



Dorchester Town Council

Council Offices, 19 North Square, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 1JF

Telephone: (01305) 266861

For information about this agenda contact **Steve Newman, Town Clerk**
s.newman@dorchester-tc.gov.uk

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 26 January 2026 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 24 November 2025 (page 3).

4. **Police Update**

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

5. **Presentations, Communications and Motions**

- a) To receive a presentation from the Dorchester Youth Council.
- b) To receive communications from the Mayor and Town Clerk.
- c) 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	1 December 2025	Page 6
Planning & Environment Committee	7 January 2026	Page 12
Management Committee	12 January 2026	Page 18
Policy Committee	19 January 2026	Page 30

To note the Minutes of the following Joint Bodies

Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee	14 October 2025	Page 43
Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel	13 November 2025	Page 49

7. **Update from Dorset Council Members**

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



Steve Newman
Town Clerk
21 January 2026

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

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

Dorchester Town Council
Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee
1 December 2025

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

Apologies: Cllrs D. Leaper and V. Lloyd-Jones.

Also in attendance: Cllr W. Gibbons.

Matthew Besant, Senior Planning Manager (South West) for Places for People

Members of the public regarding agenda item 3.

45. 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.

46. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 November 2025 and ratified at Full Council on 24 November 2025 were signed by the chair.

47. Proposed Residential Development by Places for People – 'Crown Gate'

Proposals and Update

The Committee received a presentation from Matthew Besant, Senior Planning Manager (South West) for Places for People, regarding the proposed Crown Gate development at Poundbury.

The Committee heard that Places for People were intending to submit a planning application for the development of 57 dwellings, comprising a mix of houses and apartments to address local housing needs. The proposal would include 30 affordable housing units. The site previously had planning permission for an Over-50s development of 76 apartments and associated uses (Ref: WD/D/20/003168).

The Committee were told that the key elements of the revised proposal would include:

- The creation of a public viewing area facing north

- Provision of on-site parking
- Extensive landscaping to enhance the setting and improve biodiversity
- A pedestrian and cycle link to Poundbury Road via the new viewing area

The Committee heard that the affordable housing would include nine one-bedroom flats, as requested by Dorset Council, alongside additional 2 bed terraced housing. Concerns were raised by a member of the public regarding the positioning and density of affordable housing in relation to existing developments. The developer confirmed this would be reviewed. A member of the public expressed disappointment that the proposal did not include any retail or commercial provision, stating that this omission would limit the site's ability to serve the community effectively. They also highlighted the existing lack of postal facilities in the area.

Members of the Committee requested that consideration be given to:

- Vehicular access from Poundbury Road to alleviate traffic from Bridport Road, particularly during road closures.
- Incorporation of solar panels and rainwater harvesting systems, especially within apartment blocks.
- Inclusion of a lift in the apartment block designs.
- Clarification on maintenance of the public viewing area, confirmed as either the Management Company or the developer.

In response to a query regarding the revised proposal, Matthew Besant informed the Committee that there was currently no imminent demand for an Over-50s development.

48. Traffic Regulation Order Request for Dorchester Post Office

The Committee considered a request for loading restrictions outside the Post Office on Trinity Street. Members expressed support for the proposal and shared the concerns outlined within it. The Committee hoped that the restrictions would also help alleviate traffic congestion in the area. It was agreed that the Clerk would notify Dorset Council of the Committee's support for the proposed loading restrictions.

Resolved

That the clerk notify Dorset Council of the Committee's support for loading restrictions in Trinity Street.

49. 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 2, be submitted to Dorset Council.

50. Minute Update Report

There were no minute updates to note.

51. Planning Issues to Note

There were no planning issues to note.

Dorchester Town Council

Planning & Environment Committee – 1 December 2025

Planning Applications for Comment

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

E1. P/FUL/2025/06335 Former vehicle dealership 88 Prince of Wales Road Dorchester DT1 1HD

Change of use to a rental vehicle premises (Sui Generis) including parking (rental vehicle storage), erection of wash bay & associated works.

No Objection.

The Committee requested that the existing soft landscaping be protected.

E2. P/ADV/2025/06336 Former vehicle dealership 88 Prince of Wales Road Dorchester DT1 1HD

Display 1no. internally illuminated fascia sign, 1no. internally illuminated backwall sign, 1no. post sign & window/door decals.

No objection.

The Committee requested that the illuminated signage be switched off outside of working hours to minimise light pollution affecting nearby residences.

E3. P/HOU/2025/06462 11 Friars Close Dorchester DT1 2AD

Erect replacement garage and hipped roof canopy porch.

Affix cladding to painted / rendered areas on front elevation. (Demolish existing garage and canopy porch).

No objection.

E4. P/ADV/2025/06820 Casterbridge Court 32 London Road Dorchester DT1 1WY

Retain 4 no. non illuminated freestanding hanging sale signs.

No objection.

The Committee requested that a 12-month restriction be applied to the signage. Members felt that retaining the signage beyond this period would be detrimental to fostering a sense of place and community.

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

N1. P/LBC/2025/06302 Former Military Hospital Millers Close Marabout Industrial Estate Dorchester Dorset DT1 1YA

Alterations to facilitate the creation of a communal music venue, micro-brewery, communal & private function rooms & a communal pilates/yoga /craft room.

The Committee were supportive of the proposal in principle but raised concerns regarding the provision of toilets. Members also suggested that consideration be given to ensuring adequate lighting for pedestrian access.

N2. P/FUL/2025/06781 Former Military Hospital Millers Close Marabout Industrial Estate Dorchester Dorset DT1 1YA

Change of use & conversion to create a communal music venue (Sui Generis), micro-brewery (B2 Use & Sui Generis), communal & private function rooms (Sui Generis) & a communal pilates/yoga/craft room (F2b Use).

The Committee were supportive of the proposal in principle but raised concerns regarding the provision of toilets. Members also suggested that consideration be given to ensuring adequate lighting for pedestrian access.

N3. P/HOU/2025/06808 39 Cornwall Road Dorchester DT1 1RY

Erect single storey side extension with roof lights (Demolish Existing Side Extension).

No objection.

N4. P/FUL/2025/06934 6 Albert Road Dorchester DT1 1SF

Creation of 1no. flat on second floor.

No objection.

N5. P/LBC/2025/06895 47 Icen Way Dorchester DT1 1EW

Retain infill of door link.

No objection.

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

No applications received to date.

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

S1. P/HOU/2025/06994 24 Manor Road Dorchester DT1 2AU

Erect single storey flat roof side & rear extensions.

No objection.

