

# **Dorchester Town Council**

## **Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council**

**27 January 2020**

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

**37. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 November 2019 and the Special meeting of Council held on 21 December 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

Referring to minute 35 a Member asked for further information about Local Plan workshops operated by the Dorset Council.

Referring to minute 36 honorary citizen Trevor Jones thanked Members for their attendance at the Special Meeting of Council which conferred the honour on him.

**38. Communications & Motions**

The Mayor thanked Members for their attendance at the recent Holocaust Memorial event.

**39. Planning and Environment Committee – 2 December 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 2 December 2019 be adopted.

**40. Planning and Environment Committee – 6 January 2020**

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

Referring to minute 58 a Member asked that a list of outstanding requests for parking restrictions be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

Referring to the Appendix to the minutes a Member asked that clarification be sought in relation to an amendment to a planning application in London Road.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 6 January 2020 be adopted.

**41. Management Committee – 13 January 2020**

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

Referring to minute 49 a Member asked for clarification regarding ownership of John's Pond.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 13 January 2020 be adopted.

**42. Policy Committee – 20 January 2020**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted and the Chairman highlighted three recommendations to Council.

Referring to minute 23 a Member confirmed that the Dorset County Pension Fund was reviewing its investment approach.

**Resolved**

- a) That, in order to meet the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency:
  - i) £100,000 is transferred to the Municipal Buildings Reserve to fund a new low carbon heating system
  - ii) A new Climate Emergency Fund is created, with an initial contribution of £125,000, to be used to support the delivery of the Climate Emergency Preliminary Response document
  - iii) The Climate Emergency Preliminary Response, included in the Policy Committee agenda with amendment, be approved and subjected to consultation in order to be adopted by May 2020.

The Chairman introduced minute 24 and proposed the Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

**Resolved**

- b) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2020/21 are adopted as laid out in Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Policy Committee, to include: -
  - A Council Tax Band D charge of £196.64, an increase of £3.86 (2.00%)
  - A precept of £1,503.515, an increase of 2.70%
  - The inclusion of one-off contributions to a new Climate Emergency Reserve (£125,000) and the Municipal Buildings Reserve for climate emergency related works (£100,000)
- c) That the Corporate Plan High Level Focus, included at Appendix 2 to the Minutes of the Policy Committee, is adopted for consultation with partners and the community
- d) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 20 January 2020 be adopted

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

Members of the Dorset Council updated Council regarding current workload, the primary focus of which was on the forthcoming budget and its focus on Adult and Children's care.

In response to a question Dorset Councillors outlined the current governance arrangements of the Council. A Member provided an update regarding Audit Committee training and it was noted that a review of outside body appointments was underway. A Dorset Councillor highlighted the many consultation exercises likely to emerge as a result of harmonising services, including one on car parking.

Members discussed the means by which minutes of the Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee and Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel were made available and the Town Clerk agreed to include reference to the minutes in future agenda papers.

A Member provided an update on community support for the Homeless, including that provided by two local churches.

Mayor

Council rose at 7.40 pm.

At a Public Question Time following the meeting a resident highlighted the submission made by Extinction Rebellion to the Dorset Council and expressed a wish for ongoing engagement with the community as the Town Council developed its response to the Climate Emergency.