

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

15 OCTOBER 2018

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 15 October 2018:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors: C. Biggs G. Jones F. Kent-Ledger
	Officer: S. Newman
West Dorset District Council	Councillors: A. Canning (Chairman) J. Dunseith S. Jones
Blue Badge Tourist Guides	T. Loasby
Dorchester Association	M. Rice
Dorchester Chamber for Business	A. Chisholm
Dorchester Civic Society	T. James
Dorset County Council	R. Biggs
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve	K. Hebditch

17. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from J. Murden (Dorset Natural history and Archaeological Society), A. Bright (Shire Hall) and C. Copson (The Keep Military Museum).

18. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2018, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

19. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

20. **NEW MEMBER**

The Committee welcomed back Tess James who was representing the Dorchester Civic Society in place of Peter Mann.

21. **DORSET ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE WEEK – DORCHESTER EVENT – SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2018**

The representative from the Dorchester Chamber for Business reported on the success of the event arranged to support Dorset Architectural Heritage week.

It was reported that over 2,000 people had taken part in the event which had included closing High West and East Streets, guided walks, entry to Shire Hall Museum and more. Feedback received from those attending was that it was an excellent event with one person asking whether the roads could be closed every Sunday.

One issue had been identified in respect of needing a good number of volunteers to staff the road closures and it was hoped that for future years it might be possible for the Army Reserves to help in this regard.

The Committee considered contributing £125 to the cost of preparing a report on the overall benefit of the event to the town. The Town Council would also contribute £125 to the cost of a report.

RESOLVED

That the Committee contribute £125 towards the cost of preparing a report on the benefit of the event to the town.

22. **ROMAN TOWN HOUSE**

The Deputy Town Clerk updated the Committee in respect of the project to refurbish and improve the setting of the Roman Town House.

Dorset County Council, which was leading the project, would be submitting a HLF bid around January 2019, a brief for the work that needed to be carried out to the structure and lighting of the building had been completed, Historic England had been consulted regarding the proposed design of the site and new access, the concept plan was being completed and meetings were also taking place with regard to educational resources and interpretation of the site. A further meeting with HLF was planned for November 2018.

Members were supportive of the project and requested that officers from Dorset County Council attend the next meeting of the Committee to update it on progress.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

23. **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL – HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

Further to Minute No 11/2018, the Committee had before it a report by the Town Clerk which included an updated briefing document for a Heritage Tourism Strategy. The Town Council had agreed to allocate up to £3,000 from its budgets to progress this project.

It was noted that there were two needs that underpinned moving the project forward:-

- The existing steering group needed some high quality expertise to gather initial thoughts on paper, delivered on a contract basis.
- A project management resource, delivered on either a contract of employee basis, to support the process and deliver an action plan once agreed.

Members were pleased that progress was being made with this initiative and stressed the importance to the future of the town to make the most of its attractions.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted.

24. **DORCHESTER POPPY TRAIL**

Further to Minute No 12/2018 the Committee was informed that the Dorchester Poppy Trail was now very largely complete. The trail was to be officially launched at the Town Council's WW1 Homecoming event being held in the Corn Exchange on Wednesday 7 November 2018.

The Committee thanked all of those involved with this successful project.

It was also noted that the sculpture to commemorate a 100 years since the end of WW1 was to be unveiled on 3 November 2018 and Members requested that the Lubbecke Society be invited to attend.

25. **SIGN - CORNER OF NORTH WALK / COLLITON WALK**

Further to Minute No 13/2018, the Deputy Town Clerk reported that the sign which had been placed into the Scheduled Monument on the corner of North Walk and Colliton Walk had now been removed. Additionally that part of The Walks had been resurfaced and the out of character aluminium benches had been replaced with more traditional ones.

26. **JO DRAPER**

Further to minute No 34/2017-18 it was reported that the cost of having a new edition of 'A Dorchester Camera' had been received - a high quality re-print case bound as per the first edition would cost £3,185 for 750 copies with run on costs at £3.75 per copy. Further discussion would be required with regard to warehousing and distribution and a possible publication date if that option was to be pursued.

It was also reported that an alternative proposal had been received which was for the provision of a quality bespoke public seat to be located at the front of the Dorset County Museum.

RESOLVED

That the Committee supports the provision of a bespoke bench in memory of Jo Draper to be located at the front of Dorset County Museum.

27. A THOMAS HARDY DAY FOR DORCHESTER

The Dorchester Chamber representative and G. Jones put forward an idea regarding a 'Thomas Hardy Day'. Initial thoughts included closing High West Street, having people dressed up, a fun family event. The event could be scheduled to coincide with the annual birthday celebration and include the Thomas Hardy Society. It was noted that there were other groups that might be interested such as the Thomas Hardy players.

Members felt that the idea should be explored further.

RESOLVED

That the Dorchester Chamber representative and G. Jones explore further the idea of a Thomas Hardy Day and work up a more detailed proposal for the Committee's consideration.

28. A LOCAL HERITAGE LIST FOR DORCHESTER

Subject to consideration by the Civic Society, the Committee was asked to consider supporting the idea of a Local Heritage List for Dorchester.

Local Heritage listing was a Civic Voice initiative and was a means for a community and a local authority to jointly identify heritage assets that were valued as distinctive elements of the local historic environment. The Local Heritage List would identify those heritage assets that were not protected by statutory national designations but were of local heritage interest, contributing to the sense of place and history of the local area. Preparing a local heritage list would mean that the significance of heritage assets on the list was given due consideration by the Local Planning Authority, when change was being proposed.

It was noted that the Town Council also had an aspiration to produce such a list and would, in principle, be agreeable to providing a modest contribution and technical support to put any end list on the Council's GIS.

Whilst discussing this matter it was reported that part of Dorset's heritage was its breeds of sheep and the importance that sheep had to the rural economy etc. Members felt that it might be possible to include an aspect of rural heritage with the idea for a Thomas Hardy Day, this could then include an aspect of William Barnes.

RESOLVED

That the idea of a Local Heritage List for Dorchester be supported.

29. **NAPPERS MITE CLOCK**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that, following the Committee underwriting the cost of the scaffolding, the work to the clock drum was presently being undertaken and once that had been completed the clock would be put back together. It was anticipated that the clock would be completed by the end of October 2018.

Members requested that some publicity be given to the clock once the restoration was completed.

30. **QUESTIONS**

No formal questions had been submitted.

31. **URGENT ITEMS**

WDDC Consultation on the Local Plan Preferred Options – Policy DOR15 – Following a question the Chairman confirmed that on behalf of the Committee he would write objecting to the Policy DOR15.

In response to a question the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that a report would be presented to the next meeting regarding revisions to the constitution as a result of Local Government Reorganisation.

32. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 28 January 2019 commencing at 7.00pm.

Chairman: