



Dorchester Town Council

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You are summoned to a meeting of the **Dorchester Town Council** to be held in the Council Chamber, the Municipal Buildings, High East Street, Dorchester, DT1 1HF on **Monday 29 September 2025 at 7.00pm**, to conduct the business set out in the Agenda below.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interests**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to disclose registerable interests where appropriate. A Member who declares a registerable interest must leave the room unless a dispensation has been granted. 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.

3. **Minutes**

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 July 2025 (page 3).

4. **Police Update**

To receive an update from Dorchester's Neighbourhood Police Sergeant Ian Schofield.

5. **Presentations, Communications and Motions**

- a) To receive a presentation from Mr A Frost, Service Manager for Community Safety and Councillor G. Taylor, Dorset Council, on the work of the Community Safety Partnership.
- b) To receive communications from the Mayor and Town Clerk.
- c) To receive motions received from Members no less than 5 days before the meeting.

6. **Minutes of Committees**

To receive and consider the Minutes of the following Committees:-

Planning & Environment Committee	4 August 2025	Page 5
Planning & Environment Committee	1 September 2025	Page 10
Management Committee	15 September 2025	Page 17
Policy Committee	22 September 2025	Page 22

To note the Minutes of the following Joint Bodies

Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee	22 July 2025	Page 26
Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel	30 July 2025	Page 31

7. **Update from Dorset Council Members**

To receive updates from Councillors A. Canning , R. Major, L. Fry, S. Jones and R. Biggs
Dorchester Ward Members of the Dorset Council.



Steve Newman
Town Clerk
24 September 2025

**At the conclusion of the Meeting members of the public will have the opportunity to
address the Council or ask questions on matters of local concern.**

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

28 July 2025

Present: The Mayor (Councillor A. Canning) and Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, P. Farmer, L. Fry, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Potter, K. Reid, M. Rennie, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors J. Germodo, G. Jones and R. Major.

15. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported to the meeting.

16. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 19 and 20 May 2025, were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

17. Police Matters

Sergeant Ian Schofield updated the Council on the crime statistics and initiatives for Dorchester over the past two months. He also responded to Members detailed questions.

18. Presentations, Communications and Motions

There were no presentations or communications.

No motions had been submitted.

19. Planning and Environment Committee – 2 June 2025

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 2 June 2025 be adopted.

20. Planning and Environment Committee – 7 July 2025

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7 July 2025 be adopted.

21. **Management Committee – 14 July 2025**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 14 July 2025 be adopted.

22. **Policy Committee – 21 July 2025**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 21 July 2025 be adopted.

23. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Members were reminded that the Dorset Council Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation was due to end on 30 July 2025 and that there was a Thorncombe Woods public satisfaction survey presently being undertaken.
- Trading Standards had produced a 'Buy with confidence' list of traders.
- The Council was updated on the SWAP report which had resulted in a number of officers having their contracts terminated due to not following the Council's financial regulations.
- It was noted that Premier Inn had now received planning permission for its new build hotel on the old M&S site in South Street.
- The new Dorset Council Chief Executive, Catherine Howe, was due to take up post on 4 August 2025.

Council rose at 7.36pm.

Mayor

Dorchester Town Council
Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee
4 August 2025

Present: Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, P. Farmer, L. Fry (Vice Chair), J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Potter, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo (Chair).

Apologies: Cllrs A. Canning (the Mayor ex-officio) and R. Major.

Also in attendance: Chris Peck, Principal Transport Planner, Dorset Council

A member of the public in regard to agenda item 5, 20mph Speed Limit Request – Lübbecke Way.

A member of the public in regard to agenda item 7, North Dorchester Garden Community – Application P/ESP/2025/04277

11. Declarations of Interest

Councillor L. Fry stated that as a member of Dorset Council's Northern Area Planning Committee, he would keep an open mind on the planning applications and consider all information available at each stage of the decision process. He would take part in the debate but not vote on planning applications at this meeting.

12. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 July 2025 and ratified at Full Council on 28 July 2025 were signed by the chairman.

13. Dorchester Traffic Scheme Update

The Committee received an update on the existing and proposed traffic schemes in Dorchester from Chris Peck, Principal Transport Planner, Dorset Council. The Committee heard that the existing traffic signal equipment in Damers Road and Bridport Road was outdated and in urgent requirement of an update. The Committee were also informed that Dorset Council had received funding that would enable them to improve the pedestrian and cycle connectivity within Dorchester whilst updating the traffic signal equipment and that works would commence in September 2025 to be completed in January 2026. The Committee were informed that Dorset Council had worked with Dorset County Hospital to minimise disruption to services.

14. Fairfield Road Enhancement Update

The Committee received an update on the Fairfield Road Enhancement Scheme from Chris Peck, Principal Transport Planner at Dorset Council. It was noted that the final phase of works was scheduled to be completed during the winter of 2025/26.