S2. P/HOU/2025/07015 17 Barnes Way Dorchester DT1 2DZ

Convert loft into living accommodation with rear dormer windows.

No objection.

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

No applications received to date.

Dorchester Town Council
Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee
7 January 2026

Present: Councillors A. Canning (the Mayor ex-officio), R. Biggs, 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: F. Hogwood

Also in attendance: Cllr W. Gibbons.

52. 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.

53. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1 December 2025 were approved by the Committee signed by the chair.

54. 20mph Task and Finish Group Meeting Minutes

The Committee noted the minutes of the 20mph Task and Finish Group meeting held on 9 December 2025. The Committee requested that the Task and Finish Group consider zoning areas for any proposed speed restrictions.

55. Request for Pedestrian Crossing – Alington Avenue

The Committee considered a request for a pedestrian crossing between the two Sandringham Court bus stops on Alington Avenue. It was agreed that the request could not be supported due to insufficient footfall in the area. However, the Committee felt that measures to reduce vehicle speed would be beneficial.

Resolved:

That the Clerk contact Dorset Council to request the implementation of speed reduction measures near the bus stops on Alington Avenue.

56. 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.

57. Minute Update Report

Minute 26, Pedestrian Safety at Bitter End, of the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on 1 September 2025

The Committee heard that Councillors S. Jones, G. Jones and R. Potter had met with officers from Dorset Council's Road Safety Team on site to discuss their concerns about the junction at Bitter End. The Committee heard that a request would be made to the landowner of the neighbouring residential site to cut back vegetation to improve visibility and that additional measures for the area would be explored.

58. Planning Issues to Note

There were no planning issues to note.

Dorchester Town Council

Planning & Environment Committee – 7 January 2026

Planning Applications for Comment

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

E1. P/LBC/2025/07050 70 High Street Fordington Dorchester DT1 1LB

Replace damaged/rotten double-height timber window to the rear elevation.

No objection.

E2. P/HOU/2025/07275 61 Balmoral Crescent Dorchester DT1 2BN

Erect front porch.

No objection.

E3. P/FUL/2025/06461 Wessex Water Dorchester Water Recycling Centre St Georges Road Dorchester DT1 1PE

Retention of cabin building to be used as office accommodation.

No objection.

E4. P/FUL/2025/07300 Everest 29032 Restaurant 92 High Street Fordington Dorchester DT1 1LD

Change of use of first floor from single dwelling (Use Class C3) to a small house in multiple occupation (Use Class C4).

No objection.

E5. P/HOU/2025/06582 28 South Walks Road Dorchester DT1 1ED

Demolition & rebuilding of section of boundary wall, including southern pillar.

As the application has been submitted by a member of the Council, the Committee did not make comment on the application.

E6. P/LBC/2025/07503 1 Icen Way Dorchester DT1 1EW

Removal of an internal wall on both the ground and first floors, together with a modern timber post. New internal walling will be formed to create a small first-floor bathroom.

No objection.

E7. P/HOU/2025/07455 5 Dragons Court Dorchester DT1 1WR

Erect single storey rear extension.

No objection.

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

N1. P/ADV/2025/06823 Oak House Poundbury Road Dorchester DT1 1SW

Display 2no. internally illuminated fascia signs, 1 no. non illuminated projecting sign, 1 no. non illuminated freestanding sign, 1 no. non illuminated resident access sign.

No objection.

N2. P/LBC/2025/07232 38 South Street & 5A Trinity Street Dorchester

Rebuild the party wall between Nos. 38 and 39 South Street. Replace the ground-floor retail frontage and carry out internal alterations to create two residential flats across the upper floors. Install a new timber roof with natural slate finish and a dormer window. Replace all timber sash windows with slimline double-glazed units. Remove the external timber toilet at first-floor level and renew the rear extension roof with a flat roof. External works to include paint removal from front brickwork, stonework repairs, and replacement of rear cement render with lime render.

No objection.

N3. P/FUL/2025/07361 & P/LBC/2025/07362 (Listed Building Consent) 41 High West Street Dorchester DT1 1UT

Change of use & conversion from commercial premises to 3 no. flats

No objection.

N4. P/HOU/2025/07457 4 Wyvern Road Dorchester DT1 2PW

Erect detached double garage/workshop (Demolish existing garage).

No objection.

N5. P/VOC/2025/07568 Vespasian House Barrack Road Dorchester DT1 1TS

External alterations including the installation of balconies and doors (with variation to Condition No. 2 of Planning Permission No. P/FUL/2024/05819 to amend the approved plans).

No objection.

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

W1. P/HOU/2025/07493 8 Augustan Close Dorchester DT1 2QU

Erect front porch (demolish existing front porch).

No objection.

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

S1. P/HOU/2025/07351 60 Mellstock Avenue Dorchester DT1 2BQ

Erect single storey rear extension, rear balcony, external alterations and solar panels.

No objection.

S2. P/FUL/2025/06219 Pavement adj. to Dorchester South Railway Station 13 Copper Street Dorchester DT1 1QX

Installation of 1no. BT Street Hub.

No objection, subject to conditions.

The Committee welcomed the application, provided that assurances are given regarding:

- A commitment to offer the council at least 876 hours of council advertising per year.
- Provision of a community notice board featuring at least 1,000 hours of content in collaboration with local community groups.

As stated in the Street Hub Product Statement with the application.

Additionally, the Committee requested a condition that, should the hub become obsolete, BT will remove it promptly.

S3. P/ADV/2025/06218 Pavement adj. to Dorchester South Railway Station Copper Street Dorchester DT1 1QX

Installation of 1no. BT Street Hub.

No objection, subject to conditions.

The Committee welcomed the application, provided that assurances are given regarding:

- A commitment to offer the council at least 876 hours of council advertising per year.
- Provision of a community notice board featuring at least 1,000 hours of content in collaboration with local community groups.

As stated in the Street Hub Product Statement submitted with the application.

Additionally, the Committee requested a condition that, should the hub become obsolete, BT will remove it promptly.

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

P1. P/HOU/2025/07459 6 Wadebridge Lane Poundbury DT1 3AY

Erect single storey side extension and convert room above existing garage into stand-alone annexe with lift access.

No objection.

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

12th January 2026

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

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

In attendance:

Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles and J. Germodo.

Officers: Tony Hurley (Assistant Town Clerk – Corporate), Carl Dallison (Assistant Town Clerk – Outdoor Services) and Nigel Hayes (Responsible Financial Officer).

32. Declaration of Interests

Councillors L. Fry declared an interest in respect of Minute No. 38(a), Reconnection Dorset.

33. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10th November 2025, adopted by Council on 24th November 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

34. Revenue Budget 2026-27

The committee received a report from the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) setting out the proposed revenue budget along with proposed fees and charges for 2026-27. Cllr Fry asked if any increase in business rates could be accommodated in the budget and the RFO confirmed that this was the case.

Cllr Jones asked if the cost of rebuilding the Fordington Cemetery wall could be claimed on the council's insurance and the RFO stated that the wall was only insured up to £40,000 (a figure set by the insurers) with the rest to be met by the council's cemeteries reserve. The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) stated that the cost of rebuilding work would be determined by the outcome of negotiations with the Mill Street Housing Society with regard to the use of their land.

Cllr Fry queried whether the grants budget should be increased and asked that this be kept under review in the future. Cllr Rennie reminded the committee that the council would soon be taking over the administration of the Car Boot Grant Fund and could promote it to increase uptake.

Resolved:

- a) That the budget as set out at Appendix 1 is agreed for submission to Policy Committee for inclusion within the Council's overall budget for 2026-27.
- b) That fees and charges as set out in Appendix 2 are agreed.

35. Outdoor Services – Update Report – Late Winter

The committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services). It was reported that the Japanese Maples donated by local residents and the Friends of Borough Gardens would be planted soon. The Chair offered to write to the donors to thank them for their generosity. Members also enquired as to whether council sites had suffered from the recent increase in graffiti in the town – it was confirmed that no problems had been reported. With regard to graffiti on the Walks and elsewhere, members asked that officers bring back a report to the committee on the issue and whether the town council could help address the matter.

Resolved:

That the Outdoor Services update report be noted.

36. Borough Gardens Carpet Bed Design Options 2026

The committee received the report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) and discussed the options of a design linked either to the UK National Year of Reading or the Bayeux tapestry and the town's links with Bayeux.

Resolved:

That the committee delegate the final decision on the design to the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Management Committee.

37. Review of 2025 events programme and proposals for events in 2026.

The committee received the report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) setting out both a review of events held on council land during 2025 and proposals for events for 2026. Cllr Rennie asked if the council charged Dorchester Arts for use of Maumbury Rings and it was confirmed that this was not the case. Cllr Gibbons suggested that the town council has a stand at the Dorset Food & Art Festival on The Great Field.

Resolved:

That the Committee notes the review of the 2025 events programme and agrees the proposals for events and festivals in 2026.

38. **Grant Applications**

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance and it was

Resolved:

- (a) That no grant be awarded to Reconnection Dorchester CIC towards the cost of a promotional video.
- (b) That no grant be awarded to the Final Journey Project towards the cost of workshop expenses and marketing.
- (c) That a grant of £250 be awarded to the Dorchester Death Café project towards the cost of venue hire.

In respect of the Reconnection Dorset project for a community hub, members expressed their enthusiasm for the concept and its aims.

39. **Minutes of Dorchester Arts board meeting on 20th November 2025**

The minutes of the Dorchester Arts board meeting were considered by members.

Members suggested that the council's ownership and support for the Municipal Buildings be better recognised via internal signage. Cllr Kent-Ledger reported that this matter has been discussed at the Municipal Buildings Monitoring Group.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

40. **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.

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 actions of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 5517 to 5521 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Chair.....

APPENDIX 1

REVENUE BUDGET 2026/27	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
	Actual	Budget	Months	Budget
	£	£	£	£
PARKS & OPEN SPACES				
Electricity	21,228	15,000	8,840	18,000
Water	8,186	7,000	5,760	7,500
Rent	3,873	3,900	1,939	3,900
Rates	20,671	20,671	20,671	29,843
Premises Repairs & Maintenance	24,490	20,604	10,067	21,016
Other Repairs & Maintenance	46,823	56,508	28,006	57,638
Great Field Maintenance	29,111	30,600	12,405	30,000
Highway Trees Partnership	5,100	5,202	0	5,202
Legal Bills	1,950		575	
Walks Cleaning Contract	6,501	6,501	6,563	6,600
The Great Field Toilets	3,407	3,400	3,532	3,500
Office Team	53,697	60,117	29,746	65,272
Outdoor Services Team	490,457	568,172	279,247	577,140
To DTC Tree Works Reserve	20,000	20,000	20,000	6,000
To Reserves: Play Equipment	11,000	1,000	1,000	30,000
To Reserves: Great Field	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,500
To Reserves: Parks Premises	9,000	19,000	19,000	12,000
Total Expenditure	757,494	840,175	449,850	876,112
Tennis	-5,567	-6,500	-8,042	-8,000
Football	-970	-1,000	0	-1,000

Bowling Alley Walk Wayleave	-657	-657	-657	-657
Borough Gardens Flat Rental	-6,360	-6,360	-3,180	-6,360
Borough Gardens House Hire	-469	-4,500	-1,443	-5,000
Borough Gardens Kiosk	-1,725	-1,750	-2,531	-2,000
Louds Mill Depot Feed in Tariff	-1,405	-1,353	-974	-1,380
Pavilion RHI Payments	-1,030	-1,300	0	-1,300
Bowls Club Land & Water	-2,442	-5,500	-4,166	-5,500
Recharges & Sundry	-5,383	-3,865	-6,158	-3,865
Total Income	-26,009	-32,785	-27,152	-35,062
Met by Precept on Taxpayer	731,485	807,390	422,698	841,050

ALLOTMENTS

Water	1,861	3,060	1,382	3,060
Rent	1,119	1,119	1,119	1,119
Repairs, Maintenance & Pests	49	300	162	300
Subscriptions	55	55	70	70
Office Team	12,357	16,307	8,069	18,112
Outdoor Services Team	20,030	22,636	11,125	23,672
Total Expenditure	35,470	43,477	21,926	46,333
Rents, Water & Wayleaves	-15,593	-15,000	-1,786	-15,000
Met by Precept on Taxpayer	19,877	28,477	20,140	31,333
Appendix 1 (contd.)	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27

	Actual	Budget	Months	Budget
	£	£	£	£

MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

Salaries	22,287	25,000	12,390	25,607
Overtime		0	0	0

National Insurance	765	2,250	1,108	2,341
Pensions	4,909	5,500	2,726	5,377
Dorchester Arts Grant ex Staff	42,922	43,780	44,227	45,996
Training Courses	400	200	0	200
Repairs & Maintenance	16,497	16,000	11,537	16,000
Rates	9,600	0	0	0
Telephone		0	0	0
Office Team	16,774	19,252	9,526	20,256
Outdoor Services Team	7,789	7,945	3,905	8,466
To Reserves: Repay Corporate Projects	260,000	5,082	5,082	75,000
To Reserves: FOH Works		239,000	239,000	
To Reserves: Municipal Buildings	12,500	20,000	20,000	80,000
Total Expenditure	394,444	384,008	349,500	279,244
OFGEM RHI	-1,439	-1,500	-181	-1,500
Total Income	-1,439	-1,500	-181	-1,500
Met by Precept on Taxpayer	393,005	382,508	349,319	277,744

