



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 28 July 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 19 May 2025 (page 3) and the adjourned meeting of Council held on 20 May 2025 (page 5).

4. **Police Update**

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

5. **Presentations, Communications and Motions**

- a) To receive communications from the Mayor and Town Clerk.
- b) 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	2 June 2025	Page 11
Planning & Environment Committee	7 July 2025	Page 15
Management Committee	14 July 2025	Page 20
Policy Committee	21 July 2025	Page 24

To note the Minutes of the following Joint body

Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee	15 April 2025	Page 28
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7. **Update from Dorset Council Members**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Newman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk
23 July 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

Annual Meeting of Dorchester Town Council

19 May 2025

Present: Retiring Mayor R. Potter and Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, A. Canning, P. Farmer, J. Germodo, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, G. Jones, S. Jones, D. Leaper, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Major, M. Rennie, K. Reid, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors L. Fry, F. Hogwood and F. Kent-Ledger.

Attending: Civic Dignitaries, family and friends of the Mayor Elect, and members of the community of Dorchester.

1. Election of Town Mayor for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Council

It was proposed by Councillor D. Taylor, seconded by Councillor V. Lloyd-Jones and

Resolved

That Councillor Andy Canning be elected Town Mayor of Dorchester for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Councillor A. Canning, having accepted the Office of Town Mayor and made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, took the Chair and thanked the Council on behalf of himself and his Mayoress, Mel Lane, for the honour conferred upon them.

2. Election of Deputy Mayor for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Council

It was proposed by Councillor K. Reid, seconded by Councillor G. Jones and

Resolved

That Councillor Robin Potter be elected Deputy Town Mayor of Dorchester for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

3. Vote of thanks to the retiring Town Mayor

It was proposed by Councillor M. Rennie, seconded by Councillor J. Germodo and

Resolved

That the thanks of the Council be given to Councillor Robin Potter for the open, inclusive and enthusiastic manner in which he has carried out the duties of Town Mayor during the past year.

Councillor R. Potter was presented with a Past Mayor's Badge by the Mayor, and his Mayoress, Val Potter, was presented with a Past Mayoress Badge.

Councillor R. Potter addressed the meeting.

4. **Adjournment**

The Council rose at 7.45pm and remains adjourned until 20 May 2025 at 7.00pm.

Mayor

Dorchester Town Council

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

20 May 2025

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

Apologies: Councillors S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, R. Major, R. Potter, K. Reid and R. Ricardo.

5. Declarations of Interest

Councillor M. Rennie declared an interest in respect of appointments to Dorchester Almshouses and Ashley Churchill & Thorner Trust.

Councillor J. Hewitt declared an interest in respect of appointments to Dorchester Almshouses.

Councillor S. Biles declared an interest in respect of appointments to Ashley Churchill & Thorner Trust.

6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 31 March 2025, were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

7. Police Matters

Sergeant Schofield was unable to attend the meeting.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he would invite representatives of the Community Safety Partnership, to make a brief presentation on their work, to a future meeting of the Council.

8. Presentations, Communications and Motions

There were no presentations or communications.

No motions had been submitted.

9. Planning and Environment Committee – 7 April 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 April 2025 be adopted.

10. Planning and Environment Committee – 28 April 2025

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

In regard to Minute No. 66, Councillor M. Rennie reported on a recent incident where a Fire Engine could not access Cromwell Road due to poorly parked cars. The Mayor confirmed that Dorset Council was undertaking a parking review and that a report was to be presented to forthcoming Dorset Council Place and Resources Overview Committee. The Mayor undertook to ascertain how the Town Council would be able to input into the review.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 28 April 2025 be adopted.

11. Management Committee – 6 May 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 6 May 2025 be adopted.

12. Policy Committee – 12 May 2025

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

Resolved

- (1) That the Council approves the Annual Governance Statement for 2024-25.
- (2) That the Council approves the Accounting Statement for 2024-25.
- (3) That the Council confirms the appointment of Darkin Miller Ltd as the Council's Internal Auditor for the 2025-26 Council Year.
- (4) That the Council has no conflict of interest with BDO LLP.
- (5) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 12 May 2025 be adopted.