The Committee expressed their hope that the scheme would be completed in time for the planned handover of the Wednesday market from Dorset Council to Dorchester Town Council in April 2026.

15. 20mph Speed Limit Request – Lübbecke Way

The Committee noted a report on the request for a 20mph speed limit in Lübbecke Way and were supportive. In considering the request, the Committee discussed the potential for implementing a wider 20mph limit across the town, aligning with Dorset Council's recommendation to adopt a holistic approach rather than addressing individual roads in isolation.

The Committee acknowledged that a significant public engagement exercise would be necessary before any applications should be submitted.

It was agreed that seeking guidance from Dorset Council would be a sensible next step to determine the most effective way to proceed and identify suitable locations for speed measures.

Resolved

That the Clerk to the Committee be instructed to contact Dorset Council and request that a representative from their Road Safety Team attend a future meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee to provide guidance on how Dorchester Town Council might pursue a successful application for a 20mph speed limit in appropriate locations across the town.

16. Dorset Council Car Park Electronic Information Signage

The Committee noted the report about Dorset Council's Car Park Electronic Information Signage and considered if it would support an upgrade to the electronic car park signage. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Committee would prefer that the electronic information signs be turned off and that Dorchester Town Council would not provide any funding towards any upgrade of the signage.

Resolved

That the Clerk to the Committee notify Dorset Council that Dorchester Town Council would not support an upgrade of the car park electronic signage and would prefer the existing signage be turned off. Therefore, Dorchester Town Council would not contribute any funding for an upgrade.

17. North Dorchester Garden Community – Application P/ESP/2025/04277

The Committee noted that Dorset Council had received a formal request for them to state in writing their opinion as to the information provided in an Environmental Statement (a ‘Scoping Opinion’) for the North Dorchester Garden Community in accordance with Regulation 15(2) of the EIA Regulations and heard that there was no statutory requirement for the Town Council to be consulted on the application.

A committee member was concerned that the applicant had made no mention of a Household Recycling Centre (HRC) within the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping report and requested that the Clerk to the Committee contact the Dorset Council to request a copy of the Mineral Statement which had previously recognised Stinsford Hill as a suitable location for an HRC.

18. Planning Applications for Comment

The Committee considered the planning applications referred by Dorset Council to the Council for comment.

Resolved

That the comments on the various planning applications, as set out in Appendix 1, be submitted to Dorset Council.

19. Minute Update Report

1. Minute 8, Planning Applications for Comment, Dorchester Town Council Planning and Environment Committee meeting, 7 July 2025 – Application P/FUL/2025/03138 Joseph Weld House Herrington Road Dorchester DT1 2SL

The Committee considered the observations of members who had undertaken a site visit. They concluded that, due to the siting of the proposed extension, the screening provided by existing and proposed shrubbery and landscaping, and the efforts made to ensure the extension blends with the existing structure, their initial concerns had been satisfactorily addressed. As a result, the Committee raised no objection to the proposals.

Resolved

2. That the Clerk to the Committee write to the Case Officer for application P/FUL/2025/03138 and notify them of the Committee’s additional comments.

20. Planning Issues to Note

There were no planning issues to note.

Dorchester Town Council

Planning & Environment Committee – 4 August 2025

Planning Applications for Comment

East Ward (Councillors P. Farmer, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger and R. Major)

E1. P/HOU/2025/03964 25 Casterbridge Road Dorchester DT1 2AH

Erect first floor side extension over existing garage and erect single storey rear extension (Demolish Conservatory).

No objection.

E2. P/FUL/2025/03607 Land at Lubbecke Way Dorchester DT1 1QL

Installation of 1no. bin store & 1no. mobility scooter store.

No objection.

E3. P/FUL/2025/03575 Land at Lubbecke Way Dorchester DT1 1QL

Erection of 2no. scooter storage units.

No objection.

E4. P/LBC/2025/03868 6a Flat 2 High East Street Dorchester DT1 1HS

Replacement of 3 number dormer windows.

No objection.

E5. P/HOU/2025/04159 & P/LBC/2025/03367 (Listed Building Consent) 2A Icen Way Dorchester DT1 1EW

Install rear dormer window.

No objection.

North Ward (Councillors S. Biles, A. Canning and V. Lloyd-Jones)

N1. P/FUL/2025/03986 & P/LBC/2025/03985 (Listed Building Consent) 49 South Street Dorchester DT1 1DW

Removal of ATM's, night safe bezel and existing signage.

Objection.

The Committee objected to the removal of the ATMs, on the grounds that their removal would disadvantage residents within the community who rely on the facilities.