CEMETERIES

Electricity	580	800	326	800
Water, Service Charges & Cesspit	1,115	650	1,179	1,203
Rates	8,134	8,134	8,134	8,541
General Maintenance	5,541	3,800	2,536	3,800
Cemetery Grass Cutting	18,408	22,471	9,907	24,116
Office Team	43,672	50,477	24,976	52,296
Outdoor Services Team	38,113	41,567	20,430	43,872
To Reserves: Cemeteries	6,100	10,000	10,289	95,000
Total Expenditure	121,662	137,899	77,775	229,627

Burial Fees & Chapel	-25,958	-35,000	-12,606	-33,000
ERBs, Memorials & Inscriptions	-25,846	-35,000	-16,666	-33,000
Total Income	-51,804	-70,000	-29,272	-66,000
Met by Precept on Taxpayer	69,859	67,899	48,504	163,627

Appendix 1 (contd.)	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
	Actual	Budget	6	Budget
			Months	
	£	£	£	£
CULTURAL & TWINNING				
In House Events	12,327	12,750	7,215	13,005
Christmas Lights	5,448	8,000	158	9,000
To Christmas Lights Reserve				9,000
Partner Events & Sponsorship	8,388	10,200	16,203	6,404
Kite Festival				4,000
Heritage Events	8,500	8,500	8,000	8,500
Grants	10,001	10,000	4,325	10,000
Special Items		0	0	0
People Need Nature Annual Grant		4,000	4,000	4,000
Support for Dorchester Arts Grant	7,547	7,698	7,698	8,006
Support for Dorchester Arts Staff	9,000	9,000	8,624	9,000
Twinning	299	700	762	800
Offices Team	15,732	18,181	8,996	21,300
Met by Precept on Taxpayer	77,242	89,029	65,981	103,015

OUTDOOR SERVICES TEAM

Salaries	349,748	407,868	178,853	409,830
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Overtime	14,005	9,000	12,852	14,000
National Insurance	29,835	49,780	21,919	51,574
Pensions	68,800	89,731	37,366	86,064
Agency Staff	9,272		0	
Training & Subsistence	2,377	2,000	3,365	2,500
Subscriptions	375	400	0	400
Vehicle/Mower Costs and Repairs	18,675	14,253	12,371	14,539
Tools, Equip, Signs, Servicing	6,900	14,045	7,536	14,326
Health & Safety & Protective Clothing	4,419	2,550	1,112	2,601
Fuel	7,812	9,364	3,965	9,551
Cleaning/Bin Liners/Dog Bags	8,179	8,308	3,697	8,724
Waste Services	14,646	10,000	9,104	16,000
Telephones	1,345	1,020	566	1,040
Advertising			0	
To Reserves: Vehicles & Equipment	20,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
Total recharged to Services	556,389	640,320	314,707	653,150
Recharged to				
Parks and Open Spaces	490,457	568,172	279,247	577,140
Allotments	20,030	22,636	11,125	23,672
Cemeteries	38,113	41,567	20,430	43,872
Municipal Buildings	7,789	7,945	3,905	8,466
Recharged to Services	556,389	640,320	314,707	653,150

APPENDIX 2 – FEES & CHARGES

CEMETERIES FEES:

		1 Apr 25	1 Apr 26
Interments			
a) An infant under 2 years or stillborn		Nil	Nil
b) A person aged 2 years or older		£750	£760
c) A casket of ashes		£210	£220
Scattering of ashes			
a) In a previously used plot or in the Poundbury Pavilion chamber		£68	£70
b) In the Garden of Remembrance		£35	£38
Exclusive rights of burial in earthen graves			
For an exclusive right for 50 years, including Memorial Rights in an earthen grave:			
a) Full Sized Plot		£1025	£1035
End of term Renewal for 25 years		£855	£875
b) Ashes plots and infant under 2 years		£675	£680
End of term Renewal for 25 years		£530	£540

Additional Interment, Scattering and Exclusive Rights fees will be charged for:

- Non-residents – fee doubled. Residence is defined as living in Dorchester or Winterborne Herringston, within previous 10 years or previously resident for at least 25 years.
- Non-standard grave sizes – additional fee to be agreed with the Funeral Director

Monuments, gravestones, tablets and monumental inscriptions

Right to erect or place a headstone, footstone, tablet, flat stone, plaque, or monument in any other form at any site not subject to Exclusive Right of Burial	£240	£250
Additional inscription on a gravestone or other memorial (for each deceased)	£120	£130

BOROUGH GARDENS COMMUNITY ROOM HIRE FEES:

Current Fees:

2025/2026	Per Session*	Hourly Rate	Hourly from 5pm
Voluntary & Community Orgs	£61.00	£29.00	£41.00
Non-Commercial or Private	£71.00	£31.00	£46.00
Commercial	£97.00	£41.00	£66.00

Proposed Fees:

2026/2027	Per Session*	Hourly Rate
Voluntary & Community Orgs	£61.00	£15.25
Non-Commercial or Private	£73.00	£18.25
Commercial	£97.00	£24.25

* Session times are: 8.00-13.00, 13.00-17.00 and 17.00-23.00.

TENNIS FEES:

Annual Membership: £50

Discount on annual membership for Dorchester (DT1) residents: -£15

Coaching Fees: As agreed at Management Committee in March 2025:

- Annual membership fee – coaches will pay an annual membership fee of £35 p.a.
- Coaches will pay the council a fee of £6.00 per hour for any coaching sessions.
- A maximum of ten 2-hour bookings for coaching in any 7-day period.
- Anyone being coached by the coach must have annual membership.

FEES FOR HIRE OF COUNCIL LAND:

Fee Category	Fees 2026-27*
Commercial rate: for hire of land by commercial organisations for a commercial purpose.	£500 per day plus VAT
Concessionary rate: for hire of land by a charity/commercial organisational for an event aimed at family / children or other community benefit (as judged by the Town Clerk).	£250 per day plus VAT
Community rate: for hire of council land by social enterprise, charity, or community group for a free-to-enter community event.	No fee

- * Town Clerk to be authorised to offer discounts on the hire fees for repeat/regular bookings and to attract new events.

Dorchester Town Council

Policy Committee

19 January 2026

Present: The Mayor (Councillor A. Canning) and Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles (Chair), G. Jones, V. Lloyd-Jones, K. Reid and R. Ricardo.

In Attendance

Councillors W. Gibbons, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper and M. Rennie.

Apologies: Councillors J. Germodo and D. Taylor.

36. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17 November 2025, adopted by Council on 24 November 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

37. Declaration of Interests

Councillor W. Gibbons declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Minute No 43, Dorchester Literary Festival.

Councillor R. Biggs left the meeting during consideration of Minute No 41, Dorset Council – Dorchester Assets.

38. Finance Update

Members considered a report by the Finance Officer which updated them on the financial position of the Council as at end of December 2025, the amount of earmarked reserves as at the end of December 2025, the level of debt over 30 days and gave details of the payments list from 1 November 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Resolved

- (1) That the payments list, totalling £304,067.85 be approved.
- (2) That the remainder of the report be noted.

39. Medium Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2026-27

The Committee considered a report of the Finance Officer covering the draft budget for the Policy Committee, the overall Revenue Budget, the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and levels of Reserves.

The Finance Officer responded to Members detailed questions.

Recommended

That the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2026-27, as set out in the Appendices 1 to 4 of these Minutes, be adopted, to include: -

- A Council Tax Band D charge of £218.83, an increase of £4.29 (2%)
- A precept of £1,913,842, an increase of 4.9%

40. Calendar of Meetings 2026-27

The Town Clerk presented a draft calendar of meetings for 2026-27.

The Committee discussed the format of the informal Annual Town Meeting and agreed that it should continue in the same format as it had been previously.

Recommended

- (1) That the Calendar of Meetings 2026-27, as set out in Appendix 5 to these Minutes, be agreed.
- (2) That an informal Annual Town Meeting be held in the Corn Exchange on Friday 8 May 2026 commencing at 11.00am.

41. Dorset Council – Dorchester Assets

Members had before them a list of assets held by Dorset Council within the DT1 area. Dorset Council had excluded some of its assets from the list for confidentiality reasons. The Committee considered the list with a view to identifying any assets that might be suitable for community transfer. It was noted that inclusion on the list did not necessarily make the asset available for transfer.

Resolved

That the Dorset Council asset list be noted.

42. Wessex Water – Watermark Dorchester

The Committee received a report by the Development Assistant on progress with becoming a Wessex Water Watermark town. It was noted that it was likely that Wessex Water would announce that Dorchester had achieved Watermark status at the Informal Annual Town Meeting to be held in May.

The Development Assistant responded to Members detailed questions.

Resolved

That the progress made towards becoming a Watermark town be noted.

43. Dorchester Literary Festival – 17 – 24 October 2026

The Committee gave consideration to sponsoring the eleventh annual Dorchester Literary Festival. It was noted that other sponsors included Dorchester BID, Thomas Hardy Society and the Duchy of Cornwall.

Members felt that the event should be supported and that the Council be a 'Headline Sponsor' at a cost of £550. It was felt that the Town Clerk should agree the event that the Council was sponsoring to ensure it aligned with the Council's general philosophy.

It was noted that the Festival Organisers would be invited to a future meeting of Council to brief Members on the Festival.

Members felt that, apart from for the Mayor, the complimentary tickets allocated as a part of the sponsorship package should not be taken so they could be released for general sale.

Resolved

That the Council become an 'Headline Event Sponsor' of the Dorchester 2026 Dorchester Literary Festival at a cost of £550.

44. Appointments Panel

The Town Clerk reported that Councillors W. Gibbons and F. Hogwood had withdrawn their applications to be members of the Appointments Panel and it was

Recommended

That Councillor's S. Biles, L. Fry, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger and V. Lloyd-Jones be appointed to the Appointments Panel.

Chair.....

APPENDIX 1

	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
	Actual	Budget	6 Months	Budget
CORPORATE & DEMOCRATIC	£	£	£	£
Members Allowance	24,059	24,440	12,433	25,539
Members Training & Travel	470	500	23	250
Civic & Ceremonial Expenses	4,567	1,500	1,521	1,750
Mayoral Expenses	8,521	13,369	8,555	13,637
Town Crier	600	600	300	600
New Town Crier Expenses	4,598	0	0	0
Elections Reserve	13,459	0		3,000
Entertaining & Gifts	3,725	428	5	437
Youth Council & Democracy Day	1,034	1,000	252	750
Office Team	233,498	257,365	127,344	284,858
Met by Precept on Taxpayer	294,531	299,203	150,433	330,821
OTHER SERVICES				
Tourism Development	7,962	8,160	3,202	8,323
Sawmills rent	8,600	8,600	4,300	11,875
To Public Realm Reserve	5,000	5,000	5,000	0
To Arts & Cultural Reserve - DBC	0	0		0
Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Citizens Advice	8,793	9,246	9,116	9,481
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre	21,200	28,000	14,000	28,000
Keep 106				15,000
Dorchester Ballet Club	10,894	0	0	
Apprenticeships	11,019	0	0	0

Videographer	1,335	2,000	0	2,000
Footfall Counter		3,400	2,120	3,400
Debt Charges	16,104	15,457	7,000	14,809
Staff - Tourism/Community/Assistant	120,546	160,780	79,554	154,608
Total Expenditure	214,454	243,643	127,291	250,496
Treasury Interest	-101,408	-65,000	-36,502	-60,000
Sawmills rent recharged	-4,300	-4,300	0	-5,938
Market Income	-25,698	-26,000	0	-18,309
Total Income	-131,406	-95,300	-36,502	-84,247
Met by Precept on Taxpayer	83,047	148,343	90,789	166,249

Appendix 1 Continued	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
	Actual	Budget	6 Months	Budget
OFFICES TEAM	£	£	£	£
Salaries	304,175	356,773	167,557	378,578
Employers National Insurance	30,222	45,266	20,639	47,787
Employers LGPS Pension	67,869	78,490	37,083	79,501
Training Courses	7,642	9,000	7,717	10,000
Travel & Subsistence	1,708	3,000	1,310	2,000
New Town Clerk Appointment				3,500
Subscriptions (Professional Bodies)	3,272	3,800	3,481	4,000
Cleaning Materials	346	500	191	500
Rates	5,614	5,614	5,614	5,614
Electricity	3,930	4,500	1,636	4,500
Gas	-227		0	0
Water	543	600	246	600
Repairs, Maintenance & Equipment	3,522	3,400	389	5,400

