

# **Dorchester Town Council**

## **Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council**

**20 May 2014**

Present: Mayor P. Mann and Councillors V. Allan, K. Armitage, D. Barrett, R. Biggs, A. Canning, T. Harries, S. Hosford, T. James, G. Jones, T. Jones, A. Lyall, R. Potter, D. Roberts and D. Taylor.

In attendance:  
Inspector S. Marsh, Dorset Police.

Apologies: Councillors C. Biggs, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger and M. Rennie.

### **5. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 March 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

A Councillor asked whether the organisations listed at minute 53 (1) had been notified of the Council's decision not to make appointments for 2014. The Town Clerk advised that he was waiting until the minutes of the Selection Committee of 22 April 2014 had been confirmed before writing to the organisations involved.

The minutes of the Special Council held on 22 April 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

In response to a question the Town Clerk advised that the current option of 5 Councillors in each of 4 wards, with 20 Councillors in total, failed to meet the LGBC's electoral fairness test, and that their own proposal also failed that test.

### **6. Communications & Questions**

The Mayor thanked all Councillors for their support for his election as Mayor. A number of Councillors congratulated the Mayor on the content of his speech.

The Mayor reminded Members of the opportunity to visit Reading University to view their Grass Free Lawn project, and also of the launch of the Lets Explore Dorchester publication at Dorset County Museum, both events taking place on 23 May 2014. The Mayor agreed to write a letter of thanks to Kate Hebditch for her work on the publication.

No questions had been received in accordance with Standing Order 12(3).

7. **Planning and Environment Committee – 31 March 2014**

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 31 March 2014 be adopted.

8. **Selection Committee – 22 April 2014**

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved**

- (1) That, for the 2014-15 Council year, Committee membership and representatives to Outside Bodies should be as laid out in the Minutes.
- (2) That the Town Council does not make an appointment to the Dorchester Community Nursery School.
- (3) That the minutes of the meeting of the Selection Committee held on 22 April 2014 be adopted.

9. **Planning and Environment Committee – 28 April 2014**

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

A Councillor requested that minute 95 be rewritten to clarify the role of the Area Partnership with regard to the Safer Routes to School project, and minute 96 be rewritten to clarify Mr Tarr's representation.

In response to questions raised with regard to minute 100, changes to the number 31 bus service provided by First Bus, the Mayor agreed to write to the Manager of First Bus asking for him to reconsider the plan to change the service.

**Resolved**

That, subject to the amendments set out above, the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 28 April 2014 be adopted.

10. **Management Committee – 6 May 2014**

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

Mr Taylor asked that his apologies, given in advance of the meeting, be added to the minutes.

Council debated minute 62(b) relating to the future of the post and chain fence along South Walks. The Committee noted the comments of Councillor S. Jones who was unable to attend the meeting.

Members recognised the heritage value of the fence and noted that no budget provision existed to carry out major works at this time.

**Resolved**

- (1) That an assessment of the condition of the post and chain fence should be commissioned, and that a further report be made to the Management Committee with an accurate cost for the repair of all fencing on South Walks, with a plan for long term maintenance of the fence.
- (2) That, subject to the inclusion of Councillor D. Taylor's apologies, the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 6 May 2014 be adopted.

**11. Policy Committee – 13 May 2014**

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

In response to a question the Chairman confirmed it was his understanding that it would not be financially feasible to reschedule the Council's outstanding PWLB loans.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Financial Statement be noted and the numbers therein be included on the Annual Return, together with the Annual Governance Statement, to be approved and signed by the Mayor.
- (2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 13 May 2014 be adopted.

**12. Appointment of Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of Committees**

In accordance with Standing Order 39 Members considered the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to Committees.

**Resolved**

- (1) That Councillor R. Potter be appointed Chairman and Councillor K. Armitage be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee.

- (2) That Councillor S. Hosford be appointed Chairman and Councillor D. Roberts be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee.
- (3) That Councillor T. Jones be appointed Chairman and Councillor G. Jones be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Policy Committee.

**13. Bank Mandate Signatories**

Members gave consideration to the Council's Bank Mandate Signatures.

**Resolved**

That Councillors A. Canning, T. Harries, S. Jones, R. Potter and M. Rennie be authorised to conduct business on the Council's Bank Accounts during the period ending with the Annual Council Meeting in 2015.

**14. Police Matters**

Inspector S. Marsh of Dorset Police provided an update on crime statistics over the last 12 months.

He noted a 3.5% increase in crime figures, representing an additional 69 victims, and that the number of incidents which had been satisfactorily resolved was 30%, up 4% on the previous year.

Recognising the upward trend of incidents involving violent crime and shoplifting he identified that extra efforts would be put in to tackling these during 2014-15. He also noted that the town was growing, while resources available locally were reducing. He concluded by reminding Members that while trends were marginally upwards Dorchester remained a very safe place to live and work.

Questions were then answered relating to burglar alarm processes, the role and retention of the Safer Neighbourhood Team, the relationship between increases in violent crime and late night drinking, and a Police led pan Dorset CCTV project.

The Council rose at 7.50pm.

Mayor