# Dorchester Town Council

## Management Committee

### 16th November 2026

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

**Apologies:** Councillors P. Farmer, J. Hewitt and D. Taylor.

In attendance:

Councillors S. Biles, J. Germodo and K. Reid.

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

22. **Declaration of Interests**

None.

23. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14th September 2026, adopted by Council on 28th September 2026, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

24. **Purchase of new battery powered vehicle**

The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) presented a proposal for the purchase of a new electric vehicle and noted that the supplier was locally-based. The resolution was proposed by Cllr Fry and seconded by Cllr Major.

**Resolved**:

That the Committee approves the allocation of £57,733 from the Vehicle & Equipment Reserve.

25. **Outdoor Services – Update Report – Autumn 2026**

The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) presented the update report on the work of the Outdoor Services team and reported on the on-going problems resulting from the lack of rainfall. It was also reported that the team was experiencing several absences but were coping well despite this. Cllr Fry welcomed the trimming of hedges on The Great Field.

Cllr Rennie raised concerns about participants at the Remembrance ceremony at St George's churchyard walking down to lay wreaths at the German prisoner of war memorial due to public safety issues in that area. Members asked that a report be prepared by officers on

the management of public safety when visiting the memorial.

The resolutions were proposed by Cllr Rennie and seconded by Cllr Kent-Ledger.

**Resolved**:

a) That the Outdoor Services update report be noted.

b) That a report on future arrangements for the Remembrance ceremony for the German prisoner of war memorial be presented to the Committee early in 2027.

26. **Recommendations of the Grants Review Working Group**

The Chair invited Mr Peter Foster to make a statement to the committee regarding the proposals for the review of the grant scheme, particularly with regard to the charitable status of grant applicants and the reasoning for the proposed multi-year agreements. In addition, the written statement and questions from both Mr Foster and Mrs Zoe Bell were circulated to the committee.

Cllr Kent-Ledger introduced the recommendations of the Working Group and the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) clarified that the grant criteria's reference to 'Dorchester-based charity' should have been worded to reflect the proposed application form and state that applications will only be considered from charities, CICs or community groups. With regard to the proposed 'scorecard' for members to use as a reminder, members felt that this should be referred to as an aide memoire as this better defines its role. Cllr Potter felt that there was not a need for multi-year agreements. Cllr Fry considered that the 'end of project' report form should be included in the application form. Cllr Fry also stated that he would prefer to see the updated draft criteria and application form to reflect the committee's view before voting to accept the Working Group recommendations and new documentation. It was agreed, therefore, that consideration of the proposal by the Committee be deferred until amended documentation can be presented. The resolution was proposed by Cllr Fry and seconded by Cllr Rennie.

**Resolved:**

That the matter be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

27. **Request to locate storage cabin on Sandringham Sports Centre car park**

A proposal for the placing of a storage cabin in the car park of Sandringham Sports Centre was presented to the committee. The Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) reported that the Dorchester Bowls Club had confirmed that it had no objection to the proposed location of the cabin. The resolution was proposed by Cllr Potter and seconded by Cllr Jones.

**Resolved:**

That the Committee gives its approval to the Dorchester Disabled Club for the location of the metal storage shed in a location agreed with the Council in the car

park of Sandringham Sports Centre without prejudice to any decision the council may take with regard to a funding application for the shed.

28. **Events review and proposals for 2027**

Cllr Kent-Ledger welcomed the mixture of events proposed, thanked all the council staff involved but expressed concerns about the size of the Cider Festival. Cllr Fry asked that a more detailed budget be presented for the Anonymous Festival so that members could be fully aware of costs and any income from grants. The Assistant Town Clerk offered to send budget details to members. Cllr Gibbons had concerns about agreeing to accept any circus booking for The Great Field due to three complaints of noise from residents on St John Way. The resolution was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Rennie.

**Resolved:**

That the committee:

a) notes the review of events on council land in 2026 as set out in Appendix A;
b) agrees the proposals for council-run events and festivals in 2027 as set out in Appendix B;
c) agrees to allow the use of its land in 2027 for the events run by third parties as set out in paragraph 3.3 of this report;
d) agrees to the hire of The Great Field in 2027 for an inflatable theme park and a circus subject to appropriate hire agreements.

29. **Grant Applications**

The Committee considered the requests for financial assistance and it was

**Resolved:**

(a) That a grant of £495.69 be awarded to the AsOne Theatre Company towards the cost of venue hire for the Seeds of Hope project.
(b) That a grant of £350 be awarded to the Dorchester Disabled Club towards the cost of storage shed.
(c) That a grant of £500 be awarded to the Dorchester Christmas Cracker towards the cost of venue hire.
(d) That a grant of £500 be awarded to the Dorchester Christmas Cracker towards the cost of public liability insurance and security.
(e) That a grant be awarded to the Talk About Trust for Christmas and Easter community activities but that the decision of the amount of the grant be delegated to the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

30. **Cemetery Memorial Safety Policy update**

The resolution was proposed by Cllr Kent-Ledger and seconded by Cllr Jones.

**Resolved**:

That the Committee notes progress with the safety inspection of cemetery memorials and requests an annual update in 2027.

31. **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. The recommendation was proposed by Cllr Kent-Ledger and seconded by Cllr Major.

**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. The recommendation was proposed by Cllr Kent-Ledger and seconded by Cllr Major.

**Resolved**:

That the actions of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 5556 to 5566 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Chair……..