

# Dorchester Town Council

## Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

21 May 2019

Present: Mayor R. Biggs and Councillors, B. Armstrong-Marshall, S. Biles, A. Canning, A. Chisholm, L. Fry, T. Harries, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Hosford, G. Jones, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, A. Lyall, R. Major, R. Potter, M. Rennie, and R. Ricardo.

Apologies: Councillor D. Taylor.

5. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 March 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

6. **New Council Business**

Members received confirmation that all Acceptance of Office forms have been received.

Members considered new Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. A question was asked to clarify the status of the Standing Order regarding the holding of meetings in premises serving alcohol, which the Clerk will investigate.

**Resolved**

That the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Terms of Reference for Committees, circulated as part of the Committee papers, are adopted.

7. **Communications & Motions**

The Mayor thanked all those involved in the Mayor Making event on the previous evening. Councillors introduced themselves, during which time Councillor Stella Jones was congratulated on her 40 years of continuous service as a Councillor.

Council received and debated a motion relating to the issue of a Climate Emergency, proposed by Councillor Potter and seconded by Councillor Hosford.

A number of questions of detail were asked regarding current Council practices, which will be dealt with as part of actions in the new Corporate Plan and a number of related partner initiatives were also identified.

**Resolved**

That the Council recognises that there is a Climate Emergency and urges other Councils, organisations, businesses and individuals to do likewise. This Council recognises the start it has made, both in the purchase of battery powered tools and an electric vehicle, which will be recharged by

solar energy, and in the support offered to Damers School's "Plastic-free town" initiative.

We commit, through the Corporate Plan, to considering systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities, including energy use, with the aim of being zero-carbon by, at the latest, the year 2030.

**8. Update from the Dorset Council**

Councillor Biggs and other Dorset Councillors highlighted some of the early work of the new Council including the appointment of a single party Executive and the difficulties associated with public access to the first meeting of the Council in South Walks House.

Members debated the approach taken by the new Dorset Council, contrasting it both with the previous public vote requiring West Dorset to adopt an inclusive approach to its governance arrangements and the conciliatory intentions expressed by both the Leader and Chairman of the new Council towards collective working across all political parties.

**Resolved**

That the Town Clerk and Mayor agree the wording of a letter to be sent to the new Dorset Council identifying a wish to work closely together, while expressing concern about how the new Council's governance arrangements have been established.

**9. Annual Business**

Council considered appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and its Bank Mandate, as well as reports on the General Power of Competence and the Annual Governance Statement.

A Member noted the success of staff in achieving the CILCA qualification.

**Resolved**

- a) That appointments at Appendix 1 and 2 are approved, but that appointments to the Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee are deferred pending a decision by the Dorset Council regarding its appointees.
- b) That the Council adopts the General Power of Competence for the period to the next Annual Meeting of Council
- c) That the Council approves the signing of the Annual Governance Statement 2018-19

Council considered the financial out-turn for the 2018-19 year, including the draft Accounting Statement for 2018-19. Council noted a more detailed report would be presented to the next Policy Committee.

**Resolved**

- d) That Council approves the Accounting Statement 2018-19

10. **Review of Town Council Governance Arrangements**

Members considered a report regarding some operational governance issues raised by the previous Council and debated some options regarding changes in procedure.

A Member noted ongoing concerns about the lack of information about Council events, citing a recent event in the Borough Gardens. A Member asked how an annual Calendar of Tourism events might be managed and more widely advertised. The Town Clerk advised Members to consider the issue as part of the review of its Corporate Plan.

**Resolved**

- a) That with effect from 1 August 2019 all meetings of Committees and Council are moved to Monday nights
- b) That draft revised terms of reference for the Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee are approved for discussion with the Joint Committee and Dorset Council

11. **Planning and Environment Committee – 1 April 2019**

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 1 April 2019 be adopted.

12. **Planning and Environment Committee – 29 April 2019**

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

A Member provided an update regarding the introduction of new traffic management measures on Longbridge Way.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 29 April 2019 be adopted.

13. **Mayoral Selection Committee – 15 May 2019**

The Chairman introduced the minutes and it was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

**Resolved**

That David Trevor Jones be invited to become an Honorary Citizen and that the Town Clerk be authorised to make arrangements for the presentation of the honour in consultation with the Mayor.

Council rose at 8.15pm.

Mayor

Dorchester Town Council - Committee Membership 2019-20

Appendix 1

Councillor	Council	Planning & Environment	Management	Policy	Markets Joint Panel	Heritage Joint C'ttee
R. Biggs (Mayor)	Y	Y	Y	Y		
B. Armstrong-Marshall	Y			Y		
S. Biles	Y		Y			
A. Canning	Y	Y	Y			
A. Chisholm	Y			Vice Chair	Y	
L. Fry	Y	Y	Y			
T. Harries	Y	Vice Chair		Y		
J. Hewitt	Y	Y	Vice Chair		Y	
F. Hogwood	Y			Y		
S. Hosford	Y	Y		Chair	Y	
G. Jones	Y	Y		Y		
S. Jones	Y	Y	Y			
F. Kent-Ledger	Y	Y	Chair			
D. Leaper	Y		Y			
A. Lyall	Y		Y		Y	
R. Major	Y	Y	Y			
R. Potter	Y	Chair	Y		Y	
M. Rennie	Y	Y	Y		Y	
R. Ricardo	Y	Y	Y			
D. Taylor (Deputy Mayor)	Y		Y			
	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	

**Dorchester Town Council – Outside Body Representation**

**Appendix 2**

<b>Internal Roles</b>		<b>Appointed</b>
DAPTC Larger Towns Rep	R. Potter The Mayor	2012 Annually
<b>Charitable Trusteeships</b>		
Dorchester Municipal Charities (2)	J. Hewitt S. Hosford	2016 2011
Ashley Churchill & Thorner Trust (2)	R. Major R. Ricardo	2019 2019
<b>Other Bodies</b>		
Dorchester Arts	F. Kent-Ledger	2015
Dorchester Association L. History & Arch.	D. Taylor	2016
Dorchester BID	R. Potter	2019
Dorchester Bayeux Society	T. Harries	2018
Dorchester Lubbecke Society	D. Leaper	2019
Dorchester, Sherborne and North Dorset CAB	B. Armstrong Marshall (Deputy F. Hogwood)	2019
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre	M. Rennie	2019
Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership	A. Chisholm	2019
Maltings Arts	B. Armstrong-Marshall	2017
Thomas Hardy Society	D. Leaper	2019
Transition Town Dorchester	F. Hogwood	2019
Volunteer Centre Dorchester	S. Biles	2019
<b>Bank Mandate Signatories</b>		
T. Harries, S. Jones, R. Potter, M. Rennie, D. Taylor		