

# **Dorchester Town Council**

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

**23 May 2017**

**Present:** Mayor S. Hosford and Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, C. Biggs, R. Biggs, A. Chisholm, T. Harries, J. Hewitt, G. Jones, S. Jones, T. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, T. Loakes, A. Lyall, R. Potter, K. Rice, P. Stein and D. Taylor.

**Apologies:** Councillors A. Canning, G. Duke and M. Rennie.

The meeting was preceded by a silence to remember those who had lost their lives during the Manchester bombing on the previous evening.

#### **4. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 March 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

Regarding minute 2016/52 the Town Clerk responded to a question regarding the slow pace of National Rail in delivering the disabled access ramp to the north platform of Dorchester West railway station and confirmed that conversations with Dorset County Council officers gave assurance that they continued to press for progress.

Regarding minute 2016/51 the Deputy Mayor brought to Council's attention that Thomas Hardy School had won the Under 15's Rugby Nat West Schools Vase and that he had held a lunchtime reception for the squad to congratulate them.

#### **5. Communications & Questions**

Inspector Mike Darby of Dorset Police presented to the meeting regarding current activity in the town. He noted that a significant proportion of the local team's time was focused on a small number of offenders, often funding drugs, who were responsible for much of the commercial crime in the town and that he was working with Dorchester BID and the local Chamber of Trade to provide practical support and advice to local businesses.

The Dorchester team were performing strongly by comparison with other teams, and crime levels were stable year on year, compared to a countywide position of increased crimes. He also explained the detailed response that Dorset Police had made to youth anti-social behaviour and street begging.

Inspector Darby responded to questions regarding traffic offences including noisy young drivers and mobile phone misuse, but acknowledged that Police Traffic team resources would always be prioritised towards road death.

The Mayor thanked all staff and others involved in delivering the Mayor Making event, particularly the Mayor's Secretary Georgina Wakely.

A councillor reminded members of the offer of a tour round The Maltings building and requested that interested members contact her.

The Town Clerk reminded Members regarding the Thomas Hardy wreath-laying ceremony on 3 June and that two informal events would take place to review the Corporate Plan, to be held on 13 and 20 June.

## **6. Updates from Partner Authorities**

Councillor R. Biggs provided an update regarding the work of Dorset County Council. He noted the election results and the consequent changes that had taken place in leadership. It was noted with appreciation that, after 25 years continuous service on behalf of the residents of Dorchester, Councillor Trevor Jones had stood down from his County Council seat.

Councillor R. Biggs highlighted that safeguarding and prevention had featured strongly in new member induction; that no decision had been reached regarding local government review; that local residents parking issues appeared stalled due to a countywide review of policy and strategy and that work was now progressing on many of the projects included in the DTEP programme. He responded to questions relating to Syrian refugees and highways issues.

Councillor S. Jones updated Council on issues at West Dorset District Council, in particular noting the first meeting of the new, all-party, Strategy Committee.

## **7. Planning and Environment Committee – 3 April 2017**

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 April 2017 be adopted.

## **8. Planning and Environment Committee – 2 May 2017**

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

A member requested further information regarding minute 2016/94 relating to kerbstones. It was confirmed that a request had been made of Dorset County Highways regarding the cost of kerbing the road. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Policy Committee would shortly receive a report regarding how the Town Council develops a policy to engage with Dorset County Council across all highway matters.

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 2 May 2017 be adopted.

#### **9. Management Committee – 9 May 2017**

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

Following a question from a member it was confirmed that the decision not to relocate the Tirah noticeboard was a resolved item.

### **Resolved**

- i) That Weymouth Avenue Pavilion and associated structures be leased to Dorchester Cricket Club in accordance with the draft Heads of Terms enclosed with the report; the lease to be operative from the earliest date achievable.
- ii) That officers be authorised to conclude negotiations with Dorchester Boxing Club on terms set out in the report to the Management Committee
- iii) That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 9 May 2017 be adopted.

#### **10. Policy Committee – 16 May 2017**

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

### **Resolved**

- i) That the Annual Return for 2016-17 (included in the Financial Statement submitted to the Policy Committee and consisting of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements) be adopted and signed by the Mayor and Responsible Financial Officer
- ii) That an additional £80,000 is transferred to the Corporate Projects Reserve and two unspent committed project budgets totalling £6,000 are added to the 2017-18 budget.
- iii) That the Treasury Strategy for 2017-18, as laid out in pages 5 – 8 of the Policy Committee agenda, be adopted
- iv) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 16 May 2017 be adopted.