13. **Annual Business**

The Council considered appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies, its Bank Mandate and whether to adopt the General Power of Competence to the next Annual Meeting.

Members requested that the Town Clerk ask the Dorchester Tourism Partnership to consider having two Town Council representatives rather than the present one.

Resolved

- (1) That the appointments to Committees, Joint Bodies, Panels and Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 be approved.
- (2) That Councillor D. Leaper be appointed Chair and Councillor F. Kent-Ledger be appointed Vice-Chair of the Management Committee.
- (3) That Councillor R. Ricardo be appointed Chair and Councillor L. Fry be appointed Vice-Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee.
- (4) That Councillor S. Biles be appointed Chair and Councillor V. Lloyd-Jones be appointed Vice-Chair of the Policy Committee.
- (5) That the Council adopts the General Power of Competence for the period to the next Annual Meeting of Council.
- (6) That Councillors P. Farmer, L. Fry, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, M. Rennie and D. Taylor be authorised to operate the Council's bank mandates.

14. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Members were updated on the benefits of Dorset's new Local Visitor Economy Partnership accreditation.
- It was noted that Councillor S. Jones had been appointed Chair and Councillor L. Fry appointed Vice-Chair of Dorset Council.
- Work on developing the Local Plan was continuing.
- The Dorset Council Pension Fund Committee was to consider its investments in light of a deputation from Dorset Palestine Solidarity Campaign to the Annual Meeting of Dorset Council.

Councillor J Hewitt proposed, and it was agreed, that the Council should give its thanks to the Council's staff for all their work over the past month, it had been a very busy month with a number of different events.

Council rose at 8.10pm.

Mayor

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Management Committee

P. Farmer	L. Fry	W. Gibbons	J. Hewitt	F. Hogwood	S. Jones
F. Kent-Ledger	D. Leaper	R. Major	R. Potter	M. Rennie	

Policy Committee

R. Biggs	S. Biles	J. Germodo	G. Jones	V. Lloyd-Jones
K. Reid	R. Ricardo	D. Taylor		

Planning & Environment

R. Biggs	S. Biles	P. Farmer	L. Fry	J. Germodo	J. Hewitt
F. Hogwood	S. Jones	F. Kent-Ledger	D. Leaper	V. Lloyd-Jones	R. Major
R. Potter	M. Rennie	R. Ricardo			

The Mayor, Councillor Andy Canning is ex officio to the 3 Committees

JOINT BODIES

Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel

J. Hewitt	J. Germodo	S. Jones
F. Kent-Ledger	K. Reid	M. Rennie

Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee

S. Biles	G. Jones*	S. Jones	F. Kent-Ledger	D. Taylor
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Twinning / Cultural Activities Panel (5 Members plus the Mayor)

J. Hewitt	F. Hogwood	S. Jones	R. Major	M. Rennie
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APPENDIX 2 - APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES				
Internal Roles				Appointed 2025-26
DAPTC Larger Towns Rep				The Mayor R. Potter
Municipal Buildings Monitoring Group (3)				F. Kent-Ledger, V. Lloyd-Jones , D. Taylor
Charitable Trusteeships				
Dorchester Almshouses (2)				S. Biles V. Lloyd-Jones
Ashley Churchill & Thorne Trust (2)				L. Fry M. Rennie
Other Bodies				
Dorchester Arts (one space plus substitute)				F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper
Dorchester Association L. History & Arch.				D. Taylor
Dorchester BID				J. Hewitt
Dorchester Bayeux Society				M. Rennie
Dorchester Lubbecke Society				F. Hogwood
Dorchester Tourism Partnership				R. Potter
Citizens Advice Central Dorset				D. Leaper
Dorchester Transport Action Group (2)				R. Potter W. Gibbons
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre (2)				P. Farmer J. Germodo
South Wessex Community Rail Partnership (previously Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership)				F. Hogwood
Thomas Hardy Society				W. Gibbons
Transition Town Dorchester (3 for 2025-26)				P. Farmer, F. Hogwood, D. Taylor

Volunteer Centre Dorset				D. Taylor
Sawmills Development Association (2 reps)				J. Germodo K. Reid

Dorchester Town Council
Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee
2 June 2025

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

Apologies: Cllrs R. Biggs and F. Hogwood

Also in attendance: Councillor William Gibbons

1. Declarations of Interest

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

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 April 2025 were signed by the chairman.

3. 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.

4. Minute Update Report

Minute 13 of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting Held on 3 July 2023 - Dorset Council Car Park Electronic Information Signage

A Committee member expressed concern about the ongoing inconsistency of the car park electronic signage, which continued to display incorrect information. The Committee agreed this was confusing for the public and projected a poor image of the town, negatively affecting both residents and visitors. It was therefore resolved that a request be made to Dorset Council for the signage be switched off and removed when each car park undergoes refurbishment.

Resolved

That the Clerk write to Dorset Council and request that the car park electronic information signage be turned off and removed.

5. Planning Issues to Note

It was noted that several road traffic improvements were either underway or proposed across Dorchester. The Committee requested that the Clerk invite a representative from Dorset Council to attend a future meeting to provide an update.

Resolved

That the Clerk to the Committee invite a representative of Dorset Council to attend a future meeting to provide an update on existing and proposed traffic schemes in Dorchester.

Dorchester Town Council

Planning & Environment Committee – 2 June 2025

Planning Applications for Comment

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

E1. P/HOU/2025/02373 4 Pound Lane Dorchester DT1 1LP

Change 3no. windows and enlarge ground floor door opening. Remove render to reveal original stone on two facades of dwelling, install solar panels to south elevation. Replace garage roof with reverse mono-pitch roof, convert part of garage into a studio and fenestration.

No objection.

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

N1. P/ADV/2025/02500 43 South Street Dorchester DT1 1DQ

Display of 1no. internally illuminated fascia sign, vinyl dots to glazing, 1no. externally illuminated projecting sign & vinyl fascia sign above entrance doors.

No objection.

N2. P/LBC/2025/02501 & P/FUL/2025/02499 43 South Street Dorchester DT1 1DQ

Alterations to replace condenser units to roof, internal refurbishments & new shopfront signage.

No objection.

N3. P/FUL/2025/02576 Hollands House Poundbury Road Dorchester DT1 1SW

Demolition of the existing building and erection of 4-storey building to provide 79 no. affordable key worker dwellings.

No objection, subject to conditions.

The Committee raised concerns about the lack of on-site parking and requested consideration of undercroft parking to address these issues. This may also help mitigate the Highways Authority's concerns regarding refuse collection, as outlined in their comment submitted to the Dorset Council Planning Portal on 02/06/25.

The Committee did not support the suggestion in the Dorset Council's Preapplication advice, referenced in the applicant's Planning Statement (Appendix 1), that additional parking demand could be met by renting spaces at the nearby Top 'O' Town car park. As this facility is widely used by the existing community, new residents—like all local residents—would already be entitled to purchase a parking permit.

Additionally, the Committee requested a safeguard to ensure that tenant service charges do not increase beyond indexation.

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

W1. P/HOU/2025/02476 11 Maiden Castle Road Dorchester DT1 2QQ

Remodel an existing flat roof extension. Erect rear and front flat roofed extensions.

No objection.

W2. P/FUL/2025/02233 Great Western Industrial Estate, Great Western House Great Western Industrial Estate Access Road Dorchester DT1 1RD

Change of use from first floor retail unit to sports bar.

No objection.

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

S1. P/HOU/2025/02497 24 Mellstock Avenue Dorchester DT1 2BE

Convert garage into a study/home office, extent front porch canopy roof.

No objection.

S2. P/HOU/2025/02765 122 Weatherbury Way Dorchester DT1 2EG

Erect single storey flat roof extension, install two rear dormers and one front dormer.

No objection.

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

No applications received.

Dorchester Town Council
Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee
7 July 2025

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

Apologies: Cllrs V. Lloyd-Jones and R. Major.