West Ward (Councillors L. Fry, J. Germodo, J. Hewitt and R. Ricardo)

No applications received to date.

South Ward (Councillors R. Potter and M. Rennie)

S1. P/HOU/2025/04280 4 Manor Road Dorchester DT1 2AU

Erect garage and studio (Demolish existing carport, garage and conservatory).

No objection.

Poundbury Ward (Councillors R. Biggs, F. Hogwood and D. Leaper)

No applications received to date.

Dorchester Town Council
Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee
1 September 2025

Present: Councillors A. Canning (the Mayor ex-officio), R. Biggs, S. Biles, P. Farmer, L. Fry (Vice Chair), J. Germodo, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Potter, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo (Chair).

Apologies: Cllr R. Major.

Also in attendance: Cllrs W. Gibbons and K. Reid

21. Declarations of Interest

Councillor L. Fry stated that as a member of Dorset Council's Northern Area Planning Committee, he would keep an open mind on the planning applications and consider all information available at each stage of the decision process. He would take part in the debate but not vote on planning applications at this meeting.

22. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 August 2025 were confirmed by the Committee and signed by the chairman.

23. Dorset Council Local Plan Options Consultation 2025

The Committee noted that the Dorset Council have published the Dorset Council Local Plan Options consultation 2025 and agreed the proposed approach to responding the consultation.

Resolved

That Members would submit their comments to the Town Clerk by 15 September 2025. The comments would be used to prepare a draft formal response for consideration at the Planning and Environment Committee meeting on 6 October 2025, ahead of the final submission deadline.

24. Local Transport Plan 2026 to 2041

The Committee noted that Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch Council (BCP) were consulting on the Local Transport Plan with a closing date for responses on 13 October 2025.

25. Dorset Council Parking Survey

The Committee noted that Dorset Council was undertaking a parking survey. It was considered important that a response be submitted on behalf of Dorchester Town Council. Aware of the short timeframe for responding, the Committee agreed that members would submit their individual views on the survey questions to the Clerk. Councillor R. Potter was tasked with using these submissions to formulate a response on behalf of the Committee.

Resolved

That members submit their views on parking to the Clerk for Councillor R. Potter to coordinate a formal response on behalf of the Committee.

26. Pedestrian Safety at Bitter End

The Committee discussed concerns raised about pedestrian safety at Bitter End. Members were particularly concerned about safety at the junction at Culliford Bridge, especially the turning into Bitter End. The Committee requested that the Clerk contact Dorset Council to raise these concerns and to request an onsite meeting with the Highways team to explore possible solutions.

Resolved

That the Clerk to the Committee contact Dorset Council to raise concerns about pedestrian safety at the Culliford Bridge junction, particularly the turning into Bitter End and request an onsite meeting with the Highways team to discuss potential solutions.

27. Planning Applications for Comment

The Committee considered the planning applications referred by Dorset Council to the Council for comment.

Resolved

That the comments on the various planning applications, as set out in Appendix 1, be submitted to Dorset Council.

28. Minute Update Report

1. Minute 9, Minute Update of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 7 July 2025.

The Committee noted that Dorset Council had offered to meet via Teams to discuss the concerns raised regarding parking in Dorchester and the Parking Review. The Committee agreed to accept the invitation and requested that the Clerk contact Dorset Council to find out potential dates. It was agreed that each ward should be represented at the meeting.

Minute 15, 20mph Speed Limit Request – Lübbecke Way, of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 4 August 2025

The Committee agreed it would be beneficial to create a 20mph speed restriction task and finish group. It was agreed that the group should consist of members from each ward. The Committee recommended that membership be open to non-committee members and should be decided at Council.

Resolved

- I. That the Committee accept the invitation from Dorset Council to meet via Teams to discuss the parking review and parking issues.
- II. That the Clerk contact Dorset Council to obtain potential dates for the meeting which should be attended by representatives from each ward.

Recommended

- I. That a 20mph speed restriction task and finish group be created with membership from each ward to be decided at Council.

29. Planning Issues to Note

There were no planning issues to note.

East Ward (Councillors P. Farmer, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger and R. Major)

E1. P/FUL/2025/04492 50 Prince Of Wales Road Dorchester DT1 1PP

Demolish existing entrance projection and rebuild a 3 storey structure to accommodate lift shaft.

No objection. The Committee requested that the materials used remain consistent and sympathetic to the existing building.

E2. P/LBC/2025/04565 9 Fordington Green Dorchester DT1 1LU

Remove existing tiles from pitched roof and replace with natural slate. Remove existing render from the north (front) elevation and re-render. Install a removable cap to the existing tread of internal staircase.

No objection.

E3. P/FUL/2025/04605 Casterbridge Industrial Estate Access Lane To Casterbridge

Industrial Estate Dorchester DT1 1PL

Erect live/ work unit with associated parking.

