

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

23 July 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, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, A. Lyall, R. Major, R. Potter, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo.

Apologies: Councillors G. Jones and D. Taylor.

14. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 20 & 21 May 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

15. **Communications & Motions**

The Mayor congratulated and thanked pupils from Damers School, along with their teacher Edd Moore for leading the town through the process to being awarded Plastic Free status.

Recognising a recent milestone achieved by Councillor Stella Jones the Mayor proposed a motion to Council, which was seconded.

Resolved

That the Council congratulates Councillor Stella Jones on achieving the milestone of 40 years unbroken service to the town of Dorchester.

The Mayor presented Councillor Jones with a small gift to commemorate the occasion.

The Mayor also reflected on the success of recent events, including the Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair and the Moonbury Rings Festival. He had recently sent a letter of congratulations to Keep 106FM on reaching their 1st birthday milestone.

Council agreed to move the date of the next meeting to Monday 30 September 2019 due to a clash with a twinning visit to Bayeux.

16. **Update from Dorchester Ward Members of the Dorset Council**

Councillor S. Jones advised that the most recent meeting of the Dorset Council had taken place at County Hall, which, while not without issues, had presented a much improved space to meet.

Councillor Fry advised that the planning application for the Roman Town House had been passed. He also identified ongoing staff changes and the implications these were having.

Councillor Rennie advised Councillors regarding a distribution of funds by the Dorchester Markets Panel.

A Councillor questioned whether the single party Executive governance arrangements were preventing the involvement of opposition members. Dorset Councillors gave examples relating to the establishment of Executive Advisory Panels which gave some optimism that steps were being taken to encourage involvement.

17. Planning and Environment Committee – 3 June 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 3 June 2019 be adopted.

18. Planning and Environment Committee – 1 July 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 July 2019 be adopted.

19. Management Committee – 9 July 2019

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

A Councillor made points and sought and obtained clarification regarding Minute 5., relating to the offer of financial support for a Christmas Market.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 9 July 2019 be adopted.

20. Policy Committee – 16 July 2019

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

Resolved

- a) That the Treasury Strategy 2019/2020 is adopted
- b) That the revised Member Allowance Scheme is adopted, that the annual payment is indexed to staff pay inflation, with the next full review to take place no later than 2024.
- c) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 16 July 2019 be adopted.

21. Appointments to Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee

As a result of a decision by the Dorset Council to appoint five of its members to the Joint Committee, Council considered its appointments. Members discussed the

advantage of having representatives of local organisations as non-voting members of the Joint Committee.

Resolved

- a) That the Joint Committee be requested to amend its Terms of Reference to invite a local representative of the Ancient and Honorary Guild of Town Criers to join as a non-voting member;
- b) That the following Councillors are appointed to the Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee:

S. Biles, F. Hogwood, G. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger and R. Major

Mayor

Council rose at 7.40 pm.