

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

25 MARCH 2019

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 25 March 2019:

PRESENT:

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

46. **APOLOGIES**

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

47. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2019, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

48. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

49. **CAR PARKING NEAR NORTHERNHAY**

The Committee considered correspondence from a local resident in respect of car parking near Northernhay.

The correspondence informed Members that two years ago a residents group had organised tree and shrub planting along the access to Loders Car Park and along its east boundary with the river northward to the gauging weir. The planting was growing well and had been weeded regularly. The purpose of the planting was to shield the view of the car park and the railings beyond from walkers on the footpath to Blue Bridge. The planting also added to the setting of The Walks and Hangmans Cottage. The initial (heavy) ground clearance was undertaken by Dorset County Council, the trees paid for by same, and staff of Dorchester Town Council helped plant the verge nearest Hangmans Cottage.

Since the planting the County Council had not renewed the yellow markings on the road and up to six cars regularly parked on the edge of the plantings. County Council Enforcement Officers were unable to ticket cars under these circumstances. The Committee was circulated with photos showing cars parked on the area of the new plantings.

Members felt that the double yellow lines should be repainted as soon as possible and enforcement should then carried out so as to stop the vehicle encroachment. It was also suggested that some bollards could usefully be placed along the edge of the wooded area which would also stop the encroachment.

The Committee asked that the Dorset Council be informed of the Committee's views and ask that some action be taken as soon as possible. Representatives from the Committee would be willing to attend a site visit with Dorset Council Officers if it was felt that would be useful.

RESOLVED

That the Executive Director of Place at the new Dorset Council be informed of the Committee's views as set out above.

50. **NEW MEMBER REQUEST**

The Committee considered a request for membership of the Committee from the National Trust (for Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage) to become a member of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the National Trust (for Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage) become a non-voting member of the Committee.

51. **2018-19 BUDGET UPDATE**

The Committee considered the 2018-19 budget update which had been circulated with the Agenda.

RESOLVED

That the budget update 2018-19 be noted.

52. **THOMAS HARDY VICTORIAN FAIR – 2 JUNE 2019**

Further to Minute No. 38/2018 the Committee received an update in respect of the Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair. The Committee was also asked for it to formally agree to becoming a partner in the event alongside the Dorchester Town Council.

Members noted that arrangements were going well and that a lot of interest had been shown in the event. Due to the size of the proposed event and it was a significant amount of work for the volunteers to undertake and it was suggested that in order to make the vision come to fruition a paid organiser be appointed.

The Committee expressed disappointment that the Dorchester BID had only contributed £500 to the event which would inevitably significantly benefit the traders in the town.

RESOLVED

- (1) That an additional contribution of £1,500 be made to the cost of organising the event subject to receipt of a costed budget.
- (2) That the Committee formally become an organiser partner in the event alongside Dorchester Town Council.

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

Further to Minute No 39/2019, the Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk which informed Members that the request to West Dorset District Council for a contribution of £50,000 towards a project to develop and implement a heritage tourism strategy and also to carry out an informal heritage sites audit had been successful. The Town Council had also set aside £50,000 for the project.

The report set out the next steps to progress the project which included establishing a steering group and recruiting a project manager.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the way forward identified in the report, subject to the addition of the Chairman of the Heritage Committee being included on the steering group, be agreed.
- (2) That the appointment of a project manager be undertaken as soon as possible.

54. **SUPPORTING HISTORIC HIGH STREETS EVENT**

Further to Minute No. 44/2019 the Committee received the notes of the Supporting Historic High Streets – The Ingredients for Success in the 21st Century: The Visitor Economy forum meeting held on 22 January 2019 and attended by the Local Nature Reserve representative.

55. **QUESTIONS**

No formal questions had been submitted.

56. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Committee confirmed that the Registration Form to take part in the 2019 Dorset Architectural Heritage Week, be submitted based on the submission in 2018.

Councillor G. Jones reported that he had recently seen the town stocks which were held in custody by the County Museum. He suggested that a replica set of stocks located in their original location might be a good way of increasing interest and encouraging visitors to both the County Museum and Shire Hall. The Blue Badge Guide representative agreed to try and establish the original site of the town stocks and enquiries would be made regarding producing replica stocks and associated information board. A report would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

57. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that, subject to revised terms of reference for the Committee being established and appointments being made to the Committee from the new Dorset Council, a provisional date of Monday 22 July 2019 commencing at 7.00pm be agreed for the next meeting.

Chairman: