

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

28 November 2017

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

Apologies: Councillors S. Jones and T. Jones

Before the meeting the Mayor invited Council to stand in remembrance of ex-Mayor and Honorary Citizen, Leslie Phillips.

28. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 2 October 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

29. Communications & Questions

Apologies were offered on behalf of the Youth Council, who were focusing on the Great Field consultation.

The Mayor thanked Members for the high level of attendance at Remembrance Day and at the service for Leslie Phillips. She noted the success of the 3rd Literary Festival in October and also highlighted the opening of the new Damers School by HRH the Duke of Cornwall. A letter of appreciation from a local resident was read out.

The Mayor announced several pre-Christmas town events, while the Deputy Mayor added his appreciation of the recent CLT event and LGBT vigil. The team of officers and Members involved in Democracy Day were thanked.

A Councillor raised some concerns regarding the lack of demographic data collection on the Great Field consultation forms.

30. Updates from Partner Authorities

Councillor A. Canning of Dorset County Council noted the Minister's "minded to" decision with regard to Local Government Reorganisation, but emphasised the need to ensure that county officers do not become overly internally focused on reorganisation over the next 18 months. He identified risks associated with the loss of the no. 5 bus service and also with the funding of Day Care and Library services in the town, as well as highlighting the impact of funding redistribution between SEN and mainstream education. Finally he identified that the DTEP programme remained on target and was currently under budget.

Councillor R. Potter of West Dorset District Council also highlighted their Council would now place greater focus on Local Government Reorganisation. He also mentioned a growing emphasis on IT systems, including paperless initiatives, Digital by Design and a revamp of the Dorsetforyou website. He noted increased footfall to the Library since the arrival of the TIC and the archaeological investigations at Fair Field. Finally he highlighted progress on the Local Plan Review, with potentially significant implications for Dorchester.

31. Planning and Environment Committee – 2 October 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 2 October 2017 be adopted.

32. Planning and Environment Committee – 6 November 2017

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

Members discussed road the new road signs at the western end of the town.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 6 November 2017 be adopted.

33. Management Committee – 14 November 2017

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 14 November 2017 be adopted.

34. Policy Committee – 21 November 2017

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

A Member explained the plans to develop a programme for WW1 Commemorations during 2018.

A Member asked a question regarding the potential works that the Council might need to undertake should Dorchester Arts remain in the Municipal Buildings in the

long term; the Town Clerk confirmed that as yet there had been no detailed analysis.

Resolved

- i) That the Town Clerk agree the purchase of interpretation aids equipment identified by the Shire Hall Trust, within a budget of £10,000 to be allocated from the existing Sport and Cultural Projects of the Corporate Projects Reserve
- ii) That, with regard to the development of a third generation artificial football pitch at The Avenue Stadium, the Town Clerk be authorised to match, pound of pound, sums raised from local community sources up to a maximum of £50,000, to be released should project costs reach the current estimate of £500,000
- iii) That £250,000 is reserved as a future contribution to The Maltings arts project if it is able to achieve its overall funding target; in the event that The Maltings project is not delivered the funds will be reserved to develop the Municipal Buildings as an arts venue
- iv) That, with regard to the Council's Risk Register
 - a. subject to the risk associated with Fireworks being reviewed, the assessed high level strategic and operational risks be approved
 - b. That the Risk Register is updated to recognise the risk associated with managing new data protection regulations
 - c. That the strategic, operational and opportunity risk registers, as a whole, be approved
- v) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 21 November 2017 be adopted.

The Council rose at 7.50pm.

Mayor

At a Public Questions session after the meeting a resident made points about the need for more dropped kerbs, advocated consideration of the use of the BT Exchange for other uses and made points regarding the District Council's Fair Field ideas.