Financial Services inc Audit, Bank & Sage	7,637	9,020	6,729	9,200
Employment Law and H & S	3,907	4,000	4,014	4,020
Legal & Professional Fees, Advertising	40	500	0	500
Insurance	34,908	40,000	26,505	42,000
Stationery & Equipment	1,161	1,200	891	1,200
Newsletter	5,658	5,415	2,123	6,000
IT, Printing & Copying	13,768	12,000	1,196	12,000
New Website		0	0	0
Mobile Phones	920	600	110	600
Photocopier Charges	501	0	0	0
Postage	848	600	777	890
Total Expenditure	497,965	584,278	288,210	618,391
Recharge to Dorchester Markets Panel	-1,688	-1,800	0	-1,688
Net Expenditure recharged to Services	496,277	582,478	288,210	616,703
<hr/>				
Recharged to				
Corporate & Democratic Management	233,498	257,365	127,344	284,858
Allotments	12,357	16,307	8,069	18,112
Development	120,546	160,780	79,554	154,608
Cemeteries	43,672	50,477	24,976	52,296
Parks & Open Spaces	53,697	60,117	29,746	65,272
Municipal Buildings	16,774	19,252	9,526	20,256
Cultural Activity & Twinning	15,732	18,181	8,996	21,300
	496,276	582,479	288,210	616,703
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2026/27

Markets	Budget £
Salaries	32,367
Employers National Insurance	3,355
Employers LGPS Pension	6,797
Training	1,000
Mobile Phone	336
Repairs & Maintenance	20,000
Electricity	6,200
Water	1,600
Toilet Costs (2/7 Share)	2,400
Subscriptions	1,084
Recharge Dorset Council	15,634
Recharge DTC	1,688
Total Expenditure	92,461
Market Fees	-54,243
Car Boot	-23,732
Cornhill Traders	-12,987
Rents - Corn Market and Café	-22,100
Fairfield Car Park	-56,226
Total Income	-169,288
Surplus	-76,827
Distribution of Surplus	
Sunday Market Reserve	21,359
Dorset Council (65%)	36,054
Dorchester Town Council (35%)	19,414
Markets Balance	76,827

APPENDIX 2

REVENUE BUDGET 2026/27	2024/25	2025/26	2025/26	2026/27
	Actual	Budget	6 Month	Budget
	£	£	£	£
Parks & Open Spaces	731,485	807,390	422,698	841,050
Allotments	19,877	28,477	20,140	31,333
Municipal Buildings	393,005	382,508	349,319	277,744
Cemeteries	69,859	67,899	48,504	163,627
Markets				0
Cultural & Twinning Activities	77,242	89,029	65,981	103,015
Corporate & Democratic Markets	294,531	299,203	150,433	330,821
Other Services	83,047	148,343	90,789	166,249
Operational Budget	1,669,047	1,822,850	1,147,865	1,913,839
Precept	1,726,115	1,822,939	1,822,939	1,913,842
Transfer to General Reserves	57,068	89	675,074	3
Subjective Analysis of Revenue				
Employees	955,230	1,069,658		1,146,335
External Payments	585,052	610,536		802,979
Transfers to Earmarked	340,600	343,582		331,500
Capital Financing Costs	16,104	15,457		14,809
Income	-227,939	-216,385		-372,785
Transfer from Earmarked	0	0		0
Operational Budget	1,669,047	1,822,848	0	1,922,839
General Reserve				
Opening Balance at 1 April	177,314	100,000		100,000
Transfer from Ops Budget	57,068	91		3
To Corporate Projects Reserve	77,314	0		0
Closing Balance at 31 March	157,068	100,091		100,003
Earmarked Reserves				
Opening Balance at 1 April	1,488,384	1,157,365		1,576,504
Transfer from Revenue	452,614	343,582		334,500
Other Income & Transfers	416,532	0		0
Expenditure from Reserves	752,466	512,422		825,020
Closing Balance 31 March	1,605,063	988,525		1,085,984
All Reserves held at year end	1,762,131	1,088,616		1,185,987
Tax Base	8,091.30	8,497.10		8,745.90
Band D Charge	210.33	214.536600		218.8273320
O/s PWLB Debt at 31 March	42,000	28,000		14,000

APPENDIX 3

Medium Term Financial Strategy	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29
	Actual	Budget	Budget	Forecast	Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Revenue Budget					
Employees	955	1,070	1,146	1,169	1,193
External Payments	585	611	803	819	835
Transfers to Earmarked	341	344	332	353	360
Capital Financing Costs	16	15	15	15	16
Income	-228	-216	-373	-380	-388
Operational Budget	1,669	1,823	1,923	1,977	2,016
Precept	1,702	1,823	1,914	1,952	1,991
Transfer to General Reserves	33	0	-9	-24	-25
General Reserve					
Opening Balance at 1 April	132	133	100	100	100
Transfer from/to Operational Budget	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to Corporate Projects Reserve	32	33	0	0	0
Closing Balance at 31 March	100	100	100	100	100
Earmarked Reserves					
Opening Balance at 1 April	1,488	1,605	1,577	1,086	1,139
Transfers/Payments in to Reserves	869	447	335	353	360
Payments/Transfers out from Reserves	752	476	825	400	200
Closing Balance 31 March	1,605	1,577	1,086	1,039	1,299
All Reserves held at year end	1,705	1,677	1,186	1,139	1,399
Corporate Project Unallocated at Year End	755	755	505	255	255
Outstanding Debt at Year End	£k	56	42	28	14
Council Tax	£k	210	215	219	223
Tax Base		8,091	8,497	8,746	8,746

APPENDIX 4

RESERVES	Cttee	Balance	Paid In	Spend	Balance	Paid In	Spend	Balance	Reason for holding Reserve	
		Mar 25	25/26	25/26	Mar 26	26/27	26/27	Mar 27		
Earmarked Reserves		£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
Infrastructure & Equipment										
Cemeteries	Man	36,931	10,000	27,209	19,722	95,000	90,000	24,722	Cemetery Wall	
	Man	56,994	20,000	51,566	25,428	80,000	80,000	25,428	Clock tower and other building works	
MB Repairs & Maintenance										
MB Front of House works	Man	31,643	259,000	290,643	0	0	0	0		
Parks Premises	Man	10,054	19,000	1,470	27,584	12,000	0	39,584	Buildings/infrastructure refurb.	
Play Equipment	Man	29,715	1,000	13,503	17,212	30,000	30,000	17,212	Equipment replacement	
Great Field Reserve	Man	11,000	2,500	0	13,500	2,500	0	16,000		
Tree Reserve	Man	13,663	20,000	6,547	27,116	6,000	12,000	21,116	Tree Works	
Tennis Courts Reserve	Man	10,800	2,000	0	12,800	0	0	12,800	Tennis Courts Repairs	
19 North Square Refurb	Pol	11,000	0	0	11,000	0	11,000	0		
Public Realm	Pol	440,310	5,000	5,000	440,310	0	280,000	160,310	Infrastructure refurb	
Vehicles & Equipment	Man	113,473	22,400	45,171	90,702	22,000	50,000	62,702	Fleet & equipment replacement	

