

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 30 March 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 26 January 2026 (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 Emma Teasdale, Litter Free Dorset.
- 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 | 2 February 2026 | Page 6 |
| Planning & Environment Committee | 2 March 2026 | Page 10 |
| Management Committee | 16 March 2026 | Page 17 |
| Mayoral Selection Committee | 23 March 2026 | Page 21 |
| Policy Committee | 23 March 2026 | Page 22 |

To note the Minutes of the following Joint Bodies

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---------|
| Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee | 26 January 2026 | Page 27 |
| Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel | 28 January 2026 | Page 32 |

7. **Appointments Panel**

The Chair of the Appointments Panel to report on the outcome of the process to recruit a new Dorchester Town Clerk.

8. **Calander of Meetings 2026-27**

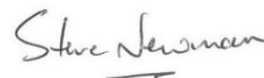
To consider changing the date of the Planning and Environment Committee in January 2027. The date presently scheduled is Tuesday 5 January 2027, if the date is changed to Thursday 7 January 2027 it allows those applications received between Christmas and New Year to be included.

9. **Outside Body Reports**

To note a report by the Town Clerk (enclosed at Page 35) and the reports from the Council's outside body representatives (sent separately).

10. **Update from Dorset Council Members**

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



Steve Newman
Town Clerk
25 March 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

26 January 2026

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

Apologies: Councillors P. Farmer, J. Germodo, F. Hogwood, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Major and D. Taylor.

45. David Barrett

The Mayor reported that former Mayor and Councillor David Barrett had recently died. David had previously served on the Council for sixteen years and was Mayor in 2007-8. Members stood in silence to his memory.

46. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

47. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2025, were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

48. Police Matters

Sergeant Ian Schofield was unable to attend the meeting.

49. Presentations, Communications and Motions

The Council received a presentation from the Dorchester Youth Council which updated Members on its past activities and plans for the future. Representatives from the Youth Council responded to Councillors detailed questions.

The Council recorded its thanks to all of those involved with the Youth Council for the good work undertaken.

The Mayor reminded Members that the Holocaust Memorial Event was taking place in the Corn Exchange on 27 January 2026.

No motions had been submitted.

50. Planning and Environment Committee – 1 December 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 1 December 2025 be adopted.

51. **Planning and Environment Committee – 7 January 2026**

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

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7 January 2026 be adopted.

52. **Management Committee – 12 January 2026**

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 12 January 2026 be adopted.

53. **Policy Committee – 19 January 2026**

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

Resolved

(1) That the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2026-27, as set out in the Appendices 1 to 4 of the Policy Committee 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%

(2) That the Calendar of Meetings 2026-27, as set out in Appendix 5 to these Minutes, be agreed.

(3) That the informal Annual Town Meeting be held between 11.00am and 1.00pm on Friday 8 May 2026.

(4) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 19 January 2026 be adopted.

54. **Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee – 14 October 2025**

The minutes of the meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee be noted.

55. **Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel – 13 November 2025**

The minutes of the meeting of the Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel be noted.

56. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Councillor R. Biggs reported on the Homewise campaign which gave free personalised home energy advice.
- Dorset Council had made a financial contribution towards the Morwind 'Channel Gateway' feasibility study. The Gateway project was a £500 million clean energy port facility adjacent to Portland Port.
- It was reported that Maiden Newton and Charmouth Fire Stations were to close.
- Dorset Highways were working with businesses on Damers Road to reduce disruption whilst the highways works were being undertaken.
- The Great Field Park Run was going from strength to strength.
- Caroline Goode was to leave 1610 Sports Centre
- Dorset History Centre was starting a weekly family history surgery on Friday mornings.
- Dorset Council is supporting a national campaign to get increased education funding and reforms to SEND provision.
- The Mayor reported on his past and upcoming visits to Dorchester schools.

Council rose at 7.46pm.

Mayor

Dorchester Town Council
Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee
2 February 2026

Present: Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, L. Fry (Vice Chair), J. Hewitt, F. Kent-Ledger, R. Major, R.Potter, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo (Chair).

Apologies: Cllrs P. Farmer, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, D. Leaper and V. Lloyd-Jones.

59. 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.

60. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 January 2026 and ratified at the Full Council meeting held on 26 January 2026 signed by the chair.

61. 20mph Task and Finish Group Meeting Minutes

The Committee noted the minutes of the 20mph Task and Finish Group meeting held on 26 January 2026.

Some members raised concerns about the willingness of volunteers for a community speedwatch scheme, having already had one in place in Herringston Road previously. The Committee was advised that, while such a scheme could support any future application for a 20mph speed limit, it was not essential. However, it would demonstrate community backing and provide useful data to help determine whether a 20mph scheme was justified.

The chair of the 20mph Task and Finish Group invited members of the committee to contribute ideas for future community engagement.

The Committee was asked to consider whether it wished to support the 20mph Task and Finish Group's recommendation that the Planning and Environment Committee approve the Group's request for £895 + VAT to commission traffic speed surveys for

- London Road
- Herringston Road
- Peverell Avenue East
- Peverell Avenue West.