Objection.

The Committee objected to the proposed application on the following grounds:

1. Unsuitability for Residential Use

The Committee considered the site unsuitable for residential development due to the nature of its existing use and the associated risks to pedestrian safety, particularly from the movement of heavy goods vehicles operating within and around the site and felt that it would contravene COM7 of the adopted WDDC 2015 Local Plan.

2. Impact on Adjacent Properties

The Committee expressed concern that the proposal would have an overbearing impact on neighbouring properties, specifically those located at Swanbridge Park which would contravene ENV16 of the adopted WDDC 2015 Local Plan.

3. Retention of Employment Land

The Committee emphasised the importance of retaining the site's designation as employment

land, in accordance with local planning policy and the strategic need to support economic activity in the area as per ECON2 of the adopted WDDC 2015 Local Plan.

4. Referral to Planning Committee

The Committee requested that, should the Case Officer be minded to approve the application, the matter be referred to the Dorset Council Northern Area Planning Committee for determination.

E4. P/HOU/2025/04841 87 High Street Fordington Dorchester DT1 1LD

Erect single storey rear extension.

No objection.

North Ward (Councillors S. Biles, A. Canning and V. Lloyd-Jones)

N1. P/LBC/2025/03817 8 Glyde Path Road Dorchester DT1 1XE

Replace front and rear door.

No objection.

N2. P/ADV/2025/03365 8 South Street Dorchester DT1 1BL

Display 1 x non illuminated Fascia and 1 x non Illuminated Projecting Sign.

No objection.

N3. P/LBC/2025/04713 39-40 High West Street Dorchester DT1 1UR

Replace timber window and doors and carry out internal and external alterations.

No objection.

N4. P/ADV/2025/04400 53 South Street Dorchester DT1 1DQ

Display 1no. externally illuminated fascia sign & 1no. externally illuminated projecting sign.

No objection.

West Ward (Councillors L. Fry, J. Germodo, J. Hewitt and R. Ricardo)

W1. P/FUL/2025/00984 Former Gibbs & Dandy Site Builder Center Great Western Road

Dorchester Dorset DT1 1RZ

Demolition/conversion of buildings to provide 23no. apartments and commercial floorspace (Use Class E) with associated parking & landscaping.

No objection but the committee requested that a detailed BRE Daylight and Sunlight Assessment be carried out on the neighbouring residential properties in Maumbury Road to ensure that they would not be adversely affected by the development.

W2. P/HOU/2025/04843 32 Cambridge Road Dorchester DT1 2LS

Erect single storey rear extension and resurface driveway.

No objection.

W3. P/HOU/2025/04952 152 Coburg Road Dorchester DT1 2HU

Erect single storey rear extension and carport with first floor side extension over.

No objection.

South Ward (Councillors R. Potter and M. Rennie)

S1. P/HOU/2025/04554 22 Manor Road Dorchester DT1 2AU

Form gable end and extend roof. Enlarge front dormer window, install side gable window and install front rooflight.

No objection.

Poundbury Ward (Councillors R. Biggs, F. Hogwood and D. Leaper)

P1. P/VOC/2024/03497 Anaerobic Digester Plant Rainbarrow Farm Monkeys Jump Roundabout to Junction Below Alington Place Martinstown DT2 9JF

A request to discharge conditions

The construction and operation of an Anaerobic Digestion and Combined Heat and Power Plant and associated infrastructure including a new site access road at Rainbarrow Farm (Site 1) and underground service corridor linking to a new Combined Heat and Power engine in existing Engine House (Site 2) at Poundbury to supply Poundbury with renewable heat and power (Revised proposal) (Changes to proposed plant, infrastructure and land profiling at Rainbarrow Farm (Site 1)) and as varied by 1/D/2011/2113 to include repositioning of flare and CHP container, and additional equipment to include standby generator, switch gear, back up boiler, DMT Membrane Plant, transformer, 3 tank propane store and new gas pipeline to site boundary, to enable the majority of the gas produced by the anaerobic digester plant to be fed directly into the public gas supply network at the pressure regulating station adjacent Monkeys Jump Roundabout (with variation of conditions 27 and 28 of planning permission 1/D/2011/2113 to regularise the existing development by increasing traffic levels, annual feedstock throughput and feedstocks).

The Committee raised no objection to the request to discharge the conditions. However, it requested that two members of Dorchester Town Council be appointed to the Rainbarrow Farm Anaerobic Digestion Facility Community Liaison Group, to ensure appropriate representation from Dorchester.

The Committee agreed that Councillors F. Kent-Ledger and D. Leaper be nominated to represent Dorchester Town Council on the Liaison Group.