## 11. Annual Business

Council considered appointments to Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies, to the roles of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Committees, Bank Mandate signatories and the re-adoption of the Council's intention to use the Power of Competence.

A member asked that contact be made with the Dorchester Bayeux Society to confirm they still did not require an Outside Body representative.

### **Resolved**

- i) That appointments to Committees, Panels and Outside Bodies be as laid out in Appendix 1 and 2, but that no appointment be made to the Dorset Broadcasting Action Group
- ii) That Councillor Rice be appointed Chairman and Councillor S. Jones be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee
- iii) That Councillor Potter be appointed Chairman and Councillor R. Biggs be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee
- iv) That Councillor G. Jones be appointed Chairman and Councillor B. Armstrong-Marshall be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Policy Committee
- v) That Councillors T. Harries, S. Jones, R. Potter, M. Rennie and D. Taylor be authorised to conduct business on the Council's Bank Accounts during the period ending with the Annual Council Meeting in 2018
- vi) That Council re-adopts the General Power of Competence for the period to May 2018

The Council discussed the merits of an idea to create a non-decision making consultative group of Members to provide informal advice to the Town Clerk on policy development, consisting of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees. The idea had emerged as a result of the change in pace of delivery of the Corporate Plan and the need to respond to opportunities and threats emerging from many quarters, and recognised that the current formal governance structure and cycle was not suited to the needs of an increasingly dynamic environment.

The proposal raised concerns among some Members that the Council might lose its inclusive nature and lead to decision making at formal Committee level being compromised.

The Town Clerk offered the opportunity to discuss the idea during the informal Corporate Plan review meetings, however a formal proposal was made, and seconded, that the Council should hold a Special Meeting to discuss the format of the Advisory Group in more detail.

An amendment to the proposal was made that the Council debate the necessity of such a group being formed. The amendment was carried and it was then

**Resolved**

- vii) That a Special Meeting of the Council be arranged to discuss the necessity for an Advisory Group to be created and, if required, to discuss the composition of such a Group.

The Council rose at 8.40pm.

Mayor

There were no questions at the public Question Time that followed the meeting. A Councillor confirmed that the Carnival planned for June would go ahead. A Councillor asked that consideration be given to publishing the photos of the Mayor and Council within the building.

**Dorchester Town Council - Committee Membership**

**Appendix 1**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>Management</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Markets Joint Panel</b>	<b>Heritage Joint C'ttee</b>
S. Hosford	Y	Y	Y	Y		
B. Armstrong-Marshall	Y			Y		
C. Biggs	Y	Y	Y			Y
R. Biggs	Y	Y		Y		
A. Canning	Y	Y	Y			
A. Chisholm	Y			Y	Y	
G. Duke	Y		Y			
T. Harries	Y	Y		Y		
J. Hewitt	Y	Y	Y		Y	
G. Jones	Y			Y		Y
S. Jones	Y	Y	Y			
T. Jones	Y			Y	Y	
F. Kent-Ledger	Y	Y	Y			
T. Loakes	Y	Y	Y			Y
A. Lyall	Y		Y			
R. Potter	Y	Y	Y		Y	
M. Rennie	Y	Y	Y		Y	
K. Rice	Y		Y			
P. Stein	Y			Y		
D. Taylor	Y	Y	Y		Y	
	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>

**Dorchester Town Council – Outside Body Representation**

**Appendix 2**

<b>Internal Roles</b>		<b>Appointed</b>
DAPTC Larger Towns Rep	R. Potter	2012
<b>Charitable Trusteeships</b>		
Dorchester Municipal Charities (4)	J. Hewitt	2016
	S. Hosford	2011
	F. Kent-Ledger	2012
	M. Rennie	2008
Ashley Churchill & Thorner Trust (2)	C. Biggs	2009
	G. Duke	2016
<b>Other Bodies</b>		
Dorchester Arts	F. Kent-Ledger	2015
Dorchester Association L. History & Arch.	D. Taylor	2016
Dorchester BID	S. Hosford	2016
Dorchester Lubbecke Society	T. Harries	2011
Dorchester & Sherborne CAB	D. Taylor	2017
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre	K. Rice	2016
Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership	G. Jones	2015
Maltings Arts	B. Armstrong-Marshall	2017
St Osmund's Community Sports Centre	S. Jones	2011
Thomas Hardy Society	A. Chisholm	2015
Transition Town Dorchester	T. Loakes	2011
Volunteer Centre Dorchester	J. Hewitt	2015