The Committee supported the 20mph Task and Finish Group's recommendation to fund the traffic speed surveys.

Resolved

That the Clerk to the Committee instruct Dorset Council to undertake traffic speed surveys for:

- London Road
- Herringston Road
- Peverell Avenue East
- Peverell Avenue West.

62. 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.

63. Minute Update Report

Minute 27 of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 1 September 2025 - [P/FUL/2025/00984 Former Gibbs & Dandy Site Builder Center Great Western Road Dorchester Dorset DT1 1RZ](#)

The Committee heard that the applicant had met with an independent design panel set up by Dorset Council to discuss Dorset Council's concerns about the applicant's revised proposals. Having had this meeting it was likely that a revised application would be submitted to Dorset Council.

64. Planning Issues to Note

There were no planning issues to note.

Dorchester Town Council

Planning & Environment Committee – 2 February 2026

Planning Applications for Comment

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

E1. P/LBC/2025/07458 94 High Street Fordington Dorchester DT1 1LD

Retain works to install 2no. stoves & flues. Replacement of 10no. single glazed modern windows with new double glazed windows, replacement render, repointing of the brick gable. Installation of french drain to perimeter & the repair of two porches.

No objection.

E2. P/HOU/2026/00104 7 South Walks Road Dorchester DT1 1ED

Erect single storey rear extension with roof lights.

No objection.

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

N1. P/LBC/2026/00064 9-9A Cornhill Dorchester DT1 1BA

Stone repairs to front elevation.

No objection.

N2. P/FUL/2025/07231 38 South Street & 5A Trinity Street Dorchester

Formation of two residential flats (Use Class C3) across the first, second and third floors. Replace ground floor retail frontage facing South Street. Replace roof structure & erect dormer window. Replace all windows. Replace roof to rear single storey extension.

No objection.

N3. P/LBC/2026/00195 Town Pump Cornhill Dorchester

Refurbishment of the Town Pump with new stone base, drinking water spout and shallow basin for drinking water for dogs.

As the application has been made by Dorchester Town Council, no comment will be made on this application.

No objection.

N4. 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. **(Amended plans)**

No objection.

N5. P/HOU/2026/00357 6 Holly Close Dorchester DT1 2PZ

Erect extension and convert garage.

No objection.

N6. P/VOL/2026/00414 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 (with variation of condition 2 of listed building consent P/LBC/2025/06302 to amend approved plans).

No objection.

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

W1. P/LBC/2026/00235 Dorchester West Railway Station Great Western Road Dorchester DT1 2LB

Installation of 2no. Customer Information System (CIS) displays on the platforms

No objection.

W2. P/HOU/2026/00347 22 Edward Road Dorchester DT1 2HL

Erect single storey rear extension with roof lantern and install dormer window to East elevation (Demolish Existing extension)

No objection.

W3. P/OUT/2025/06511 3 Maiden Castle Road Dorchester DT1 2QG

Erection of 1no. dwelling (outline application to determine access & layout).

No objection - The Committee asked that the design of the proposed dwelling be in keeping with the established character of the locality

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

No applications received to date.

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

2 March 2026

Present: The Mayor (Councillor A. Canning) and Councillors L. Fry (Vice Chair) R. Biggs, S. Biles, S. Jones, V. Lloyd-Jones, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, R. Major, R. Potter, D. Leaper, M. Rennie.

In Attendance

Councillor W. Gibbons.

Apologies: Councillors R. Ricardo, F. Kent-Ledger, P. Farmer.

65. 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.

66. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 2 February 2026 were approved by the Committee and signed by the Vice Chair.

67. Local Plan Consultation Response to Flooding.

The Committee considered whether to strengthen Dorchester Town Council's response to the Dorset Council Local Plan in light of the recent flooding experienced in the town.

Members discussed recent flood events, including at Castle Park and in the London Road/Kings Road areas. Councillor L. Fry updated the Committee on joint investigations with Dorset Council (DC) and Wessex Water at Castle Park. While initial checks found gullies clear and operational, the volume of water overwhelmed the system due to the ground being totally saturated. It was noted that DC would jet-clean all gullies in the affected area within 28 days and Wessex Water would conduct further investigations into drainage connections, as some surface water systems appeared to be incorrectly linked to sewage pipes.

A consensus emerged that the recent floods demonstrate that the existing approach to surface water management is no longer fit for purpose. Councillors agreed that the previous assumption that land and watercourses could absorb excess water is invalid under current conditions of high groundwater and more frequent extreme rainfall. It was noted that tankers were required to pump floodwater from roads.

Key concerns and proposed amendments to the Local Plan response included:

- **Strengthening Policy Wording:** Councillors proposed that the Council’s response be ‘beefed up’ to be more proactive and robust, reflecting that the current drainage solutions are not working. It was agreed that the wording on the DTC response should be amended to highlight the need for careful attention to flood mitigation in light of recent events and the high-water table.
- **Groundwater Monitoring:** The Committee agreed that the policy on ‘winter ground wastewater monitoring’ should be upgraded from its current level to ‘very regular monitoring’.
- **North Dorchester Development:** There are significant concerns that the proposed North Dorchester development would exacerbate existing problems. Councillors noted that developers’ claims of managing runoff through large drains are questionable when the water is already too high to accept more water.
- **Community Support:** Councillors discussed the practical difficulties faced by residents in the East Ward (London Road/Kings Road), who were unable to access the DC sandbag depot in Charminster due to floodwater. It was suggested that future plans should include local sandbag stores in the flood-prone areas. The Committee noted that a report on sandbags is scheduled for the March Policy Committee meeting.
- **Data and Modelling:** A request had been received from a member of the public for accurate flood mapping and hydrological modelling to predict the impact of increased rainfall and development.

Resolved

1. That the Vice Chair and Committee Clerk be authorised to consolidate the Committee’s comments on flooding and submit a strengthened response to the Dorset Council Local Plan.
2. That a letter be written to Dorset Council outlining these concerns and requesting a more proactive and robust approach to flood mitigation in the Local Plan.

68. Concerns Regarding the Upkeep of the Walks

The Committee discussed ongoing concerns regarding the maintenance and upkeep of the Walks.

Councillors reported that the current arrangements are not working effectively. It was suggested that when Dorchester Town Council was responsible for the area, the Walks were better maintained. Specific issues included bins not closing properly – reported but not acted upon – and a general lack of proactivity. It was questioned if staff emptying the bins could also report graffiti and other issues.

A key point of the criticism was the collapsed section of the wall near the Roman Town House in Colliton Park. Members noted that scaffolding and water tanks have been in place for some time to provide ballast, but no repair work has been carried out by Dorset Council.

Despite these problems, members agreed that the Walks remain one of the town's most attractive features, with spring flowers currently on display in some sections. However, anti-social behaviour was highlighted as a recurring issue that has seen little visible action from the Police.

Councillors suggested several ways forward:

- **Improved Collaboration:** It was noted that DC has expressed a desire to work more closely with town and parish councils to improve the public realm. While one member noted that when issues are reported to DC they are often dealt with quickly, there was a consensus that earlier identification of problems by DC and DTC staff would be beneficial.
- **Asset Transfer:** The possibility of the Walks being handed over to DTC was raised, although it was acknowledged that the Walks are a Highway and any transfer would require financial support from DC.
- **Role of the Keeper of the Walks:** Questions were raised about the current role and reporting lines of the Keeper of the Walks, with a suggestion that the Clerk investigate this further.
- **Police Engagement:** It was agreed that the PCSO should be contacted regarding the lack of action in anti-social behaviour in the area and the Police Sergeant would be questioned on this at the next meeting of the full Council.

A Councillor commented that while DC is looking to improve relationships with towns and parishes, this process is taking time.

Resolved

1. That the Clerk and Vice Chair write to Dorset Council requesting a meeting to discuss building a better working relationship regarding the upkeep of the Walks (Councillor Fry to confirm appropriate contact).
2. That the Clerk contact the PCSO to raise concerns about anti-social behaviour in the area.
3. That the Clerk speak to the BID to clarify the reporting lines and responsibilities of the Keeper of the Walks.

69. **Planning Applications for Comment**

The Committee considered the planning applications referred by Dorset Council to the Council or comment.

Resolved:

That the comments on the various planning applications, as set out in Appendix 1, be submitted to Dorset Council.

70. **Minute Update Report**

No updates.

71. **Planning Issues to Note**

No issues to note.

Chair.....

Dorchester Town Council

Planning & Environment Committee – 2 March 2026

Planning Applications for Comment

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

E1. P/LBC/2026/00438 Max Gate Alington Avenue Dorchester DT1 2FN

External alterations to the rainwater goods on the western elevation. Install lead flashing and other associated minor alterations to the roof. Strip slates to southern elevation bay window. Strip and replace first bay of the lead roof.

No Objection

E2. P/LBC/2026/00493 Max Gate Alington Avenue Dorchester DT1 2FN

External alterations to reroof the existing slate roof over the scullery including all associated works.

No Objection

E3. P/LBC/2025/07458 94 High Street Fordington Dorchester DT1 1LD

Retain works to install 2no. stoves & flues. Replace plaster surrounding fireplaces with lime plaster. Replacement of 10no. single glazed modern windows with new double glazed windows, replacement render, repointing of the brick gable. Installation of French drain to perimeter & the repair of two porches.

Item previously considered at meeting on 2 February 2026.

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

N1. P/FUL/2026/00422 & P/LBC/2026/00423 (Listed Building Consent) 64 High West Street

Dorchester DT1 1XA.

Change of use of ground floor from use class Ec1 to use class Eb cafe/bar.

No Objection

N2. P/FUL/2025/07415 Unit 1 43 South Street Dorchester DT1 1DQ.

Change of use from class use SG (Sui Generis) to Eb (to serve food, drink & alcohol).

No Objection

N3. P/LBC/2026/00668 4 West Walks Dorchester DT1 1RE.

Remodel of the lower ground floor and associated works.

No Objection

N4. P/LBC/2026/00701 Unit 1 43 South Street Dorchester DT1 1DQ

Install wall-mounted extract canopy incorporating a full perimeter condense channel.