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

15th September 2025

Present: Councillors P. Farmer, L. Fry, W. Gibbons, F. Hogwood, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper (Chair), R. Major, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Apologies: Councillors P. Farmer, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood and S. Jones.

In attendance:

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

Officers: Tony Hurley (Assistant Town Clerk – Corporate), Carl Dallison (Assistant Town Clerk – Outdoor Services) and Matilda Manley (Tourism Development Officer).

12. Declaration of Interests

None.

13. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14th July 2025, adopted by Council on 28 July 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

14. Proposal for Dorchester Kite Festival in 2026.

The committee considered a report by the Tourism Development Officer on a proposal for a kite festival event on The Great Field in June 2026. The proposal had already been considered by the Dorchester Tourism Partnership and was fully supported. The potential for the event to attract sponsorship and generate income from food vendors was noted. The issue of visitor parking was discussed and the need for careful management highlighted. Cllr Kent-Ledger suggested the potential for a 'park and walk' arrangement be discussed with Dorchester Rugby Club. The benefits of involving the Muslim and Afghan communities in the event were noted.

Resolved:

That the Committee approves the proposal for the Kite Festival in 2026 at The Great Field and that the allocation of funding for this event of £4,000 be considered as part of budget setting process for 2026-27.

15. Outdoor Services – Update Report – Late Summer

The committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services). Damage to the 'pop-up' electrical supply boxes in Borough Gardens was noted as was the damage to one of the main gate pillars. A training and development programme of Borough Gardens staff, delivered with the support of Kingston Maurward College, was outlined. Cllr Rennie congratulated the Gardens staff on their very positive attitude as displayed during the summer's events. Cllr Fry asked if there was the potential for career / pay progression for Gardens' staff and the Assistant Town Clerk stated that this will be addressed in a forthcoming report to Policy Committee. Cllr Gibbons stated that the manager of the pharmacy adjacent to The Great Field has welcomed the installation of a new bench on the Field close to the shop.

With regard to the collapsed section of the wall at Fordington Cemetery, the Assistant Town Clerk stated that planning permission for its rebuilding had been granted and that the contract documentation was being compiled in order that a contractor can be selected. Negotiations with the Mill Street Housing Society were progressing.

Resolved:

That the Outdoor Services update report be noted.

16. Proposed planting of Japanese Maples in Borough Gardens.

The committee received the report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) on a proposal to create a Japanese maple border close to the fountain in Borough Gardens. The border may comprise up to a dozen trees and that a financial contribution had been kindly offered by the Friends of Borough Gardens.

Resolved:

That the proposal to create a Japanese maple border in Borough Gardens be supported.

17. Allotments Annual Report and Fees for 2026.

The Committee received a report from the Town Clerk (Corporate) on the allotments service and proposed fees for 2026. Although the fees increase was agreed, members did suggest that a more comprehensive review of fees be undertaken during 2026, with comparisons to other councils, in order to inform future fee changes.

Resolved:

That:

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

18. Conservation of Council Monuments

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on the need to undertake specialist cleaning and maintenance to the Thomas Hardy statue at Top o' Town and the benefits and economies of carrying out similar work at the same time on the War Memorial and stone gate pillars at Borough Gardens. Cllr Fry suggested that Dorset Council be approached to enquire whether the war memorial at the front of County Hall could be cleaned at the same time and thereby reduce costs to the taxpayer.

Resolved:

That the committee approves the allocated of £3,718 from the Public Realm reserve for the cleaning and conservation of the Thomas Hardy statue, the War Memorial and stone gate pillars at Borough Gardens.

19. Grant Applications

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance and it was

Resolved:

- (a) That the decision to award a grant of £300 to the *Sexual Trauma & Recovery Services – Dorset Rape Crisis* towards the cost of volunteer training be delegated to the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) in consultation with Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee subject to clarification as to the project costs specifically related to the delivery of the service in Dorchester for the benefit of Dorchester residents.
- (b) That no grant be awarded to Dorchester Arts towards the cost of the *Ungrievable Lives* Project.
- (c) That a grant of £440 be awarded to the Durnovaria Silver Band Trust towards the cost of music stand banners.

20. **Minutes of Dorchester Arts Board meeting.**

The minutes of the Dorchester Arts board meeting were considered by members. The involvement of Dorchester Arts in youth projects, particularly the youth-focused events organised by the council, was queried and it was agreed that Dorchester Arts be asked to provide more information on their plans in this area.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

21. **Notes of Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel**

The notes of the Panel meeting on 14th July 2024 were considered by members. Cllr Potter stated that, in his capacity as Deputy Mayor, he had been very impressed by the Dorchester Bayeux Society's programme of activities for the visiting party from Bayeux.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

22. **Notes of Member Site Visit on 9th September 2025**

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

Resolved:

That the notes be noted.

23. **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 5497 to 5508 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Chair.....

