

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

24 November 2025

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

Apologies: Councillors P. Farmer, J. Germodo and R. Major.

36. Declarations of Interest

Councillor D. Taylor declared an interest in respect of Policy Committee Minute No 29, Keep 106 Community Radio.

37. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 September 2025, were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

38. 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. It was noted that the four local PCSO's may need to be moved to Weymouth as a temporary measure. The Council expressed its concern in regard to some recent sentencing made by the magistrates court.

39. Presentations, Communications and Motions

The Mayor presented a certificate of recognition to local resident, Joanna Rigler, who had swum the English Channel on 30 July 2025 and raised a significant amount of funds for the charity Cardiac Risk in the Young.

The Mayor offered the Council's congratulations to Mrs V. Potter, who had been recognised for her exceptional commitment to St Peter's Church. Mrs Potter had been awarded the Cross of St Aldhem at a recent service held at Salisbury Cathedral.

Councillor M. Rennie reported that 25 November 2025 marked the start of 16 Days of Action, an international campaign where communities across the country unite to end domestic abuse in all its forms and support those affected. This year's campaign aimed to unite to end digital violence against women.

Nobody should live in fear and all should be safe in their own homes. Everyone should be treated with respect, not be threatened or hurt. Members were encouraged to wear the white ribbon to show their support and raise awareness.

It was noted that the Town Council was flying the white ribbon flag as an expression of support for the campaign and to show the Council's desire to help all who lived in fear.

Members were pleased to note that the BID had erected 88 Christmas trees this year, which was 15 more than last year.

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

40. **Planning and Environment Committee – 6 October 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 6 October 2025 be adopted.

41. **Planning and Environment Committee – 3 November 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 3 November 2025 be adopted.

42. **Management Committee – 10 November 2025**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. In respect of the erecting new swift and owl nesting boxes it was suggested that this be reported to Dorset Council to help inform its Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

It was also noted that should the proposed north Dorchester development go ahead it would be important to ensure sufficient new cemetery space was included in any proposals.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 10 November 2025 be adopted.

43. **Policy Committee – 17 November 2025**

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

Resolved

- (1) That the assessed high level Strategic and Operational risks included in the Risk Register be approved and that the Risk Registers, as a whole, be approved.
- (2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 17 November 2025 be adopted.

44. Update from the Dorset Council

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Councillor L. Fry encouraged everyone to use the Dorset Council budget calculator which had been publicised. He also praised the staff at 1610 Leisure Centre in their dealing with a recent medical emergency.
- Councillor S. Jones reported on a proposal to make Dorset an age friendly community and that the filming crew would again be using Wollaston car park including whilst the Christmas Cracker event was taking place.
- It was noted that there had been over 10,000 responses to the recent Local Plan consultation.
- Dorset Council was again experiencing pressure in trying to set its budget for next year.
- A list of community assets was to be circulated by Dorset Council to DAPTC shortly.

Councillor J. Hewitt reported on the provision of new accommodation in the town for children aged between 18 and 25 years old who were leaving care.

Council rose at 8.01pm.

Mayor