Cultural

Arts & Culture	Man	4,872	1,000	125	5,747	0	0	5,747	
Christmas Lights	Man	4,420	0	0	4,420	9,000	12,000	1,420	Replace lights
DTC Website & IT	Man	1,230	1,431	2,661	0	0	0	0	£3k DTC Website, £4,651.87 IT
Tourist Information	Pol	33,975	0	10,000	23,975	0	5,000	18,975	TIC Replacement Projects

Miscellaneous Reserves

Corporate Projects	Pol	714,958	27,082	8,021	734,019	75,000	250,000	559,019	Own or partner capital projects
Elections Reserve	Pol					3,000	0	3,000	Cost of Elections
Apprenticeship Reserve	Pol	16,565	0	0	16,565	0	0	16,565	
Planning Advice Reserve	Pol	18,499	0	0	18,499	0	5,000	13,499	20mph Project
Climate Emergency Reserve	Pol	30,949	57,068	14,104	73,913	0	0	73,913	Own or partner Climate projects
Graves In Perpetuity	Man	14,011	0	20	13,991	0	20	13,971	Maint. and flowers on 6 graves
General Reserve	Pol	157,068	0	57,068	100,000	0	0	100,000	General Emergency Fund
Total Reserves		1,762,130	447,481	533,107	1,676,504	334,500	825,020	1,185,984	

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026-27

APPENDIX 5

	2026									2027				
	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	
COUNCIL	18 MM 19 (Tu)		27		28		30		25		29		24 MM 25 (Tu)	
POLICY	11		20		21		23		18		22	MS@ 1830		17
MANAGEMENT	5 (Tu)		13		14		16		11		15			10
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	-	1	6	3	7	5	2	7	5 (Tue)	1	1	5		4 (Tue)
MARKETS JOINT PANEL		3 (Wed) 1430		5 (Wed) 1730		7 (Wed) 1430		2 (Wed) 1730		3 (Wed) 1430		7 (Wed) 1730		
HERITAGE JOINT			21 (Tu) 1730			13 (Tu) 1730			19 (Tu) 1730			13 (Tu) 1730		

SITE VISITS		2 (Tu) 0930			1 (Tu) 0930								
CIVIC EVENTS		8- IATM @1100 19 - ATM 31 (Sun) THW @1330					Remem Sunday 8						25 ATM
BANK HOLIDAYS	4,25			31				25, 28	1		26, 29	30	3,31

MM Mayor Making

MS Mayoral Selection Committee

THW Thomas Hardy Wreath laying

ATM Formal Annual Town Meeting

IATM Informal Annual Town Meeting

Meetings will ordinarily take place at 1900 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings.

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

14th OCTOBER 2025

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 14th October 2025:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	G. Jones (Chair)
		F. Kent-Ledger
		S. Jones
	Officers:	N. Hayes
		M. Manley
Dorset Council	Councillors:	R. Biggs
		R. Tarr
		L. Fry
Dorset Museum & Art Gallery		C. Dixon
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
Local Nature Reserve		L. Poulsen
Dorset Council - Archaeology		S. Wallis
Dorchester Civic Society		I. Gosling & J. Doak
Dorset History Centre		M. Gayton
Thomas Hardy Society		M. Chutter

13. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Taylor and S. Biles (Dorchester Town Council), Councillor R. Major (Dorset Council), M. Woodgate, J. Wallis, R. White, A. Harrison and V. Smith.

14. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd July 2025, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

15. **DECLARATION OF PREDETERMINATION**

None were declared.

16. **BUDGET UPDATE**

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

Councillor G. Jones gave an update on the Friends of Dorchester West grant and the event that ran alongside it in the Borough Gardens House. The event was covered by the Dorset Echo.

Councillor Tarr thanked Friends of Dorchester West and partners for their work on the project.

RESOLVED

That the budget update be noted.

17. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Matilda Manley presented an update on progress with the Heritage Tourism Strategy and the work of the Tourism Partnership.

Tourism Partnership are re-doing the Hardy trail signs, making Dorchester the base for Hardy visitors, better walking routes from Dorchester to Hardy Cottage and Max Gate. Councillor Tarr highlighted Hardy's love for cycling, the National Trust have shown an interest in signposting Hardy cycling routes. Councillor Tarr to liaise with Matilda Manley.

Members raised questions about the footpath adjacent to the household recycling centre and if improvements could be made. Members requested better signage. Matilda Manley to contact Dorset Council Rights of Way.

RESOLVED

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

18. **PROPOSAL INFORMATION PLAQUE FOR SYLVIA TOWNSEND WARNER**

Mark Chutter reported a revised version of the information board wording is being worked on this week with less text and a better structure. This will be a freestanding board in between the two benches, and it has planning permission. The statue will be unveiled at the Christmas Cracker. Councillor S. Jones advised the board should not overshadow the Hardy board.

Councillor G Jones suggested the Hardy sign on the side of Hotter Shoes needs to be improved. The Thomas Hardy Society will investigate.

M Chutter thanked the committee and J Doak for all the work.

RESOLVED

That the Committee lends its support to the creation of the information panel regarding the Sylvia Townsend Warner statue subject to revised wording.

19. PROPOSED BLUE PLAQUE FOR 51 HIGH WEST STREET, DORCHESTER

Mark Chutter presented a request from the owners of 51 High West Street for the Committee to fund the fabrication of a Blue Plaque for the building to commemorate its association with Thomas Hardy and the house to be called 'Thomas Hardy Town House'

Councillor S. Jones requested the dates Hardy lived at the property are included on the plaque.

M. Chutter to review text for sign and bring back to committee for approval.

Members raised questions on the number and location of blue plaques in Dorchester. Dorchester Association to investigate.

RESOLVED

That the Committee agrees to fund the fabrication of a Blue Plaque for 51 High West Street to commemorate the property's links with Thomas Hardy.

20. PROPOSAL FOR THOMAS HARDY VICTORIAN FAYRE 2026

A proposal from the Assistant Town Clerk for holding the biennial Thomas Hardy Victorian Fayre was considered by the committee.

Councillor G. Jones, M. Chutter, and J. Doak requested to be involved with the event planning.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) agrees the date of 31st May 2026 for the Thomas Hardy Victorian Fayre.
- b) allocates £10,000 to the event from the Committee's events budget.
- c) agrees the procurement of the services of an event organiser to oversee the planning and implementation of the Fayre.

21. ON-GOING PROJECTS

Updates on the following were received:

- a) **Heritage Open Day 2025**, was deemed a success. The walks and visits worked well. Councillor Fry raised an issue with people booking on Eventbrite and not turning up, suggested raising the capacity. Councillor G. Jones considered it a success. Mark Chutter felt it went well. Matilda Manley questioned if it should be a two-day event based on feedback received. Dorset Museum was full to capacity for the events. History Centre numbers were low they would not do it in the same format in the future, possibly just tours in 2026. Thanks for support were noted to J Doak and Civic Society, and the Kings Arms. The date for 2026 was noted as likely the 13th September 2026.
- b) **Town Pump enhancement project.** Ian Gosling stated that the project is progressing, stonemasons (Tudor Rose) have been consulted and looked at the project with architect. X-Ray results recommended not lifting the column in one piece or trying to get mortar in. It has been agreed it will be dismantled allowing the pipework to be installed inside. Cost c.£42,000 inc VAT plus cost of scaffolding and work site, total c.£50,000.
- c) **The Dorchester Story project.** Joe Doak updated, a rolling program of work focused on sections at a time, starting with Roman Dorchester, working with 3rd Year History students at Bournemouth University, material handed over to Matilda Manley. A meeting to be arranged with Discover Dorchester website provider to upload the Roman section. Preview of work to be shown at next committee meeting. Going forward the Civic Society is looking to work with BU students again.
- d) **Thomas Hardy statue.** M Chutter updated to say it will be cleaned by Tudor Rose. It cannot be turned around due to cost. More information on the statue was requested. THS have images of the unveiling, request for an information board. Matilda Manley stated that the statue cleaning will be photographed. Members agreed information was needed. L Fry suggested William Barnes statue also needed information. Thomas Hardy Society to investigate information boards.
- e) **Moule Project.** A meeting has taken place; they will come back to Heritage Committee when more details are available.
- f) **Roman Baths interpretation project.** Gareth Jones put forward his aspiration of the better interpretation of the Roman Baths. Joe Doak felt it would be well supported. Steve Wallis reported a lot of the baths were under the trees, but he backed the idea. Matilda and Gareth to meet with Tony Hurley to move forward.
- g) The Civic Society water meadows assessment is ongoing.

22. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

Councillor R Biggs: Dorset Council asset disposal going to Cabinet. Amongst other items the old library and All Saints Church are assets under consideration in Dorchester. The Civic Society raised concerns about disposal of All Saints Church.

Dorchester Association: Michael Rice provided an update on the Association's event on the 1 November at the Dorford Centre, marking 40 years since the last excavations at Maiden Castle. Tickets are selling well, with over 100 sold.

The Dorchester Association have been working with a podcaster from the USA enquiring about John White's house and the movement of people to USA including visits to the History Centre and Dorset Museum. With the 400th anniversary of sailing to USA approaching, Michael Rice requested this item goes on the next agenda.

Maria Gayton followed up by requesting Jo Loosemore gives a presentation on what they have done in Plymouth (Plymouth 400). Maria Gayton to investigate.

Thomas Hardy Society: Mark Chutter reported on the war poets conference coming to Dorchester for Remembrance weekend, based at Dorford Centre, bringing c.200 people into town.

Dorset Museum & Art Gallery. Claire Dixon reported digital guide set to go live to access content and stories. Digitisation of publications will save on printing costs. The Jane Austin exhibition was a success. Open Art Exhibition opens on 17th October in partnership with Dorset Visual Arts. The 2026 treasure exhibition is already generating interest.

Dorset History Centre – Maria Gayton reported on capital project bid is due to be submitted on 7th November, results in March. History Centre now has an events page on its website with many events coming up.

Dorset Council archaeology service – Steve Wallis reported that excavation took place in West Walks on old tennis courts in August. Previous research suggested it was likely to be have been built on pits that were dug to build the Roman defences, this was confirmed. A number of objects were also discovered.

Dorchester Civic Society: Several events coming up, including running a joint event on the 28 October event with Crickmay Architects about the restoration of buildings in Dorchester.

Shire Hall: The Committee Clerk read out an update on behalf of Shire Hall: A new exhibition entitled 'Fabrics of Protest' opens in November, showcasing historic banners from the Unite Union. The museum is also in the process of recruiting consultants to draft options for the future of Shire Hall with support from National Lottery and in partnership with Dorset Council and the National Trust.

23. **QUESTIONS**

None were raised.

24. **URGENT ITEMS**

None were raised.

Chair.....



DORCHESTER MARKETS INFORMAL JOINT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2025

Present: Cllrs Laura Beddow, Janet Hewitt, Sally Holland, Rob Hughes, Stella Jones, Fiona Kent-Ledger, Kate Reid, Molly Rennie and Sarah Williams

Apologies: Cllrs Dave Bolwell, Simon Christopher, Jed Germodo, Jill Haynes and Roland Tarr

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Graham Duggan (Head of Community & Public Protection), Joshua Kennedy (Democratic Services Officer), Hannah Massey (Lawyer - Regulatory), Steve Newman (Town Clerk) and Louis Wicks (Democratic Services Officer Apprentice)

64. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 30 July were confirmed and signed.

65. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

66. Public Participation

There were no public questions.

67. Urgent Items

The Chair raised an urgent item, to address the requirement for the membership of the Car Boot Fund Panel.

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Jones.

Decision: That Cllr Reid, Cllr Hewitt and Cllr Holland be appointed to the Car Boot Panel in addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair.

68. Draft Market Agreement

The Head of Community and Public Protection presented the draft market agreement report to the panel and invited members to comment on the report.

Members asked for further clarification about the financial arrangements for car parking in Fairfield Car Park, particularly in regard to the boundaries of the car park.

It was confirmed that both Dorset Council and Dorchester Town Council would have liability insurance, which would cover their respective roles in the market.

The Head of Community and Public Protection provided a suggested change to the Terms of Reference to widen the area from which Dorset Council members can be appointed from to ensure that there will always be 3 members from Dorset Council. It was proposed by Cllr Beddow and seconded by Cllr Williams, that this amendment be accepted.

Decision: That para (b) of the Terms of Reference be amended to allow appointments from Dorset Council to be from the remainder of the Dorset Council administrative area if a Dorchester Ward Member cannot be appointed.

Proposed by Cllr Beddow and seconded by Cllr Hewitt.

Decision: That the draft agreement be referred for approval to Dorset Council and Dorchester Town Council, with the agreed change to the Terms of Reference.

69. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 2.00 - 2.40 pm

Chairman

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