No Objection

N5. P/FUL/2025/07361 & P/LBC/2025/07362 (Listed Building Consent) 41 High West Street

Dorchester DT1 1UT

Alterations to facilitate the change of use & conversion from commercial premises to 3 no. flats. (Amended plans).

No Objection

N6. P/LBC/2026/00494 8 Glyde Path Road Dorchester DT1 1XE

Erect replacement front porch.

No Objection

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

W1. P/FUL/2026/00854 35 Maud Road Dorchester DT1 2LP

Form new opening within the principal elevation, install a new timber hatch & erect non illuminated sign.

No Objection

W2. P/HOU/2026/00631 76 Celtic Crescent Dorchester DT1 2TB

Erect first floor side extension and front porch.

No Objection

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

No applications.

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

No applications.

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

16th March 2026

Present: Councillors A. Canning, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper (Chair), R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Apologies: Councillors P. Farmer, L. Fry, F. Hogwood, S. Jones and R. Major.

In attendance:

Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles and K. Reid.

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

41. Declaration of Interests

Councillors R. Potter declared an interest in respect of Minute No. 46 (d) and left the meeting for that item.

42. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12th January 2026, adopted by Council on 26th January 2026, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

43. Proposal for Town Centre Public Art.

The committee received a report on a proposal from a member of the public for a statue to be located on South Street to celebrate 'Susie the Cat' and the town's Roman heritage. Members expressed their support for this project and thanks Mr James Honeychuck for all his hard work on this initiative.

Resolved:

That the Committee agrees to the Council taking ownership of the proposed cat statue within two years of installation by the donor at the proposed location in South Street.

44. Outdoor Services – Update Report – Late Winter

The committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services). The planting of a row of Plane trees in Borough Gardens had been very well

received by the public and work on the new Japanese Maple tree area was making good progress. At The Great Field, the drinking fountain was now working.

Cllr Gibbons asked for a verbal update on remedial works on Holmead Walk prior to the completion of the lease to the town council from the Duchy of Cornwall. The Assistant Town Clerk reported that he had met with an officer from the Duchy to review progress and that a follow-up meeting would be arranged soon to ensure completion of works to the satisfaction of the town council and thereby enable adoption of the site.

Members expressed their thanks to Borough Gardens staff for the on-going work on the shield bed.

Resolved:

That the Outdoor Services update report be noted.

45. Proposal for circus at The Great Field

The committee received the report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) regarding a request from Show Productions Ltd to hire space at The Great Field in August for its touring circus. Members were very supportive of this proposal and received reassurance from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) that the grass on the site should recover.

Resolved:

That the committee agrees to permitting the hiring of an area of The Great Field by Show Productions Ltd for its Circus Cortex in August 2026.

46. Grant Applications

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance and it was

Resolved:

- (a) That no grant be awarded to the Daytime Band towards the cost of insurance and music stands
- (b) That no grant be awarded to St Marys Catholic First School towards the cost of a community greenhouse project.
- (c) That no grant be awarded the Talk About Trust towards the cost of a summer music programme at the Pavilion in the Park (PiP).
- (d) That a grant of £500 be awarded to the William Barnes Society for a grant of £500 towards the cost of specialist cleaning of the William Barnes statue.
- (e) That no grant be awarded to Dorchester Cricket Club towards the cost of a patio extension.

47. Minutes of Dorchester Arts board meeting on 19th February 2026

The minutes of the Dorchester Arts board meeting were considered by members and concerns were raised about aspects of the financial position of the organisation. Cllr Biggs

suggested that Dorchester Arts could seek advice from the Dorset Business Mentors. It was suggested that the Municipal Buildings Monitoring Group discuss Dorchester Arts' business plan. Further information was requested from Dorchester Arts regarding its approach to safeguarding following the departure of the lead officer for this issue.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

48. **Minutes of the Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel on 12th January 2026**

The minutes of the Panel meeting were considered by members.

Resolved:

That the minutes be noted.

49. **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 5522 to 5526 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

50. **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 representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

51. **Fordington Cemetery Wall - Land purchase**

The Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) presented a report on the current situation with regard to discussions with the Mill Street Housing Society relating to the acquisition of land to enable the rebuilding of the collapsed section of cemetery wall at Fordington Cemetery.

The options for negotiations were outlined as were the aspirations of the Society with regards to off-site improvements to the public realm. Members also discussed the potential for acquiring additional land for future use.

The Assistant Town Clerk highlighted the on-going cost of temporary, safety scaffolding and the benefits of a swift resolution to the matter.

Resolved:

The Management Committee agrees to further negotiate on the final sum, this would form a recommendation to Policy Committee, on the basis of agreeing that the Chair and Vice Chair have the authority to approve the sum negotiated by the council's officers but not to exceed £31,000.

52. People Need Nature – Transfer for Grant to Volunteer Centre Dorchester

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) regarding a request from People Need Nature (PNN) for the Town Council's grant for the management of wildflower area at Maumbury Rings and The Great Field in 2026-27 to be paid instead to the Volunteer Centre Dorset (VCD). This request had been made as PNN had dissolved and transferred its assets to VCD.

Members discussed the proposal and the fact that 2026-27 was the last year of the grant with the possibility of any future funding to be reviewed in March 2027. At the request of members, the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) outlined options for the management of the wildflower areas. Members expressed concerns about the proposed governance arrangements for the grant.

Resolved:

That the Committee does not agree to the transfer of funding from People Need Nature to the Volunteer Centre Dorset for the year 2026-2027.

Chair.....

Dorchester Town Council

Mayoral Selection Committee

23 March 2026

Present: The Mayor (Councillor A. Canning) and Councillors R. Biggs, J. Hewitt, G. Jones, S. Jones, R. Potter (Chair) and M. Rennie.

Apologies: Councillor D. Taylor.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 24 March 2025, adopted by Council on 31 March 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2. 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 representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

3. Selection of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor – Council Year 2026-27

The Deputy Mayor reported verbally to the meeting.

Recommended

That the Members named at the meeting be invited to prepare to fill the offices of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor of Dorchester during the 2026-27 Council Year.

Chair.....

Dorchester Town Council

Policy Committee

23 March 2026

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

In Attendance

Julie Booker, Dorset Climate Action Network
Councillors P. Farmer, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Apologies: Councillors R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

45. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 19 January 2026, adopted by Council on 26 January, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

46. **Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were declared.

47. **Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN) – Environment and Climate National Emergency Network**

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk and a presentation from Julie Booker (DCAN) seeking support to partner with the Council to host a documentary entitled 'The People's Briefing', which would be followed by a Q and A, it was hoped that as many Councillors as possible and the local MP would attend.

The documentary built on the recent briefing given by ten leading experts to an audience of more than 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media.

In response to a question the DCAN representative hoped to be working with schools to show the documentary.

It was also reported that the Coat of Hopes had recently passed through Dorchester on its walking pilgrimage through the UK. This initiative would benefit from greater publicity.

Resolved

That the Council partners with DCAN to facilitate a community screening of the documentary in the Corn Exchange with a debate afterwards managed by local National Emergency Briefing Campaign supporters.

48. **Dorchester Markets – Policy, Fees, Rules and Signage**

Members had before them a report by the Markets Officer which set out a proposed Markets Council Policy Statement, fees and charges and a set of rules for market stall holders.

Members agreed the documents but wished to include some further clarification in regard to the meaning of ‘illegal’ markets.

The Committee also considered a paper which set out the proposed replacement signage for Fairfield Market which was agreed subject to the sign proposed to be attached to the public toilets being located elsewhere.

Members thanked the Market’s Officer, and all those involved, for all their work in transferring the market operation to the Town Council.

Recommended

(1) That, subject to the comments above, the Dorchester Market Policy Statement and Market Rules, as set out in the report, be approved.

(2) That the 2026-27 fees and charges for the Markets be:-

Cornhill Daily Market

- Pitch fee £20.00 per 3mt

Fairfield

- Pitch Fee £25.00 per 3mt
- Table fee £12.00 per table
- Lockups £40

Car Boot

- Cars £8.00
- Vans / Commercial £15.00

(3) That the signage, as set out in the report, with the exception of the sign proposed to be attached to the public toilets being located in a more suitable location, be agreed.

49. **Finance Update**

Members considered a report by the Finance Officer which updated them on the financial position of the Council as at end of February 2026, the amount of earmarked reserves as at

the end of February 2026, the level of debt over 30 days and gave details of the payments list from 1 January 2026 to 28 February 2026. The report also included the outcome of the Internal Auditor's second of three internal audits.

Resolved

- (1) That the payments list, totalling £315,265.31 be approved.
- (2) That the internal audit report and officer response is noted.
- (3) That the remainder of the report be noted.

50. Town Hall Urgent Works

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk which set out the urgent work required to the guttering arrangement of the Town Hall. The additional high level maintenance work, undertaken whilst scaffolding was in place, was also noted.

The total cost of the works was £36,717 plus scaffolding costs of £12,250. It was noted that an insurance claim had been made with the aim of recovering the cost of the emergency guttering works.

Members agreed to fund the works, and the forthcoming clock tower works, from the Corporate Projects Reserve.

Resolved

- (1) That the urgent action taken to appoint a contractor and undertake the works set out in the report and the report of Crickmay Stark Architects be agreed.
- (2) That the cost of these works, and the forthcoming clock tower works, be funded from the Corporate Projects Reserve.

51. Community Resilience Plan - Flooding

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk which offered the Committee an opportunity to review the Council's adopted Community Resilience Plan in relation to flooding in light of the surface flooding that happened in the town during the early part of the year.

The Committee felt that the town should be equipped with a sandbag store and proposed that this be sited at Sandringham car park. Members also wished to delete the reference to schools in the risk assessment, publicise flooding issues more widely in a variety of different formats, hold the proposed community event later this year rather than next and contact the Environment Agency in respect of completing the works it had previously proposed to prevent flooding in the King's Road area.