Also in attendance: Cllr Kate Reid

6. 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.

7. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 June 2025 were confirmed by the Committee and signed by the chairman.

8. 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.

9. Minute Update Report

1. Parking in Dorchester (Minute 60 of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 7 April 2025)

The Committee noted the update received from Dorset Council regarding the proposed parking review. Members expressed disappointment that limited feedback had been sought from Town and Parish Councils. They also considered both the short notice ahead of the consultation and the brief consultation period to be unacceptable. The Committee requested that the clerk write to Dorset Council to express the Committee's disappointment.

The Committee requested that the Clerk provide a list of historical parking requests to all members.

2. Highways Alteration, London Road Request (Minute 28 of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 4 November 2024)

The Committee noted the update.

3. 44 High East Street, Dorchester (Minute 45 of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 7 January 2025)

A Committee member informed the Committee that the building had since deteriorated further, with part of the structure collapsing. The Committee requested that the clerk contact the Dorset Council to report the further deterioration and request that the building be inspected as it was a safety risk to members of the public.

Resolved

- i. That the clerk to the committee write to Dorset Council to express the Committee's disappointment about the proposed timescale for the Dorset Council parking review.
- ii. That the clerk to the committee circulate of historical parking requests to all members.
- iii. That the clerk to the committee report the further deterioration to 44 High East Street to Dorset Council and request the building be inspected.

10. Planning Issues to Note

There were no planning issues to note.

Dorchester Town Council

Planning & Environment Committee – 7 July 2025

Planning Applications for Comment

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

E1. P/FUL/2025/03069 92 High Street Fordington Dorchester DT1 1LD

Change of use of building from Public House to Restaurant. Retain convert garage to kitchen, external alterations and redecorated of render.

No objection in principle.

The Committee welcomed the application and considered it a positive use of the building, provided that concerns regarding the extractor fan are addressed to prevent odours and noise from affecting neighbouring properties.

E2. P/HOU/2025/01667 6 Louds Piece Dorchester DT1 2FF

Erect single-storey rear extension.

No objection.

E3. P/FUL/2025/03463 Fordington Cemetery Kings Road Dorchester

Partial rebuild of the boundary/retaining wall to Fordington Cemetery.

As Dorchester Town Council is the applicant, no comment will be made on this application.

E4 P/VOC/2025/03628 21 Icen Way Dorchester DT1 1ER

Erect rear single storey extension (with variation of conditions 2 to amend approved plans of planning permission P/HOU/2024/07110)

No objection.

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

N1. P/ADV/2025/03071 62 High West Street Dorchester DT1 1UY

Display 1no. non-illuminated fascia sign.

No objection.

N2. P/FUL/2025/03070 62 High West Street Dorchester DT1 1UY

Installation of two external grilles

No objection.

N3. P/LBC/2025/03068 62 High West Street Dorchester DT1 1UY

Installation of air conditioning and erect new signage.

No objection.

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

W1. P/VOC/2025/02733 Dorset County Hospital Williams Avenue Dorchester DT1 2JY

New Hospitals Project including a new Emergency Department, a new 24 bed Critical Care Department and replacement helipad at roof level (with variation to Condition No. 1 of Reserved Matters Approval No. P/RES/2023/03565 to amend the approved plans).

No objection.

W2. P/HOU/2025/03582 4 Treves Road Dorchester DT1 2HD

Demolish existing single storey extension and conservatory. Erect two storey rear extension.

No objection.

W3. P/HOU/2025/03675 4 Apollo Close Dorchester DT1 2QP

Erect single storey infill extension to front elevation.

No objection.

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

S1. P/FUL/2025/03138 Joseph Weld House Herringston Road Dorchester DT1 2SL

Erection of single storey extension to create out patient unit & alterations to the existing car park.

The principle of the development is supported; however, the current design is considered incongruous with the existing building.

The Committee welcomed the use of Broadmayne-style brick but would prefer a design more in keeping with the character of the original structure. Greater attention could be given to the roofline and style of windows to ensure it is aesthetically pleasing and sympathetic to its surroundings.