Dorchester Town Council

Policy Committee

22 September 2025

Present: Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles (Chair), J. Germodo, V. Lloyd-Jones, K. Reid and D. Taylor.

In Attendance

Councillors J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Apologies: The Mayor (Councillor A. Canning) and Councillors G. Jones and R. Ricardo.

14. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21 July 2025, adopted by Council on 28 July 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

15. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

16. Finance Update

Members considered a report by the Finance Officer which updated them on the financial position of the Council as at end of August 2025, the amount of earmarked reserves as at the end of August 2025, the level of debt over 30 days and gave details of the payments list from 1 July 2025 to 31 August 2025.

It was noted that Cash Access UK had carried out a review of community cash needs for Dorchester and had confirmed that there was, presently, sufficient banking provision in the town based on its criteria.

Resolved

- (1) That the payments list, totalling £350,192.85 be approved.
- (2) That the remainder of the report be noted.

17. Banking Arrangements

Members considered a report by the Finance Officer on a review of the Council's banking arrangements following the closure of Lloyds Bank. The outcome of the review was to continue to bank with Lloyds Bank. The Committee felt that this was acceptable but that a Council mobile should be purchased for use with the banking app. Members also felt that

the demand for card payments was to continue to increase especially when the Council starts to operate the Markets directly from April 2026.

Resolved

- (1) That the Council continue to bank with Lloyds Bank.
- (2) That a Sum-Up Solo card machine be purchased to enable the Council to take card payments.
- (3) That an official Council mobile be purchased solely for banking use via the Lloyds Bank official app.

18. Draft Corporate Plan 2025 – 29

The Committee received a report by the Town Clerk which proposed revised wording for the climate emergency strategic action within the Council's draft Corporate Plan.

Recommended

- (1) That the revised wording for the climate strategic action within the Corporate Plan be agreed.
- (2) That the draft Corporate Plan 2025-29, as a whole, be agreed.

19. Dorchester Business Awards

The Committee considered whether to sponsor the Dorchester Business awards 2026. Members expressed a preference to sponsor the 'excellence in customer service' category.

Resolved

That the 2026 Dorchester Business Awards be sponsored in the sum of £345.

20. DAPTC Report - A Fresh Start?

Members had before them a report by the Town Clerk on a report which had been received by the DAPTC, which had been undertaken in a personal capacity by two academics, which presented its policy related results of an informal research project exploring the status of and prospects of towns and larger parishes in Dorset since the 2019 reorganisation of local government in Dorset.

The Committee noted that Dorset Council's 'Our Future Councils' transformation programme also recognised the need for community driven and placed based provision as part of the answer to its strategic ambitions.

DAPTC was in the early stages of working on a list of services which might be suitable for devolution or partnership working. This had yet to be agreed with Dorset Council.

Members also noted that Dorset Council had identified Market Towns as a key focus within its Economic Growth Strategy and had expressed a desire to work in partnership with local councils to celebrate their uniqueness and support what worked well in their areas for their businesses and communities. To this end Dorset Council was developing a framework, to be completed mid October, to support local councils to produce their own Market Town Master Plan.

Recommended

- (1) That the Fresh Start report be noted and DAPTC be informed that, in regard to devolution, this Council does see potential but would need more clarity before making any decisions (scenario 2).
- (2) That the Town Clerk inform Dorset Council that it would be a willing early volunteer in the Dorset Council Market Towns initiative.

21. 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 press representatives be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

22. Future Direction

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on the Council's possible future direction.

Resolved

- (1) That, a Local Plan Working Group / Future Direction Working Group be established, the membership of which to be agreed at Full Council but likely to include Chair / Vice of the Committees, plus two others.
- (2) That the Town Clerk open discussion with Charminster and Stinsford Parish Councils and the Working Group to discuss implications arising from the draft Local Plan.

23. Staffing Matter

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk and it was

Resolved

That the Head Gardener post be graded SCP11 to SCP15 and the present postholder be moved to SCP15 with effect from 1 September 2025.

Chair.....

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

22nd JULY 2025

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 22nd July 2025:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors: S. Biles L. Fry
	Officers: T. Hurley M. Manley
Dorset Council	Councillors: R. Biggs S. Jones D. Taylor
Dorset Museum & Art Gallery	C. Dixon
Dorchester Association	M. Rice
Local Nature Reserve	L. Poulsen
Dorset Council - Archaeology	S. Wallis
Dorchester Civic Society / Town Crier	A. Harrison
Dorchester Civic Society	I. Gosling
Dorset History Centre	M. Gayton
Blue Badge Tour Guide	J. Wallis
Dorchester Heritage Magazine	M. Woodgate
Thomas Hardy Society	M. Chutter
KeeP 106 / New Hardy Players	A. Worth

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G. Jones, Cllr F. Kent-Ledger, Cllr R. Major, R. White (National Trust) and V. Smith (Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum).

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

As the chair (Cllr G. Jones) had given his apologies for the meeting a chair was elected to stand-in during his absence. Cllr Sue Biles was nominated by Cllrs S. Jones and seconded by Cllr L. Fry and unanimously elected by members as chair for the meeting.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2025, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

4. **DECLARATION OF PREDETERMINATION**

None were declared.

5. **BUDGET UPDATE**

An update report on the committee's budget was presented by the Assistant Town Clerk.

RESOLVED

That the budget update be noted.

6. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Matilda Manley presented an update on progress with the Heritage Tourism Strategy and the work of the Tourism Partnership. The Partnership's review of tourism leaflets had resulted in a future focus on a two-sided 'teaser' leaflet and a more detailed Town Guide. The Partnership has also agreed to support a new Kite Festival in 2026, with the Roman festival likely to return in 2027. Mark Chutter suggested that future Dorchester Arts' brochures could highlight the new tourist information point in the Corn Exchange. Cllr Stella Jones asked how tourism leaflets were being promoted/distributed at train stations in the region. Matilda reported that she was working with Southern Railways and GWR to place tourism posters at stations in the region and there would hopefully be interactive information on a new digital screen in Dorchester South Station. It was agreed to investigate which company was responsible for distributing tourism leaflets at stations in the region.

RESOLVED

That the report on the activities of the Tourism Partnership was noted.

7. **PROPOSAL FOR MOULE PROJECT**

Mark Chutter and Maria Gayton presented their outline proposal for a project to celebrate the life and achievements of Reverend Moule and which would be the subject of a funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project could be multi-disciplinary (e.g. history, science and music) and involve a range of partners. Cllr S. Jones stated that there already information plaques/signs about Moule in Fordington and the replica of the water closet in Dorset Museum, however the plaque that used to be on the Moule Institute was in

storage somewhere a could be reinstated close to the site of the Institute. M. Manley suggested that the project could link with the annual science festival in Dorchester. Cllr S. Biles suggested that the project could be developed further via a small task & finish group and the following volunteered to join the group: M. Gayton, M. Chutter, A. Worth, Cllr S. Jones, and Cllr S. Biles.

The Task & Finish Group would report back to the next Committee meeting with a refined project proposal and suggested funding sources.

RESOLVED

That a Task & Finish Group be established to develop the Moule interpretation project further.

8. HERITAGE INFORMATION PANELS

The Assistant Town Clerk presented proposals for the replacement of a weathered heritage information panel outside The Keep. It was also noted by Cllr Taylor that the Poundbury Camp information panel had been damaged. It was agreed that both panels should be replaced using the Committee's budget.

RESOLVED

That both 'The Keep & Marabout Barracks' and 'Poundbury Camp' heritage information panel be replaced.

9. ON-GOING PROJECTS

Updates on the following were received:

- a) **Heritage Open Day 2025.** Ian Gosling noted that the Civic Society would have a stall at the Town Pump on HOD. Andy Worth mentioned that the New Hardy Players would be performing at Max Gate on that weekend.
- b) **Town Pump enhancement proposals.** Ian Gosling presented the Civic Society's plans for the restoration of the Town Pump. The work would depend on the condition of the iron pins within the structure and a cover meter survey was being commissioned to 'scan' the structure. The cost of the survey would be £580.

RESOLVED

That a grant of £580 be allocated towards the cost of the cover meter survey of the Town Pump.

- c) **The Dorchester Story project.** Ian Gosling reported that the students had completed their research and it will be uploaded to Discover Dorchester by October.

- d) **Sylvia Townsend Warner stature project.** Mark Chutter reported that the statue will be unveiled on Cracker Night followed by a reception at the Kings Arms.
- e) **Moynton Road commemorative stone.** The Assistant Town Clerk reported that Grassby's Memorials had offered to refurbish the stone at their own expense given the family's long association with the Thomas Hardy School. This generous offer by the Grassbys was welcomed by the Committee.

10. **UPDATES FROM MEMBERS**

Riverside Reserve: Linda Poulsen reported on conservation work at the reserve and recent incidents of anti-social behaviour.

Dorchester Association: Michael Rice circulated the Association's autumn lecture programme.

Thomas Hardy Society: Miranda Woodgate reported on the Society's War Poetry conference at the Dorford Centre from 7th to 9th November followed by a concert at St Mary's Church. Mark Chutter asked if there could be a discussion at the next meeting regarding the reorientation of the Thomas Hardy statue at Top o' Town so that it would face the Walks rather than the road

Dorset Museum & Art Gallery. Claire Dixon reported that Austen exhibition was going well and overall attendance is up compared to previous years. In the autumn, there will be a Dorset Open Art exhibition in partnership with Dorset Visual Arts. Works to the Victorian Gallery roof will take place in 2026.

