

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

25 July 2017

Present: Mayor S. Hosford and Councillors, C. Biggs, R. Biggs, T. Harries, J. Hewitt, G. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, R. Potter, M. Rennie and K. Rice.

Apologies: Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, A. Canning, A. Chisholm, G. Duke, S. Jones, T. Jones, A. Lyall and D. Taylor.

Also present: 2 representatives of the Youth Council, 3 members of Casterbridge Rotary and a local resident

13. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 22 May 2017, 23 May 2017 and 20 June 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

14. Communications & Questions

The Secretary of the Youth Council expressed their support for the grant to Ridgeway Radio and asked that the Council consider how biodegradable lanterns might be taken account of in any mass release policy.

The Dorchester Marathon organising team from Casterbridge Rotary gave a presentation regarding their inaugural event. The presentation reminded Members of the initial aims for the event, comparing them against the eventual highly successful outcomes; they also explained their plans to repeat the event in 2018.

The Mayor updated Members regarding her attendance at the Marathon, Carnival and recent civic events, taking the opportunity to remind Members both of the importance of civic events and also of notifying the organiser of their attendance or otherwise.

Council debated a motion, proposed and seconded, regarding the Council's attitude to mass releases of balloons and sky lanterns. Noting the point raised by the Youth Council Members remained concerned about the risk of fire resulting from naked flames.

Resolved

- i) That Council develops a policy to prohibit the release of Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons from land owned by the Council
- ii) That Council amends its internal processes to ensure that it does not provide funding or other forms of support to any event which includes

the release of Sky Lanterns and Helium Balloons

15. Updates from Partner Authorities

Councillor R. Biggs provided an update regarding the work of Dorset County Council. He noted discussions about the complexity of making Traffic Road Orders, as well as the potential for Town Councils to contribute towards the costs of introducing them. He explained that the County Council intends to write to the Minister for Works and Pensions regarding the impacts for local residents of the poor administration of the Personal Independence Payment system. He noted the reduction in rural bus routes following the removal of subsidies and a new initiative to upgrade broadband in south west Dorchester. He also provided an update on Local Government Reorganisation and emphasised the need for local councils to engage with the process.

Councillor M. Rennie updated Council on issues at West Dorset District Council, providing information on the bedding in of the new Strategy Committee. She announced a review of Customer Services in Development Control, which this Council had pressed for and also the District Council initiative on developing retail in Dorchester. Councillor Rennie also covered concerns about the delays in Local Government Reorganisation and its impact on reserves and the revenue budget.

16. Planning and Environment Committee – 5 June 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 5 June 2017 be adopted.

17. Planning and Environment Committee – 3 July 2017

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. The Mayor noted the poor level of attendance at the Committee.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3 July 2017 be adopted.

18. Management Committee – 11 July 2017

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

With permission to speak from the Chairman, a resident requested explanation of the Committee's decision at minute 3 that no further action be taken on the

proposal to provide a sports arena and play area on part of Hawthorne Road allotments. The Chairman responded, explaining the strength of feeling received against the proposal from allotment holders, coupled with the proximity of other play area sites. In responding to a further question regarding the lack of opportunities for young people in this part of the town and the difficulty of having their voice heard the Mayor agreed that the Council needed to learn some lessons from the process it had gone through.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 11 July 2017 be adopted.

19. **Policy Committee – 18 July 2017**

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

A Member requested information about the opportunities to develop the Council's role in supporting highway initiatives through the Working Together programme. The Town Clerk confirmed this issue would be considered through a Corporate Plan action relating to the prioritisation of at risk District and County Council services.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 18 July 2017 be adopted.

20. **Corporate Plan Review**

The Town Clerk provided an update on the process to review the Corporate Plan, including feedback from Committees regarding the draft Aims and Milestones documents.

Resolved

That the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Policy Committee, amend the tables in the draft Corporate Plan to incorporate the views expressed by the Management and Policy Committees.

The Council rose at 8.25pm.

Mayor

There were no questions at the public Question Time that followed the meeting.