S2. P/HOU/2025/03543 5A Grosvenor Road Dorchester DT1 2BB

Erect single storey rear extension.

No objection.

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

No applications received to date.

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

14th July 2025

Present: The Mayor (Councillor A. Canning) and Councillors P. Farmer, L. Fry, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper (Chair), R. Major, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Apologies: None

In attendance:

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

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

1. Declaration of Interests

None.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 6 May 2025, adopted by Council on 20 May 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. Council policy on use of glyphosate.

The committee was addressed by Ms Samantha Stazicker from the organisation Pesticide Free Dorset with regard to the council's use of Glyphosate in public open spaces and its potential impact on wildlife and human health. Ms Stazicker urged the council to cease the use of pesticides and to include this as a commitment in the review of its Biodiversity Statement.

The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) then presented his report on the matter, stating that the council followed industry safety guidance and that it had voluntarily developed its own Biodiversity Statement even though this was not a requirement of town councils. Where the council did rarely use glyphosate, it was only when other approaches would not work. The use of glyphosate on The Great Field was only because appropriate weed management techniques had not been put in place before the site was transferred to the Town Council.

The Assistant Town Clerk explained that there were no plans to use glyphosate in future with the exception of a discrete area of weeds. Cllr Major expressed his trust in the judgement of council staff and stated that it would be irresponsible to completely ban the use of glyphosate. Members stated their concern about the use of glyphosate but were pleased

that it was used very sparingly, and hoped that effective alternatives would be available in future. It was agreed that the matter should be kept under review and considered as part of the new Biodiversity Statement.

Resolved:

That the Council maintains the current position shown in the Council's Biodiversity Statement and action plan, element 4.10, regarding pesticides and does not ban Glyphosate-based products but that this position is reviewed annually.

4. Outdoor Services – Update Report - Summer

The committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services). It was noted that the Borough Gardens' team was benefitting from a new team member. The Chair offered to send a letter of thanks, jointly with the Mayor, to the Gardens' team in recognition of all their hard work. The success of the Kings Road tree planting scheme was highlighted.

The Borough Gardens use of a borehole as a source for watering the plants was noted and it was suggested that, in due course, this could be communicated to the public.

Cllr Rennie highlighted concerns about dogs fouling in cemeteries and asked that officers bring forward a report to the next meeting of the Committee regarding this matter.

Resolved:

That the Outdoor Services update report be noted.

5. Carbon Reduction Measures – Progress by Outdoor Services

The committee received the report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) on the purchase of electric battery powered grounds maintenance equipment. Due to imminent price rises, the decision was taken to purchase the tools prior to the Committee meeting but that this decision was taken in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair.

Resolved:

That the decision to purchase electric battery powered grounds maintenance equipment noted.

6. Dorchester Bowls Club

The Committee received a report from the Town Clerk (Corporate) on the need for the council to fund the refurbishment of the changing rooms within the Dorchester Bowls Club building as part of the council's relinquishing of the lease. These works will return the changing rooms into a usable condition and include the replacement of toilets and significant plumbing works to make the sinks and radiators operational.

Resolved:

That the works needed to the bowl's club changing rooms be carried out as per the requirements of the Council's lease.

7. Advertising banner at Fairfield Skate Park

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on a request for the installation of an advertising banner for The Skate Shop on the railings at the Fairfield skate park. The committee discussed the matter but considered that agreeing to the request might encourage unauthorised and unwanted advertising on other council and public spaces.

Resolved:

That the request for the placing of an advertising banner for The Skate Shop on the Fairfield skate park railings be refused.