Cllr Richard Biggs reported that as a result of establishing a Local Visitor Economy Partnership, Dorset Council and BCP Council will be funding a destination management plan.

Dorset History Centre – Maria Gayton reported on plans for Rail 200 conference and ongoing work on a funding bid for capital improvements. Research on Dorchester in Boston would be reported to the next meeting.

Dorset Council archaeology service – Steve Wallis reported that the annual cleaning of the Roman town house mosaic was planned.

Dorchester Civic Society: Ian Gosling, in response to a question from Cllr S. Jones, reported that the society was involved in surveying the water meadows with the aim of enabling Dorset Council to designate them as a Local Heritage Asset.

11. **QUESTIONS**

None were raised.

12. **URGENT ITEMS**

None were raised.

Chair.....

DORCHESTER MARKETS INFORMAL JOINT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 2025

Present: Cllrs Laura Beddow, Dave Bolwell, Simon Christopher, Jill Haynes, Janet Hewitt, Sally Holland, Rob Hughes, Stella Jones, Fiona Kent-Ledger, Kate Reid, Molly Rennie, Roland Tarr and Sarah Williams

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Kevin Evans (Senior Accountant (Place)), Graham Duggan (Head of Community & Public Protection), Joshua Kennedy (Democratic Services Officer), Hannah Massey (Lawyer - Regulatory), Steve Newman (Town Clerk), Christopher Peck (Principal Transport Planner) and Louis Wicks (Democratic Services Officer Apprentice)

51. Election of Chair

Proposed by Cllr Haynes and seconded by Cllr Williams.

Decision: That Cllr Rennie be elected as Chair for the duration of the municipal year 2025/26.

52. Election of Vice-Chair

Proposed by Cllr Bolwell and seconded by Cllr Holland.

Decision: That Cllr Williams be elected as Vice-Chair for the duration of the municipal year 2025/26.

53. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

54. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29 January were confirmed and signed.

55. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

56. Public Participation

There were no public questions.

57. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

58. FUTURE OPERATION OF FAIRFIELD & CORNHILL MARKETS

The Head of Community and Public Protection delivered a verbal update on the progress of the future operation of Fairfield and Cornhill markets. He noted that legal services at Dorset Council were drafting the agreement between Dorchester Town Council and Dorset Council and that the panel's sub-group had met to discuss the draft agreement. It was expected that the agreement would be ready for formal approval before April 2026.

It was explained that officers were also looking into amending the panel's terms of reference, to reduce the size of the panel, in the interest of good governance. It was hoped that these changes would be agreed by the end of the year.

The Head of Community and Public Protection addressed a point raised at the last panel meeting about the liability of the structures on the site of Fairfield Market and a survey had been carried out, which stated that they were all structurally sound and any necessary repairs would be carried out through Dorset Council's property services team.

The Dorchester Town Council Town Clerk informed panel members that a Markets Officer had been appointed and begin their work in September.

Several members of the panel expressed support for reducing the size of the panel, as they believed that this would allow the panel to have closer control of the markets going forward.

The following responses were provided to members of the panel from officers:

- Dorset Council would insure the site and buildings, however Dorchester Town Council would be required to have liability insurance for market days.
- The current restrictions on Dorchester Ward members sitting on the panel as Dorset Council members would likely remain in place to prevent conflicts of interest.
- The panel reports would go to the Licensing Committee at Dorset Council.
- Officers would release a statement to traders to keep them informed on the process.

59. Fairfield Market Operator Report

There was no update from the Fairfield market operator.

60. Cornhill Market Operator Report

There was no update from the Cornhill market operator.

61. Financial Outturn Report 2024/25

The Senior Accountant delivered a verbal update on the Financial Outturn report for 2024/25. He provided details of the actual outturn figures against the budgeted figures and listed the main areas of variance. He also provided details of the Sunday Car Boot fund and the repairs and maintenance reserve.

In response to a question from one member, it was explained that the Sunday Car Boot fund reserve was high due to there being a strict criteria for distribution of the funds. Officers stated that they would look into publicising the fund more widely, to try and ensure more of the fund was distributed.

The panel approved the income and expenditure statement for 2024/25.

62. Fairfield Road Works Update

The Principal Transport Planner delivered a verbal update on the Fairfield Road works. He noted that the design team were currently working on the project and that they were seeking specialist advice on the sustainable drainage system before moving forward. It was expected that the detailed design would be ready by the end of the summer, in order for the trees to be planted over winter.

Members raised concerns about lighting and signage in the car park, which the Principal Transport Planner stated would be looked into.

63. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 5.30 - 6.50 pm

Chairman

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