Resolved

- (1) That the Town Clerk investigate the possibility of the Council providing a community sandbag store at Sandringham car park, with a report back to the next meeting.
- (2) That the risk assessment in respect of flooding be amended as set out above.
- (3) That the Environment Agency be requested to undertake its project to prevent flooding at King's Road as soon as possible.

52. Town Centre Working Group

The Committee had before it the notes of the meeting of the Town Centre Working Group held on 13 March 2026.

Members reported that the frontage to the old M&S building looked very dilapidated and the bins along West Walks needed replacement.

Resolved

That the notes of the meeting be received.

53. Allocation of Free Parking Days

The Committee received a report by the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) setting out a proposal for the allocation of free parking days in 2026. It was noted that Dorchester BID would prefer that Saturday 14 November was a free parking day rather than the proposed Sunday 31 May (Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair) due to the run up to Christmas being better for businesses.

Resolved

That Dorset Council be requested to allocate the following 2026 free parking days:-

- Sunday 31st May – Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair
- Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday
- Saturday 21st November – Christmas shopping
- Saturday 28th November - Christmas shopping
- Thursday 10th December - Christmas shopping

(In addition, the car parks would be free to use on 5th December for Small Business Saturday.)

54. Data Retention Policy

The Committee gave consideration to a proposed draft Data Retention Policy for the Council.

Resolved

That the proposed Data Retention Policy be agreed.

55. **No Vaping Policy**

Members considered a draft vaping in the workplace policy. Clarification was requested in regard to exceptions to the policy.

Resolved

That the proposed 'Vaping in the Workplace' policy be considered again at the next meeting of the Committee following receipt of clarification in respect of exceptions to the policy.

56. **Management Committee Extract – Fordington Cemetery Wall – Land Purchase**

The Committee had before it an extract from the Management Committee meeting held on 16 March 2026 which had agreed to further negotiate on the final sum for the land purchase which would form a recommendation to this Committee, on the basis of agreeing that the Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Management Committee, have the authority to approve the sum negotiated by the officers but not to exceed £31,000.

The cost of the land purchase to be funded from the Cemetery Reserve.

Resolved

- (1) That the Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Management Committee be authorised to agree a final sum up to a maximum of £31,000 to purchase the land from Mill Street Housing Society which was required to enable the rebuild of the collapsed Fordington Cemetery wall.
- (2) That the cost of the land purchase be funded from the Cemetery Reserve.

Chair.....

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL
DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

20th JANUARY 2026

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 20th January 2026:

PRESENT:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dorchester Town Council | Councillors: G. Jones (Chair) |
| | F. Kent-Ledger |
| | S. Jones |
| | S. Biles |
| | Officers: M. Manley |
| Dorset Council | Councillors: L. Fry |
| | R. Tarr |
| Dorset Museum & Art Gallery | C. Dixon |
| Local Nature Reserve | L. Poulsen |
| Dorset Council - Archaeology | S. Wallis |
| Dorchester Civic Society | J. Doak |
| Dorset History Centre | C. Skinner |
| Thomas Hardy Society | M. Chutter |
| Dorchester Chamber of Business | R. Hattersley |

25. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Taylor (Dorchester Town Council), Councillors R. Major and R. Biggs (Dorset Council), E. Metcalfe, M. Gayton, M. Woodgate, R. White, A. Harrison, V. Smith, M. Rice, J. Wallis, G. Keating and I. Gosling.

26. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2026, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

27. **DECLARATION OF PREDETERMINATION**

None were declared.

28. **BUDGET UPDATE**

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

RESOLVED

That the budget update be noted.

29. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Matilda Manley presented an update on progress with the Heritage Tourism Strategy and the work of the Tourism Partnership. Matilda reported that, to complement the walking leaflets for Dorchester, a new leaflet on the architecture of Poundbury was being developed with the involvement of Simon Conibear.

RESOLVED

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

30. **THOMAS HARDY VICTORIAN FAIR 2026 - UPDATE**

The Assistant Town Clerk presented proposals for the in-house management of the event by the Tourism Development Officer and also for the Fair to be located on South Street in order to avoid cost and inconvenience of closing High West/East Street. This was supported by the Committee. Cllr Canning asked if there could be some liaison with Brewery Square over the event.

RESOLVED

That the proposed arrangements as set out in this report for the organisation/co-ordination of the Fayre and the South Street location were agreed.

31. **POTENTIAL EVENTS IN DORCHESTER LINKED TO BAYEUX TAPESTRY EXHIBITION**

Claire Dixon outlined initial ideas as to how Dorset Museum & Art Gallery could run a programme of talks, displays and activities to complement the major Bayeux Tapestry exhibition at the British Museum. Cllr G. Jones suggested a Norman-themed family event and Cllr Tarr suggested inviting to Dorchester any dignitaries from Bayeux who may be invited to the exhibition in London. Cllr S. Jones mentioned that there was a very good leaflet about the Tapestry available from the Bayeux museum and perhaps this could be purchased for local schools. Claire noted the ideas and would update the committee at a future meeting.

32. **THE STORY OF DORCHESTER**

Joe Doak of the Dorchester Civic Society gave a presentation on the work of Bournemouth University history students to developing website content on Roman Dorchester. The Committee welcomed the material and it hoped that, following editing, the material can feature on the Discover Dorchester website later in 2026.