8. Grant Applications

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance and it was

Resolved:

- (a) That a grant of £500 be awarded to Dorchester Disabled Club towards the cost of a mini-bus but that the grant only be released once the Club was closer to reaching its funding target.
- (b) That no grant be awarded to Dorchester Trust for Counselling & Psychotherapy towards the cost of counselling sessions.
- (c) That a grant of £286 be awarded to the Jawbone Collective CIC towards the cost of the Dorchester Bard competition event but subject to the submission of financial accounts to the satisfaction of the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) in consultation with Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

9. Minutes of Dorchester Arts Board meeting.

The minutes of the Dorchester Arts board meeting were considered by members. The issue of parking in the Corn Exchange car park was raised. It was noted that new electric gate motors, with a restricted number of access fobs, were to be installed soon and that this would hopefully resolved unauthorised parking.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

10. Notes of Member Site Visit on 3rd June 2025

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

Resolved:

That the notes be noted.

11. **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 5481 to 5496 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Chair.....

Dorchester Town Council

Policy Committee

21 July 2025

Present: Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, G. Jones, V. Lloyd-Jones, K. Reid and D. Taylor.

In Attendance

Councillors L. Fry, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, D. Leaper and R. Potter.

Apologies: Councillors J. Germodo and R. Ricardo.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 May 2025, adopted by Council on 20 May 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Finance Update

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

It was noted that following the closure of Lloyds Bank in Dorchester, a review of the Council's bankers was underway. In the meantime, a request had been made to cash access UK to carry out a review of community cash access needs which was the first step in applying for a community banking hub.

Resolved

- (1) That the payments list, totalling £532,973.68 be approved.
- (2) That the remainder of the report be noted.

4. Draft Corporate Plan 2025 – 29 – Outcome of Public Consultation

The Committee received a report by the Town Clerk on the outcome of the public consultation into the draft Corporate Plan. Members were pleased to note that 92% of those that had responded were, in broad terms, in agreement with the Council's strategic

aims. The Committee welcomed the suggestion that an additional strategic aim be included which related to promoting Dorchester as a welcoming and inclusive town for all.

The Committee considered the comments received in regard to the climate emergency strategic action and requested that the wording for this action be reviewed.

Resolved

- (1) That 'Promoting Dorchester as a welcoming and inclusive town for all' be included as a new strategic aim in the Corporate Plan.
- (2) That the wording for the climate emergency strategic action be reviewed and brought back to the next meeting of the Committee.

5. Statement of Reasonable Expectations

Members gave consideration to a draft 'Statement of Reasonable Expectations' which had been produced by DAPTC. This was a high level statement between town and parish Councils and Dorset Council in regard to co-operation and co-working. The document was presently being considered by Dorset Council.

The Town Clerk reported that the DAPTC had commissioned a further study regarding town and parish councils working together in light of the proposed future Wessex Regional Strategic Authority, a report on which would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

That the 'Statement of Reasonable Expectations' be welcomed.

6. Amendment to Financial Regulations and Standing Orders

The Committee considered a report by the Finance Officer which updated the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders so as to ensure that they complied with the Procurement Act 2023 which came into force in February 2025.

Recommended

That the amendments to the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders, as set out in the report, be agreed.

7. Council Offices – 19 North Square

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk which informed it that the Council's appeal against the planning decision to erect solar panels on the roof of 19 North Square had been rejected. The report also set out proposed maintenance work which would now

be undertaken. Members also requested that any works to the interior of the building be undertaken at the same time.

Resolved

- (1) That the outcome of the planning appeal be noted.
- (2) That the maintenance to 19 North Square, as set out in the report, be agreed to be funded from the office maintenance reserve.

8. Dorset Council Consultation on its Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Members were informed that Dorset Council was presently running a consultation on its draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Members were welcome to respond to the consultation individually. The proposals set out in the report to help stop the decline of areas for nature and wildlife should be supported.

The Committee felt that the wording of the strategy was satisfactory but that whilst there were plenty of potential activities listed it was lacking in strong strategic actions. It also felt that 'Priority 6 – Urban' needed further review.

Resolved

That, following receipt of further information from Councillor F. Hogwood regarding 'Priority 6 – Urban', the Town Clerk inform Dorset Council that this Council broadly supports the Strategy subject to the inclusion of strong strategic actions and comments to be received in regard to Priority 6.

