

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

25 November 2014

Present: Mayor P. Mann and Councillors V. Allan, D. Barrett, R. Biggs, T. Harries, S. Jones, T. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, R. Potter, M. Rennie and D. Roberts.

Apologies: Councillors K. Armitage, C. Biggs, A. Canning, S. Hosford, T. James, G. Jones, A. Lyall and D. Taylor

23. Declarations of Interest

Councillor T. Jones declared an interest in minute 27 of the Policy Committee, Affordable Housing on site adjacent to Red Cow Farm, and did not participate in discussion on this item.

Mayor P. Mann and Councillors M. Rennie and F. Kent-Ledger declared an interest in minute 29 of the Policy Committee, Dorset County Members Personal Grant to Whetstones, and did not participate in discussions on this item.

24. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 23 September 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

25. Communications & Questions

The Mayor congratulated the Youth Council on the recent award of a West Dorset Community Award, then invited comments on the issues covered by agendas during the current cycle. Views were expressed in favour of the shorter, more visible return route through the town centre for the parade on Remembrance Day, and also in favour of the decision to close Borough Gardens at 9.00 pm during the summer in order to reduce anti-social behaviour. A request was made that signage for charges in the Fairfield car park be improved, and that greater profile be given to the BID's car park voucher scheme. The Youth Council highlighted that a key outcome from the recent Democracy Day was the provision of a rock climbing facility in the town.

The Mayor welcomed Dr T. Mohammed Basheer, Chairman of the Dorchester Islamic Cultural and Educational Centre, and Mr Afzal to the meeting, and invited them to speak to the Council. A presentation was given explaining the role of the Centre and its value to the Muslim community in and around Dorchester and the benefits it brought to relations with the wider community.

In response to questions Dr Basheer identified the community had grown to over 100 regular attendees and served the wider Asian and other ethnic communities. He also advised that Arabic classes were available to all members of the community.

The Town Council agreed to provide details of a number of contacts they had with multicultural agencies and local authority staff who might support the work of the Centre, and encouraged Dr Basheer to take up the opportunity to involve the Centre in the annual One World Festival that the Town Council supports. Dr Basheer extended an invitation to the Youth Council to visit the Centre in the future.

The Mayor thanked Dr Basheer and Mr Afzal for their attendance, expressed that he was particularly struck by the use of the term "Global Village" during the presentation, and welcomed every opportunity to promote better understanding between the diverse parts of our community.

The Mayor updated Members on his recent visit to Lubbecke when he had been shown Mike Chapman's sculpture "The Hug" and the recently refurbished main street with inscribed paving slabs from several of their twin towns. The Town Clerk will explore how the Town Council might become involved with the Lubbecke initiative. The Mayor also reported the successful visit to the town by choirs from Lubbecke and Bayeux to take part in the performance of Tippett's "Child on our Time".

A member asked that the Council progress ideas for a sculpture by Mike Chapman to commemorate 100 years since the Great War. The Town Clerk agreed to progress this.

26. Planning and Environment Committee – 6 October 2014

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 2014 be adopted.

27. Planning and Environment Committee – 3 November 2014

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

A Councillor confirmed that assurance had now been received from West Dorset District Council that new pay on exist car park machines were capable of handling variable pricing. The Town Clerk agreed to circulate a copy of the letter mentioned at minute 50 to all members.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3 November 2014 be adopted.

28. **Management Committee – 11 November 2014**

Subject to a minor change to minute 28, ‘...that the “same inspection” documentation had been completed...’, 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 11 November 2014 be adopted.

29. **Policy Committee – 18 November 2014**

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

Resolved

- i) That the strategic and operational risk registers, as amended, be approved
- ii) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 18 November 2014 be adopted.

30. **Police Matters**

Inspector Marsh supplied a report regarding recent policing issues.

A member requested that the Council receive a presentation about the new Community Trigger scheme. Another member asked that the Ambulance and Fire services be invited to a future meeting to identify their current plans. A concern was raised about the lack of meetings of the Crime Prevention Panel in recent months.

The Council rose at 7.55 pm.

Mayor