

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

22 July 2014

Present: Mayor P. Mann and Councillors V. Allan, D. Barrett, R. Biggs, S. Hosford, G. Jones, S. Jones, T. Jones, T. Loakes, R. Potter, M. Rennie, and D. Taylor.

In attendance: Henry Lovegrove, Internal Auditor and Hettie Burn, Dorchester Try This

Apologies: Councillors K. Armitage, C. Biggs, A. Canning, T. Harries, T. James, F. Kent-Ledger, A. Lyall and D. Roberts

15. Declarations of Interest

Councillor D. Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 of the Policy Committee, loan to Dorset County Museum, due to his role of Head of Fundraising for the Museum's campaign, and stated that he would not speak or vote on the item.

16. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 19 & 20 May 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

A Councillor asked whether the Mayor's Speech to the Annual Meeting of Council had been made available, and the Town Clerk agreed ensure this was done.

17. Communications & Questions

The Mayor introduced Mr Henry Lovegrove, and thanked him for his work as the Council's Internal Auditor from 2006 to 2014.

Miss Hettie Burn provided a short presentation of feedback from the Dorchester Try This event held in autumn 2013, and received congratulations from Councillors for the success and innovation of the event. She highlighted that information about the 2014 programme would appear soon on the website dorchestertrythis.org.uk. The Mayor invited the Council to include the criteria of innovation when it next reviewed its process for determining grants, and invited Miss Burn to consider with her peers how the event could be sustained into the longer term.

The Mayor thanked members for their attendance at two recent civic events, the Thomas Hardy birthday celebration and the Armed Forces Commemoration Service.

The Mayor reminded members that the Love Parks event would be taking place on 30th July in the Borough Gardens.

No questions had been received in accordance with Standing Order 12(3). The Town Clerk agreed to circulate the process for asking questions in accordance with Standing Order 12(3).

18. Planning and Environment Committee – 2 June 2014

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

The Chairman updated members on progress on minute 3, the development of a position statement for the Prison site. A specialist advisor had been appointed and a first draft document would be available this week.

The draft document will be shared with District Council officers and the agents for the Prison site, but will remain in draft until considered by the Committee meeting of 1 September.

A discussion took place about the attendance of Dorchester District Councillors at their Development Control Committee meetings.

In relation to minute 5 a councillor raised the issue of the risk of different approaches to Residents Parking across the county area. The Chairman agreed to advise DAPTC of any further representations to Dorset County Council.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 2 June 2014 be adopted.

19. Planning and Environment Committee – 30 June 2014

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

A number of Councillors voiced general dissatisfaction with the consultation process undertaken by Simons regarding the latest proposals for the Charles Street, and specifically the lack of formal consultation with the Town Council.

Resolved

- (1) That the Chairman write to Simons identifying the Town Council's concerns about the consultation, the absence of an opportunity for the Town Council to meet with Simons, and requesting feedback of the information gathered during the consultation process and their intentions regarding an economic impact assessment of the plans
- (2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 30 June 2014 be adopted.

20. **Management Committee – 8 July 2014**

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

A councillor asked the Town Clerk to consider the feasibility of providing noticeboards for Members to place information regarding Council events.

The Town Clerk confirmed that discussions had taken place with Rethink about opening hours for the Borough Gardens kiosk during summer 2014, and that a review of arrangements would take place with Rethink at the end of the summer period.

Discussion took place about the appropriate member process to best manage the next stage of development of the Corporate Plan.

Resolved

- (1) That as part of a more general review of Panel processes the Policy Committee review arrangements for the member process to develop the Corporate Plan
- (2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 8 July 2014 be adopted.

21. **Policy Committee – 15 July 2014**

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

Resolved

- (1) That a loan of £30,000 be advanced to the operators of Dorset County Museum for a maximum period of one year in the first instance, at nil interest, subject to the Town Clerk carrying out a due diligence review of the Museum's financial position
- (2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 15 July 2014 be adopted.

22. **Police Matters**

The Town Clerk presented a written report from Inspector Marsh.

The Council rose at 8.03 pm.

Mayor

After the meeting the Democratic Half Hour covered Residents Parking issues.