

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

10 APRIL 2017

At the Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 10 April 2017:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors: C. Biggs T. Loakes
	Officers: S. Newman
West Dorset District Council	Councillors: A. Canning (Chairman) S. Jones
Dorset County Council	Councillor: T. Jones
Blue Badge Tourist Guides	T. Loasby
Dorchester Association	J. Smith
Dorchester Civic Society	P. Mann
Dorchester Chamber for Business	A. Chisholm

40. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Biggs (Dorset County Council), Councillor J. Dunseith (West Dorset District Council), G. Jones (Dorchester Town Council), C. Hebditch (Dorchester Local Nature Reserve) and C. Copson (The Keep Military Museum).

41. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2017, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

42. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

43. **NEW TOWN MAP**

The Committee welcomed Mr L. Ball from Cityscape Maps who explained to Members the benefits of having a quality town map. Mr Ball had undertaken a brief survey of the town

and identified that signage was patchy and that the proposed town map and map boards would benefit the town greatly. It was noted that maps were provided by dispensing machines which would be kept stocked and cash emptied by a local agent. The map would be hand drawn and would show every building with an easy to follow aerial perspective. Mr Ball circulated copied of maps that had been produced for other towns in the UK and abroad. Members felt that the maps and map boards were excellent and felt that there was a place for them in the town. In respect of costs Mr Ball suggested that a scheme could be implemented for around £15 - £20,000. It was noted that the map boards and maps could utilise QR tags and link with mobile phone technology.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Committee had previously supported a new pedestrian wayfinding scheme for the town and that funding was being sought for that scheme. Any town map scheme would need to compliment the pedestrian wayfinding scheme.

The Committee agreed that the principle for a new town map but that consideration would need to be given to the planned pedestrian wayfinding scheme, obtaining funding from partners etc. The Committee did not wish to commit itself to an additional scheme until those issues were addressed.

RESOLVED

That the principle for a new town map was agreed but that consideration be given to complimenting the planned pedestrian wayfinding scheme, obtaining funding from partners etc, prior to any further action be taken.

44. PEDESTRIAN WAYFINDING SIGNS

The Committee was informed that, following approval of the first stage submission, the full grant application to the South Dorset Local Action Group Leader Rural Development Programme for a grant towards a new pedestrian wayfinding scheme for Dorchester, had now been submitted. The result of the application would be known in early June 2017.

45. FRINKS SCULPTURE – SOUTH WALKS

Members noted that in August 2016 an application had been made to Historic England for the Frinks sculpture to be Listed. Notification had now been received from Historic England that the sculpture installed at the old gallows in 1986 was a powerful expressive work by one of the most significant sculptors of the C20 and that given its quality and strong artistic interest, it merited Listing at Grade II.

It was reported that the new Frinks information board was complete subject to confirmation from the Frinks Estate that it was agreeable to using an imagine of Elizabeth Frinks.

RESOLVED

That the Historic England Grade II Listing of the Frinks Sculpture be welcomed.

46. **THOMAS HARDY TRAIL**

The representative from the Dorchester Chamber of Business informed the Committee that the Hardy Trail which included information boards around the town had been produced some years ago but that it had now fallen into disrepair with some of the boards missing or broken. Members felt that the trail should be brought back into good order and that enquiries should be made as to what organisation was responsible for the maintenance of the trail. It was suggested that a joint approach to include interested Hardy partners could be a way forward should no organisation be identified as having responsibility.

RESOLVED

That enquiries be made as to which organisation was responsible for the implementation and ongoing maintenance of the Hardy trail.

47. **DORSET ARCHITECTURAL WEEK**

The Committee considered whether it wished to contribute towards Dorset Architectural Week, for example by contributing towards funding for some guided tours in the town. It was noted that a requirement for the event was that it must be something that a visitor could not access or experience during the rest of the year.

Members felt that opening up the cellars that had been identified in various parts of the town to the public might be a good event for future Architectural Weeks but that it was too late to arrange an event such as this for 2017.

48. **'A' BOARDS**

The Chairman of the Committee reported that he had received a response from Dorset County Council confirming that businesses had yet to be contacted with regard to 'A' Boards being placed on the highway. Discussions had been ongoing with the County Council's Solicitor regarding the wording that should be used particularly in respect of reminding businesses of their responsibility to insure the boards whilst at the same time not implying that they had permission to have the boards in the first place.

Members felt that this situation did not reflect well on the County Council and asked that the Council continue to be pressed to take some action.

It was reported that Lyme Regis Town Council approved advertising boards for shops located on railings and questioned whether a scheme such as this might be worth considering for Dorchester. Members felt that this would not be a way forward at the present time.

RESOLVED

That Dorset County Council continue to be pressed to take the action it had agreed to take.

49. **DORCHESTER BOUNDARY STONE**

Members were informed that there was an original Dorchester Boundary Stone located in the area of the end of Came View Road which appeared to have been vandalised – the cast iron plate had been broken and removed. It was understood that the stone was one of the 1835 boundary stones (actually installed in 1857). The Committee was asked if it wished to fund a new plate to be placed on the stone.

The Committee felt that it was likely that a replacement iron plate would suffer the same fate as the original and requested that a quotation be sought to have the wording engraved on the remaining stone instead.

Members also requested that some research be undertaken to endeavour to ascertain whether there were any further remaining boundary stones and if there were where they were located.

RESOLVED

(1) That a quotation be sought to have the original wording engraved on the boundary stone rather than replacing the iron plate.

(2) That some research be undertaken to endeavour to ascertain whether there were any further remaining boundary stones and if there were where they are located.

50. **INFORMATION SIGNS - UPDATE**

Maumbury Rings

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Committee that the three new information boards had now been installed and that the steps to the top of the Rings had been improved. Members had also been circulated with draft 'Welcome to Maumbury Rings' and 'Looking After Maumbury Rings' signs for approval.

RESOLVED

That the draft 'Welcome to Maumbury Rings' and 'Looking After Maumbury Rings' signs be approved.

Dorchester South and West Railway Stations

Members were informed that the 'you are here' boards had been updated by West Dorset District Council to include such key areas as Brewery Square. Unfortunately the new boards showed the incorrect location of Brewery Square and still had the original location of the TIC as well as the new location. The Committee felt that West Dorset District Council should be asked to re-produce the signs.

51. **QUESTIONS**

No formal questions had been submitted.

52. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Committee noted correspondence from Councillor G. Jones asking Members to give some consideration to the idea of collectively using a system of locating, identifying and interpretation of the town's heritage electronically by use of mobile devices. It was noted that Dorchester BID was also considering the idea of a town App for mobile devices. Members felt that the idea was worth considering in further detail and requested that a presentation be made to the Committee by the research team that had been developing such an idea.

It was reported that the TIC, now located within the Library, appeared to be very quiet, not helped by the lack of signage to the new location or any sign on the Library itself saying that the TIC was located there. Concern was also expressed about the Library and therefore the TIC being closed on a Wednesday afternoon, bank holidays etc.

53. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 17 July 2017 commencing at 7.00pm.

Chairman:

Dated: