

At the **MEETING** of the **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Magistrates Room, Municipal Buildings, Dorchester on Tuesday, 23rd March, 2010:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor S. Hosford) in the Chair.

Councillors M.A. Allwood, D.J. Barrett, C.S. Biggs, R.M. Biggs, V. Black, A.J. Canning, A. Harries, T.C.N. Harries, L.E. Heath, C.M. Hebditch, E.S. Jones, Trevor Jones, F.E. Kent-Ledger, A.J. Lyall, P.G. Mann, L.M. Phillips, R.B. Potter and M.E. Rennie.

In attendance:

Reverend R. Frapwell, Mayor's Chaplain

Inspector L. Fry, Dorset Police

J. Groves, Education Officer, Dorset County Council

APOLOGY for absence was received from Councillors T. James.

55. **THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**

The Mayor's Chaplain opened the Meeting with a short statement about balancing the highs and lows in life, when experiencing either it was never the whole picture but it was right to celebrate the highs and to remember that in a low things would change – it was not the whole story.

56. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th January, 2010, copies of which had been circulated to all Members of the Council, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

57. **COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor welcomed representatives of the Dorchester Stitchers to the meeting. The Dorchester Stitchers presented the Mayor with two seat cushions to be used on the Mayor's and the Town Clerk's seats in the Council Chamber. The cushions had each been embroidered with the appropriate Seal. The Mayor thanked the group for all their work and for the cushions which were excellent.

The Mayor reported that Sue Cheeseman, who was in attendance at the meeting, had recently completed twenty five years service with the Town Council on 13th March. On behalf of the Council the Mayor thanked Sue for her long service and presented her with a gift to mark the occasion. Sue thanked Members and said how much she enjoyed working for the Council.

Members were informed that The Keep Military Museum had sent an invitation to the Council offering Members the opportunity for an afternoon tour of the museum which had many new exhibits. Members felt that the invitation should be accepted and a suitable date arranged.

The Mayor reported that the Senior Archaeologist responsible for the Weymouth Relief Road Archaeological Exhibition had agreed to do a talk and presentation to

Members on the significant archaeological finds uncovered during construction of the new road. As the finds included Viking remains Members felt that the Dorchester-Holbæk Society would also be interested in such a presentation and that it might be timed to coincide with the visit of a party from Holbæk in August.

The Council was pleased to note that the necessary funds had been raised to return the Thomas Hardy Players manuscripts to Dorchester. The manuscripts were due to be handed over to the Dorset County Museum on 31st March, 2010.

58. **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received in accordance with Standing Order 12(3).

59. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 1st FEBRUARY, 2010**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 1st February, 2010 be adopted.

Minute 70 – Parking in Dorchester – Members felt that it would be helpful if the officers responsible for parking matters from both Dorset County Council and West Dorset District Council be invited to a future meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee, once the planning application for the Charles Street Development had been submitted, to discuss with Members the parking implications of the proposed development.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 1st February, 2010 be adopted.

60. **PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 1st MARCH, 2010**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 1st March, 2010 be adopted.

61. **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 9th MARCH, 2010**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 9th March, 2010 be adopted.

Minute 61(b) – Community Activities Panel – Members were reminded that the Lübbecke Schützen Musik Corps would be visiting in July and that a number of young people would be coming with them who needed hosting; any support that individual Members could give in this regard would be most welcome.

Minute 67 – Weymouth Avenue Recreation Ground – Ball Catch Net System – The Chairman of the Risk Management Panel expressed concern that such a small Panel was being asked to consider this matter as there was no way the Panel could anticipate the potential consequences of balls going over the existing fence. It was noted that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee would attend the meeting and that it would be the Management Committee that made the final decision on the matter.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Management Committee held on 9th March, 2010 be adopted.

(Councillor T.C.N. Harries declared a Personal Interest in respect of Minute 65 as he had joined the Heroes Welcome in Dorchester scheme.)

62. **MAYORAL SELECTION COMMITTEE – 16th MARCH, 2010**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 17th March, 2009 be adopted.

Minute 7 – Selection of Town Mayor – 2010-11 – Councillor C.M. Hebditch reported that the Member named at this Minute was Councillor L.M. Phillips and it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

- (1) That Councillor L.M. Phillips be invited to fill the Office of Town Mayor of Dorchester for the 2010-11 Council year.

Councillor Phillips accepted the invitation and expressed his appreciation of the honour which it represented.

It was also

RESOLVED

- (2) That the Minutes of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 16th March, 2010 be adopted.

63. **POLICY COMMITTEE – 16th MARCH, 2010**

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 16th March, 2010 be adopted.

Minute 48(1) – The Council’s Political Management Arrangements – Some Members felt that the Borough Gardens Panel should be retained for a further year in light of the fact that the Gardens Bowling Club had announced that it was to close and decisions would therefore be required regarding the future of the Bowling Green.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Borough Gardens Panel should not be disbanded at present but that its existence be reviewed again in twelve months' time.
- (2) That, subject to (1) above, the Minutes of the Policy Committee held on 16th March, 2010 be adopted.

(The Mayor (Councillor S. Hosford) and Councillor C.M. Hebditch declared Personal Interests in respect of Minute 51 as they were involved in the Promote Dorchester Community Interest Company.)

64. **SCHOOL ADMISSION ISSUES IN DORCHESTER**

The Mayor welcomed Jackie Groves, Education Officer to Dorset County Council, who addressed Members on school admission issues that were affecting Dorchester pupils. She explained how school pupil admission numbers were calculated and explained the difficulties in finding places for children who moved to the area in Year 7 which was the end of primary school but only half way through the middle school in the system which operated in Dorchester. Ms Groves explained the arrangements for children having to travel out of the town for their education.

She responded to Members' detailed questions and confirmed that there were sufficient spaces at Thomas Hardy School to admit all those children from Dorchester middle schools if that was their preference. She also confirmed that a review of school catchment areas was under way.

65. **POLICE MATTERS**

Inspector Fry informed the Council of crime statistics for Dorchester over the last two months and responded to Members' questions on them.

In response to a concern expressed by a Member Inspector Fry agreed to investigate an issue regarding large lorries reversing from Trinity Street at the Weymouth Avenue end into South Street so as to avoid the bollards.

The Council rose at 8.04pm.

Mayor