

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

29 September 2025

Present: Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, L. Fry, J. Germodo, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, G. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Potter (Deputy Mayor in the Chair), K. Reid, M. Rennie, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

Apologies: The Mayor (Councillor A. Canning) and Councillors P. Farmer, S. Jones and R. Major.

24. Ken Lambert

The Deputy Mayor reported that former Councillor Ken Lambert had recently died. He had served on the Council between 1999 and 2007. Members stood in silence to his memory.

25. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported to the meeting.

26. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 July 2025, were confirmed and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

27. Police Matters

Sergeant Ian Schofield was unable to attend the meeting.

28. Presentations, Communications and Motions

The Council received a presentation from Mr A. Frost, Dorset Council Service Manager for Community Safety on the work of the Community Safety Partnership, the priorities for which were Domestic Abuse and Stalking, Sexual Offences, Serious Violence, Anti-Social Behaviour and Rural Crime. Mr Frost responded to Members detailed questions.

There were no communications from the Mayor or Town Clerk and no motions had been submitted.

29. Planning and Environment Committee – 4 August 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 4 August 2025 be adopted.

30. **Planning and Environment Committee – 1 September 2025**

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

Resolved

- (1) That Councillors S. Biles, J. Germodo, J. Hewitt, G. Jones, D. Leaper and K. Reid be appointed to the 20mph Task and Finish Group.
- (2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 1 September 2025 be adopted.

31. **Management Committee – 15 September 2025**

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

Members noted that both the Bayeux reception and Heritage Open Day event in the Corn Exchange had gone exceedingly well, and the Council offered its thanks to all those involved.

Resolved

- That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 15 September 2025 be adopted.

32. **Policy Committee – 22 September 2025**

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

Resolved

- (1) That Councillors S. Biles, J. Germodo, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Potter, K. Reid and R. Ricardo be appointed to the Local Plan/Future Direction Task and Finish Group.
- (2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 22 September 2025 be adopted.

33. **Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee – 22 July 2025**

The minutes of the meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee be noted.

34. **Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel – 30 July 2025**

The minutes of the meeting of the Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel be noted. The Chair updated Members on the progress made in respect of moving the market operation to the Town Council and the appointment of a Markets Officer.

35. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Councillor R. Biggs updated Members on a number of Dorset Council initiatives including lighting Fairfield car park, Williams Avenue traffic lights, £20m Pride of Place funding, possible health science university, affordable housing, new skills initiative, outcome of the recent parking consultation and more.
- It was reported that the X51 bus timetable had been revised, the Council thanked all of those organisations which had raised issues regarding the shortcomings of the originally proposed timetable.
- It was noted that there would be some night works being undertaken at the hospital site shortly.
- A new arm's length body had been established to operate and manage the Innovation Park at Winfrith.
- Land drainage works had been completed at the Dorchester recycling centre.

Council rose at 8.06pm.

Mayor