (Chair), R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Apologies: Councillors P. Farmer F. Hogwood, F. Kent-Ledger and R. Major.

In attendance:

Councillor V. Lloyd-Jones.

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

53. **Declaration of Interests**

None.

54. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16th March 2026, adopted by Council on 30th March 2026, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

55. **Outdoor Services – Update Report – Spring 2026**

The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) presented the update report on the work of the Outdoor Services team. The new area of Maples in Borough Gardens had been planned out by the staff and the newly planted Limes were doing well. Cllr Jones enquired about the water leak at the Louds Mill depot, and the Assistant Town Clerk explained that monitoring of water bills by the Responsible Financial Officer had identified the problem. The issue of the water feature in The Great Field play area was discussed and officers would bring forward a report to a future meeting proposing the removal of this feature. An update on the Duchy of Cornwall's tree works at the Holmead Walk open space was also provided.

Resolved:

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 Play Equipment reserve.

Poundbury Cemetery Building:

- c) 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.
- d) That Policy Committee is requested to agree the release of £5,000 from Cemetery reserve.

56. Town Pump Renovation Project

The Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) provided an update on the work of the Dorchester Civic Society in developing plans for the refurbishment of the Town Pump and re-installing a water fountain. Draft plans for the wider enhancement of the Cornhill area will be shared with the member working group in June and then presented to a future meeting of Policy Committee.

Resolved:

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.

57. Grant Applications

A member of the public, Mr Peter Foster, addressed the committee and raised various queries with regard to the grants process. Mr Foster suggested that the grant criteria and application process be revised, perhaps including a two-stage process. Cllr Rennie considered these to be valuable suggestions and highlighted the on-going review of the car boot sale grants process now that it was being run directly by the town council. Cllr Jones also welcomed Mr Foster's feedback although Cllr Fry was not sure that a two-stage process would be beneficial. The Chair asked Mr Foster to send his comments to the Assistant Town Clerk and that these would then be reviewed by officers in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance and it was

Resolved:

- (a) That a grant of £500 be awarded to the South West Dorset Multi-Cultural Network towards the One World Festival 2026.
- (b) That no grant be awarded to the Dorchester Trust for Counselling & Psychotherapy.
- (c) That no grant be awarded to the Dorchester Middle School.
- (d) That a grant of £304.99 be awarded to the Daytime Brass Band towards the cost of an A-board and music books.
- (e) That the decision to award a grant of £500 to Kushti Bok towards the cost of of the annual Roma history event in Borough Gardens be delegated to the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) in consultation with Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee subject to the provision of more details on the project costs.
- (f) That the decision to award a grant of £450 to Dorchester Youth & Community Centre towards the cost of a Summer Family Fun Day in 2026 be delegated to the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) in consultation with Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee subject to the provision of more details on the project costs.
- (g) That no grant be awarded to Litter Free Dorset.

58. **Minutes of the Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel on 16th March 2026**

The minutes of the Panel meeting were considered by members. Cllr Rennie provided an update on the Lubbecke Society and Cllr Jones requested a site meeting to agree the position of an information sign about the twinning relationship with Lubbecke.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

59. **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 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 actions of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 5527 to 5537 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

60. **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

Resolved:

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.

61. **Refurbishment of Weymouth Avenue Skatepark**

The confidential item on a proposal for the refurbishment of the skatepark was discussed by the Committee. Members highlighted the popularity of the skatepark with local young people and the importance of not undertaking any repair works during the school holiday periods.

Resolved:

That the Committee:

- a) agrees the use of Maverick Industries Ltd as preferred contractor for this project due to their expertise in the provision and maintenance of the skate park and their long-standing relationship with the council;
- b) agrees to the proposed works and recommends to Policy Committee that £5,600 of funding is made available from the council's Play Equipment reserve.

Chair.....