33. **HERITAGE INFORMATION SIGNS & BLUE PLAQUES**

The Assistant Town Clerk reported on the production of replacement heritage information panels, in particular the Poundbury Camp panel that had been digitally restored as the original artwork was not available. This had provided the opportunity to update the text with input from Steve Wallis. The loss of the stone plaque referring to Thomas Hardy on the front of the Gorge Café was mentioned and it was hoped that any rebuilding of the property could include a replica plaque.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Committee agrees the purchase of replacement panel and new lectern stand for 'The Keep & Marabout Barracks' panel at a total cost of £2,123.

- b) That the Committee agrees the purchase of a replacement panel for the Poundbury Camp information panel at a cost of £420.

34. **ROMAN BATHS INTERPRETATION PROJECT**

To the Assistant Town Clerk presented an updated design for the first Roman Baths interpretation panel. The committee discussed how to improve the interpretation of Roman Dorchester and better link up the most significant sites with a trail. The need to improve the Dormouse website was mentioned.

RESOLVED

The revised wording for the Dorchester Roman baths panel be agreed.

35. **ONGOING PROJECTS**

The Committee received reports on the following:

- a) **Sylvia Townsend Warner project and funding for bench.** Mark Chutter presented a request for a grant of £700 from the Committee towards the cost of the bench element of the installation. Claire Skinner reported that the Dorset History Centre would be fundraising for the £50,000 cost of cataloguing the Townsend-Warner archive.

RESOLVED

That a grant of £700 be awarded to Visible Women UK from the Committee's budget as a contribution to the cost of the Sylvia Townsend Warner statue and bench.

- b) **Town Pump enhancement.** It was reported that the Civic Society, working with Crickmay Start and the Town Council, has submitted a planning application for the renovation of the Town Pump and installation of a drinking fountain.

- c) **Moule Project.** Mark Chutter reported that the working group would meet in two days' time.
- d) **Dorchester / Boston 400.** The approach to commemorating this anniversary was discussed as it was clearly a problematic period in history. It was agreed that small group would meet with Jo Loosemore via TEAMS to discuss the matter. The following volunteered to take part in the call: Cllrs Kent-Ledger and S. Jones, and Matilda Manley – it was also suggested that Cllr David Taylor be invited to join the call given his knowledge of the subject.
- e) **Hardy 100th Anniversary project.** Matilda Manley provided an update on the development of a funding bid for the anniversary celebrations and events. Matilda had met with colleagues from Dorset Council and the National Trust to discuss revisions to the Hardy cycle trail which would include Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage. Cllr Tarr offered to help the project. Matilda also mentioned the idea of large murals on significant walls in South Street. Linda Poulsen highlighted widespread concern about the impact of the North Dorchester development of the countryside.

36. **UPDATES FROM MEMBERS**

Dorset Council archaeology service – Steve Wallis reported that the annual cleaning of the Roman Town House was about to take place and that he could be leading Roman-themed tours for the Dorchester Walking Festival.

Thomas Hardy Society: Mark Chutter reported that the annual conference would be in September with walks around the water meadows. The Society was also planning a 'Bohemia in Dorset' conference.

Dorset Museum & Art Gallery. Claire Dixon reported that:

- Victorian Hall expected to close before the Spring, final interviews for build contractors taking place later this month
- Condition survey being undertaken for the floor mosaic in the hall, repairs and protective measures will be actioned during the works period
- People Watching exhibition opens on 31st January.
- New Trustees have been elected and will join the Board this month: Ann Abraham, Jonny Cotton and Professor Paul Gough.

Dorset History Centre. Claire Skinner reported that the Centre was supporting Reconnection Dorchester (led by Rob Hattersley) in researching the history of buildings to potentially house a new community hub.

Dorchester Chamber of Commerce. Rob Hattersley introduced himself to the Committee and hoped to establish firmer links between the two.

Cllr Roland Tarr reported that Dorset Councils Rights of Way team were looking to improve public access to the countryside around Dorchester by replacing stiles with gates.

Cllr Sue Biles suggested that the Committee write to Denise Dutton, sculptor of the Sylvia Townsend Warner statue, to express the Committee's appreciation of her work.

Giles Keating of **Athelhampton House** has asked the Committee to lobby for better connections in Dorchester by buses aimed at tourists, and it was agreed that this request would be referred to the Tourism Partnership.

Cllr Gareth Jones reported that he and Maria Gayton from the Dorset History Centre be meeting with a local person whose father and grandfather were 'drowners' involved in the management of the water meadows adjacent to Dorchester. This would be an opportunity to record his memories.

37. **QUESTIONS**

None were raised.

38. **URGENT ITEMS**

None were raised.

Chair.....