9. Lubbecke 1250th Anniversary Celebration – 15-17 August 2025

The Committee was pleased to note that the Chair of the Management Committee had agreed to represent the Council at this celebration in lieu of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor who were unable to attend. The Council's established policy was to pay travel expenses to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor and the Committee is asked to extend that policy, on this occasion, to the Chair of Management Committee.

Resolved

That the policy to pay travel expenses to the Mayor or Deputy Mayor be extended to the Chair of Management Committee, to enable him to represent the Council at the Lubbecke 1250th Anniversary Celebration in August.

10. **Town Centre Working Group**

The Committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on a proposal from the Town Centre Working Group for a 'Shopfront of the season' award scheme.

Resolved

That the proposed 'Shopfront of the season' award scheme be agreed.

11. **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.

12. **Development Assistant Post**

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on the Council's temporary post of Development Assistant.

Resolved

That, as from 1 August 2025, the temporary post of Development Assistant be made permanent and graded commensurate with its duties at SCP11.

13. **Dorchester Arts Partner Project**

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on a proposed partner project with Dorchester Arts.

The Chair and Town Clerk to give consideration to signage for the Municipal Buildings.

Resolved

That a contribution of £3,000 be made towards the proposed project.

Chair.....

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

15th APRIL 2025

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 15th April 2025:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	S. Biles G. Jones (Chair) F. Kent-Ledger
	Officers:	T. Hurley M. Manley
Dorset Council	Councillors:	R. Biggs R. Major R. Tarr
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		J. Doak
Dorset History Centre		M. Gayton
Blue Badge Tour Guide		J. Wallis
Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum		V. Smith
Dorchester Heritage Magazine		M. Woodgate
Thomas Hardy Society		M. Chutter (attended online)
Athelhampton House		G. Keating
Dorchester Sheroes Project		A. Pearson

53. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S. Jones, Cllr L. Fry, I. Gosling (Dorchester Civic Society), R. White (National Trust) and A. Worth (Keep 106),

54. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2025, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

55. **DECLARATION OF PREDETERMINATION**

None were declared.

56. **BUDGET UPDATE**

An update report on the committee's budget was presented.

RESOLVED

That the budget update be noted.

57. **ROMAN FESTIVAL FEEDBACK**

Matilda Manley circulated a summary of key facts about the festival and its impact on the town. 68% of visitors to the festival had come from outside of Dorchester.

RESOLVED

That the feedback report be noted.

58. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Matilda Manley presented an update on progress with the Heritage Tourism Strategy and the work of the Tourism Partnership. The plans for the Spring promotional campaign were presented to the Committee.

RESOLVED

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

59. **HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2025**

Tony Hurley presented updated plans for Heritage Open Day in Dorchester on Sunday 21st September. Virginia Smith indicated that Shire Hall could be open to the public on that day. Cllr David Taylor also offered his services for any guided walks. Joy Wallis had agreed to lead various walks and was currently working to get access to buildings and sites that were not normally open to the public.

RESOLVED

That the proposals and budget for Heritage Open Day 2025 be agreed.

60. **HERITAGE PLAQUE AT DORCHESTER WEST STATION**

Tony Hurley presented a request from the Friends of Dorchester West Station for a grant of up to £500 for a heritage information sign to be installed at the station. It was considered by the committee that the project would be supported subject to its agreement to the wording/content and suggestions were made for information that the sign could include – such as photographs from the Dorset History Centre on the movement of German prisoners of war through the station in the First World War.

RESOLVED

That a grant of up to £500 be awarded to the Friends of Dorchester West Station for its heritage information sign project subject to the Committee agreeing the wording.

61. **MOYNTON ROAD COMMEMORATIVE STONE, THOMAS HARDYE GARDENS**

Tony Hurley reported on a request from Cllr Stella Jones for the Committee to support the renovation of the commemorative stone on Moynton Road in Thomas Hardy Gardens. A quote had been requested from a stonemason for the re-carving of the lettering. The Committee discussed the matter and considered that funding should be requested from Betterment Homes or The Old Hardyens before the Committee considers the matter further.

62. **ONGOING PROJECTS**

Updates on the following were received:

- a) **Roman Baths Interpretation Project.** Tony Hurley reported that the project was on hold until a new member of staff was in place at Dorset Museum for the project to liaise with. It was reported that a public request had brought forward several local people who remembered working on the excavation, and had photographs of the site, and their memories were going to be recorded by the Dorset History Centre. The long-term aspiration to partially excavate an area of the baths was discussed although the challenges this faced were considered. The delay to the publication of the excavation report was also discussed.
- b) **Town Pump enhancement proposals.** Joe Doak reported on the Civic Society's project to enhance the Town Pump and confirmed Wessex Water's commitment to re-establishing a water fountain/dispenser in the structure. An update on designs were awaited from Crickmay Stark.
- c) **The Dorchester Story project.** Joe Doak reported on the Civic Society's project to develop online content initially about Roman Dorchester with support from a students

from Bournemouth University. Initial drafts should be available by May and would eventually be hosted on Discover Dorchester.

- d) **Sylvia Townsend Warner stature project.** It was confirmed by Anya Pearson that the £60,000 target for the project had been reached and that further funds were being collected for both the on-going maintenance of the statue and for the cataloguing of the author's archive in the Dorset History Centre. Mark Chutter expressed his thanks to Visible Women UK for their support for the project.

63. UPDATES FROM PARTNERS

Dorchester Association: Michael Rice provided an update on the summer school in 17th May and offered to circulate the programme.

Athelhampton House: Giles Keating reported on a project to record recitals of fifty of Thomas Hardy's short love poems for You Tube and for their to be a launch event at Athelhampton on 9th May.

Thomas Hardy Society: Miranda Woodgate reported on the Society's new monthly newsletter and offered to circulate subscription details. Mark Chutter added that the study day had been a great success and that the Birthday Weekend conference in late May would include a performance of *A Beautiful Thread* at Stinsford Church.

Shire Hall: Virginia Smith stated that the museum currently has a Tolkein exhibition called *The Magic of Middle Earth* and more events were programmed for later in the year.

Dorset Museum & Art Gallery. Claire Dixon reported that the Museum's financial position had improved but there was still much to do. It was understood that the Arts Council would be reviewing its national portfolio funding soon. The Jane Austen exhibition would open in the June and an events programme was being planned with commercial sponsorship. The Museum was involved in the consultation on the future management of the World Heritage Site. The repairs to the Victorian Hall roof would commence in the autumn and extend into 2026. The new museums' passport had been launched, with Committee funding, and ordered the public a discount if visiting several museums.

Cllr Richard Biggs reported that Dorset had been given approval by Visit England to establish a Local Visitor Economy Partnership and this would open up the opportunity for further government funding.

Cllr Roland Tarr noted that a key element to the history of Dorset was its fishing ports / industry and links with Newfoundland.

Cllr David Taylor highlighted the forthcoming anniversary of the established of the Dorchester near Boston in the United States in 1630 and offered to bring a report with proposals for marking this anniversary. Claire Dixon highlighted that this period of history

was particularly complex given the impact of the new settlement on the indigenous Massachusett people.

Dorset History Centre – Maria Gayton reported on the new ‘From the Stacks’ monthly sessions which were aimed at opening up the collections to the public. Future events hosted by the Centre included a performance by the Wyvern musicians, a talk on the Drax estate by Paul Lashmar, and a women’s history research event in June. Details of all these events to be circulated to the Committee.

Linda Poulsen reported that on the planned felling of trees in the Riverside Nature Reserve as a result of ash die-back disease. She also suggested that the town council could help to publicise the Environment Agency’s water quality testing results for the Frome.

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that a request had been made by Ian Gosling that Dorset Council consider opening to the public part of the County Hall car park to assist visitors to the nearby museums. Cllr Biggs reported that this would not be possible as the car parks were in high demand by staff, especially as other public sector organisations were relocating to County Hall.

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

Matilda Manley reported that **The Keep military museum** was apply to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a resilience grant to assist with outreach whilst the museum is closed for repairs.

64. **QUESTIONS**

None were raised.

65. **URGENT ITEMS**

None were raised.

Chair.....