

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

24 July 2018

- Present:** Mayor D. Taylor and Councillors C. Biggs, R. Biggs, G. Duke, T. Harries, J. Hewitt, S. Hosford, G. Jones, S. Jones, T. Jones, A. Lyall, R. Potter, M. Rennie, K. Rice and P. Stein.
- Apologies:** Councillor B. Armstrong-Marshall, A. Canning, A. Chisholm and F. Kent-Ledger.
- Interests:** Councillor G. Duke (Item 21, Policy Committee, as member of WDDC Ward Boundaries Panel), Councillor S. Jones (Item 21, Policy Committee, as board member of Dorchester Youth and Community Centre).

15. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 21 May 2018, 22 May 2018 and 19 June 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

The Town Clerk apologised for not providing a report regarding progress on the Access Ramp at Dorchester West Station and confirmed a report would be presented to Policy Committee in September.

16. Communications & Questions

The Dippy on Tour team of the Dorset County Museum presented to the Council regarding the economic impact of hosting the exhibition from February - May 2018. The event saw over 150,000 visits to the museum, generating a £2.2M boost to the local economy. In addition it also allowed the Museum to break down barriers with the local community, through volunteering, visits and contacts with the business sector.

The Mayor thanked all those involved in the delivery of the summer programme of events, particularly the weekend's Cinema event. He invited Members to visit the Borough Gardens on 1 August for Love Parks Day.

The Council considered a motion proposed by Councillor T. Jones, seconded by Councillor Hosford, regarding the national negotiations between the UK Government and the EU following Brexit. Councillor Jones identified the uncertainties for Dorchester's local economy of the loss of European workers and also the concerns of Dorchester residents currently living in Europe.

Concern was expressed that the Council might be seen to be aligning itself with political campaigns and also that the resolution would have little impact.

Resolved

That, given the seemingly insurmountable difficulties at a national level in agreeing a UK negotiating position on Brexit, this Council calls for a second referendum to determine our future relationship with the European Union

17. Updates from Partner Authorities

Councillor R. Biggs provided an update regarding the work of Dorset County Council. Decision making appeared to have slowed markedly as preparations for the Shadow Authority and the new Dorset Council have commenced. There was no news on discussions with Towns and Parishes regarding discretionary services. He identified a recent useful training event covering Equality and Diversity, which emphasised the need for Equality Impact Assessments on all major decisions regarding service delivery. He also updated Members on the potential for an emergency TRO to control parking at Lubbecke Way.

Councillor S. Hosford provided an update regarding the work of West Dorset District Council, echoing the view that decision making was slowing down due to Local Government Reorganisation and also raising concerns about the impact of the reorganisation on staff morale and service delivery. She identified concerns regarding the impact of the rollout of Universal Credit for local residents, offering anecdotal evidence regarding additional workloads at Citizens Advice and the Food Bank, as well as an increase in workload caused by the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act, which required the Housing Authority to intervene early on new cases. A Councillor highlighted the increase in usage of the Food Bank.

On a positive note Councillor Hosford commended the decision to award £50,000 for support to those affected by Domestic Abuse. In response to a question Councillor Hosford confirmed the timetable for consultation on the Local Plan Review.

18. Planning and Environment Committee – 4 June 2018

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes be adopted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 4 June 2018 be adopted.

19. Planning and Environment Committee – 2 July 2018

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. The Chairman responded to a question regarding noise issues at Prince of Wales Road.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment

Committee held on 2 July 2018 be adopted.

20. Management Committee – 10 July 2018

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 10 July 2018 be adopted.

21. Policy Committee – 17 July 2018

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

Councillor Hosford provided an update of a conversation with staff at the District Council and confirmed the need for the full loan outlined at Minute 2c).

Council considered a recommendation regarding the proposal by LGBCE for warding arrangements at the Unitary and Town Councils for the May 2019 elections. A representative of the Dorchester Labour Party made a representation in support of an alternative approach of 5 single Member wards at Unitary level. Members debated the merits of both multi-member and single member wards.

Resolved

- i) That the Town Council offer its support for the Unitary Council and Town Council ward arrangements for Dorchester, as proposed by the LGBCE
- ii) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 17 July 2018 be adopted.

The Council rose at 8.40pm.

Mayor

At public question time after the meeting Mr Ed Moore, a teacher at Damers School, explained the approach the school were taking towards becoming plastic free and invited the Town Council to consider how it might help extend the initiative across the town. The Town Clerk will make contact with the school for further information.