DORCHESTER MARKETS INFORMAL JOINT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2026

Present: Cllrs Simon Christopher, Janet Hewitt, Rob Hughes, Stella Jones, Fiona Kent-Ledger, Kate Reid, Molly Rennie, Roland Tarr and Sarah Williams

Apologies: Cllrs Laura Beddow, Dave Bolwell, Jed Germodo, Jill Haynes and Sally Holland

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

Graham Duggan (Head of Regulatory Services), Steve Gorson (Senior Accountant (Adults)), Nigel Hayes (Responsible Finance Officer), Joshua Kennedy (Democratic Services Officer), Hannah Massey (Lawyer - Regulatory) and Steve Newman (Town Clerk)

70. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed.

71. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest raised at the meeting.

72. Public Participation

There were no public questions.

73. FINANCIAL OUTTURN PROJECTION 2025/26 & PROPOSED BUDGET 2026/27

The Senior Accountant presented the financial outturn and proposed budget report. He provided details about the current financial situation of the markets and noted that the income was lower than predicted as has historically been the case, although the income was higher than the previous year.

He explained that there was a degree of uncertainty about the markets future financial situation given the upcoming change in the operator, he noted that there would be an increase in staffing costs to facilitate the new market management and also a increase in income due to no longer paying an operator fee.

In response to members questions and comments the Senior Accountant confirmed that the figures would be monitored by Dorchester Town Council during the year and it was anticipated that the maintenance reserve would increase if there was no need to draw upon it.

The panel agreed to note the current projected outturn position for 2025/26 and approved the 2026/27 budget proposals.

74. FAIRFIELD AND CORNHILL MARKETS OPERATING AGREEMENT

The Head of Regulatory Services presented the update on the Fairfield and Cornhill markets operating agreement. He explained that the General Licensing Committee at Dorset Council had approved the operating agreement with one minor amendment to clarify that liability fell with the holder of the position rather than the individual.

The Chair thanked the teams at Dorset Council and Dorchester Town Council involved in drawing up the operating agreement for their work in doing so.

75. FAIRFIELD AND CORNHILL MARKET UPDATE AND INITIAL VIEWS

The Markets Officer, Dorchester Town Council, presented the updates on Fairfield and Cornhill markets. It was stated that Cornhill market had been running under the operation of Dorchester Town Council since the start of January and there were 18 traders who had signed up, all of whom had the relevant insurance and were registered with the Council.

Conversations were ongoing with traders at Fairfield market to inform them of any upcoming changes involved with Dorchester Town Council taking over the operation of the market, including signage and insurance. More detail would be brought to future meetings in regard to the future approach of the market.

The Market Officer also noted that they were intending to improve signage in the market and would work with teams at Dorset Council to ensure that any signage was consistent with other Council designs.

The Head of Regulatory Services explained that officers had explored the potential options and related costs in dealing with the north Linney's in the market. The north Linney's could either be renovated with as much original material as possible reused at an approximate cost of £115,000 or they could be demolished with the rear wall and floor retained at an approximate cost of £39,000.

Members discussed the two options presented and the associated costs. Members expressed that they believed if the north Linney's were demolished it would be a benefit to have information presented in the area explaining the history of the markets in Dorchester. One member raised concerns about the current condition of the north Linney's and the potential for someone to injure themselves if they were to access the north Linney's in their current condition.

It was proposed by Cllr Kent-Ledger and seconded by Cllr Williams.

Decision: That the panel request that officers continue work in exploring the possibility of demolishing the north Linney's.

76. Car Boot Fund Panel Update

The Chair updated the panel on the Car Boot Fund. It was explained that the Car Boot Fund Panel had met in November and received applications for the Car Boot Fund. £11,000 was distributed and only 3 applications were rejected. All applications that were granted, were given the full allocation that was requested.

77. Dates of Future Meetings

The panel noted the dates of the future meetings.

78. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

79. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 2.00 - 3.10 pm

Chairman

.....

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL – 30 MARCH 2026

OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS

1. The following reports have been received and have been circulated separately: -
 - Ashley Churchill & Thorner Trust
 - Dorchester Almshouses
 - Dorchester Arts
 - Dorchester BID
 - Dorchester Bayeux Society
 - Dorchester Lubbecke Society
 - Dorchester Toursim Partnership
 - Citizens Advice Central Dorchester
 - Dorchester Transport Action Group
 - Dorchester Youth & Community Centre
 - Municipal Buildings Monitoring Group
 - South Wessex Community Rail Partnership
 - Thomas Hardy Society
 - Transition Town Dorchester
 - Sawmills Development Association
2. Reports from the Dorchester Association and Volunteer Centre Dorset will be presented to the May Council meeting.
3. There were no meetings of the DAPTC Larger Councils Committee in the last year. The Chief Executive reports that "DAPTC will be looking at what the future of area committees looks like beyond our 30 May 2026 AGM with a new board as a priority. We genuinely hope Dorset Council will start to engage local councils about how they see neighbourhood governance developing in 2026. DAPTC are mindful of adding too many meeting structures into councillor diaries and will look to engage our membership about how they want to come together in the future. We still see a key role for bringing towns and larger parishes together and potentially creating a forum for smaller parishes and parish meetings. Maintaining our previous structure, which was based on the pre-2019 district council structure, would no longer seem appropriate or useful."
4. Members are asked to note the Outside Body reports received.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk