

Dorchester Town Council

Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

27th July 2026

Present: Councillors: R. Biggs, S. Biles, A. Canning, P. Farmer, W. Gibbons, F. Hogwood, G. Jones, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Major, R. Potter, K. Reid, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo., and D. Taylor.

Officers: Charmaine Denny – Town Clerk
Carl Dallison – Assistant Town Clerk

Apologies: The Mayor (Councillor L. Fry) and Councillor J. Hewitt

Absent: Councillor J. Germodo

17. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

The Town Clerk reminded Members of the need to review their declarations of interest so as to ensure that they were up to date.

18. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town meeting held on 18th and 19th May, were confirmed and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

19. Police Matters

There was no representative from the Police at the meeting.

20. Presentations, Communications and Motions

The Deputy Mayor thanked the outgoing clerk Steve Newman for all his service and welcomed the incoming clerk Charmaine Denny to her first Full Council meeting.

No motions had been submitted.

21. Planning and Environment Committee – 1st June 2026

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. Thanks was given to those members that had actively been involved in the 20mph consultation.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 1 June 2026 be adopted.

22. Planning and Environment Committee – 6 July 2026

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 July 2026 be adopted.

23. Management Committee – 13 July 2026

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

Resolved

(1) That the Council appoint the following five Councillors to the Council Grant Scheme Review working Group D. Leaper, F. Kent-Ledger, M.Rennie, R. Major and W. Gibbons.

(2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 13 July 2026 be adopted.

24. Policy Committee – 20 July 2026

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

Resolved

(1) That the Council appoints the following five Councillors to the Climate Emergency Task and Finish Group F. Hogwood, R. Major, G. Jones, R. Potter and F. Kent – Ledger.

(2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 11 May 2026 be adopted.

25. Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Committee

The minutes of the meeting of the Dorchester Markets Informal Committee be noted.

26. Update from Dorset Council Members

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Councillor A. Canning reported that there would be details of the Local Plan being disseminated imminently

- Councillor R. Major announced that the Dorset Councils right of way network consultation is now live
- Councillor S. Jones detailed that the Car Park listening meetings are commencing shortly regarding car parking charging across the County. A report will go to Cabinet in October, and a full consultation will follow, and hopefully changes will come into affect from April 2027
- It was detailed by Councillor S. Jones that a paper regarding the provision of Special Educational Needs was going to Cabinet.
- Councillor R. Biggs detailed that car park machines can be updated to dynamic pricing; this may be an option within the parking review process
- A 'good' rating has been maintained by the Adult Social Care service
- Dorset Council are looking at numerous affordable homes sites across the county
- There has been extensive road resurfacing works taking place over the town in recent weeks

27. **Public Bodies (Admissions 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

28. **Fordington Cemetery wall repairs: Award of Contract**

Resolved

That the Council will appoint the successful tenderer for the amount agreed as per the confidential report

Council rose at 7:37pm

Mayor

Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

