



# DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, 19 North Square, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1JF  
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**Steve Newman, Town Clerk**

11 January 2023

You are invited to a meeting of the **DORCHESTER HERITAGE JOINT COMMITTEE** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, HIGH EAST STREET, DORCHESTER DT1 1HF** on **TUESDAY 17 JANUARY 2023** commencing at **7.00pm**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Newman'.

Town Clerk and Secretary to the Committee

## **Declaration of Interests**

Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to disclose interests where appropriate. A Member who declares any interest must leave the room. A Member who declares a registerable interest as a Council nominee to a partner organisation may first address the meeting as a member of the public.

## **Membership**

Dorset Council: R. Biggs, A. Canning, L. Fry, S. Jones and R. Tarr

Dorchester Town Council: S. Biles, A. Chisholm, F. Hogwood, G. Jones and D. Taylor

The following Members may attend and speak but not vote:

Mr B Murphy (Duchy of Cornwall), I. Gosling (Dorchester Civic Society), Vacancy (Dorchester Chamber for Business), M. Woodgate (Dorchester Heritage Magazine), E. Metcalfe (The Keep Military Museum), L. Poulsen (Dorchester Local Nature Reserve), E Selby (Dorset Museum), J Wallis (Blue Badge Tourist Guides) M Rice (Dorchester Association), Maria Gayton or S. Johnson (Dorset History Centre), R. Raine (National Trust (for Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage)), T. Little (Shire Hall), A. Worth (Keep 106 Community Radio), M. Chutter (Thomas Hardy Society).

## **AGENDA**

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

### **2. MINUTES**

To read, confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 October 2022 (copy enclosed).

3. **INFORMATION BOARD AT POUNDBURY**

To consider a proposal from a Poundbury Resident for an information board at Poundbury – details enclosed.

4. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

To consider the following matters:-

(a) To receive an update on the work of the Tourism Partnership in respect of:-

- BrewDorch Festival
- Walking Festival
- Christmas Campaign
- Autumn Campaign

(b) The Committee will be asked to give consideration to proposals for spending from the Tourism as follows:-

	Proposed budget allocation
Any website changes needed following the review	£2000
TIP equipment budget (tablet, stand and shelving)	£5000
Home of the Hill Forts and Henges 2	£3000
Heritage Visitor experience proposal – Museums After Dark 2 for Autumn 2023	£500
Museums together Easter 2023	£500

(c) Volunteers will be sought to write guest blogs for the Discover Dorchester website on different aspects of Dorchester’s heritage.

(d) Dorchester Tourism Partnership – Notes of meeting (to follow).

5. **MILL STREAM PATH - SECTION FROM LONDON ROAD TO MILL STREET**

To receive an update report on progress with the ‘industrial quarter’ information boards to be located at the lower Mill Stream. The first draft board should be available to view at the Committee meeting.

6. **ROMAN MOSAIC PROJECT – THE WALKS**

To receive an oral report from the Working Group established to consider this project.

7. **MOULE BLUE PLAQUE**

As agreed at the last meeting, a new blue plaque with revised wording has been produced – this plaque has been produced using a different material and will be available to view at the Committee.

8. **THOMAS HARDY VICTORIAN FAIR- SUNDAY 4 JUNE 2023**

The Chairman to update the Committee in respect of the 2023 Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair (a road closure for this event and Heritage Open Day has been submitted).

9. **MEETING DATES**

To note the 2023-24 meeting dates for the Committee – unless otherwise agreed, all meetings to held in the Council Chamber of the Corn Exchange Building starting at 7.00pm.

Tuesday 18 April 2023 (already agreed)

Tuesday 25 July 2023

Tuesday 18 October 2023

Tuesday 23 January 2024

Tuesday 16 April 2024

10. **QUESTIONS**

To receive questions submitted by Members in writing to the Dorchester Town Clerk and in respect of which the appropriate notice has been given.

11. **URGENT ITEMS**

To consider any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

## **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**18 OCTOBER 2022**

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 18 October 2022:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council

Councillors: S. Biles  
A. Chisholm  
F. Hogwood  
G. Jones (Chairman)  
D. Taylor

Officers: S. Newman  
M. Manley

Dorset Council

Councillors: R. Biggs  
S. Jones  
R. Tarr

Dorchester Association  
Dorchester Civic Society  
Dorchester Heritage Magazine  
Thomas Hardy Society  
The Keep Military Museum  
Dorchester Local Nature Reserve  
Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum

M. Rice  
I. Gosling  
M. Woodgate  
M. Chutter  
F. Scott  
L. Poulson  
T. Little

#### 12. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Canning and L. Fry (Dorset Council), E. Selby (Dorset Museum) J. Wallis (Blue Badge Tourist Guides), M. Gayton (Dorset History Centre) and R. Raine (National Trust).

#### 13. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2022, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

In respect of Minute No. 9 it was noted that this Minute was a snapshot as at the date of the meeting. It was accepted that both Shire Hall and the Keep Military Museum had been included in the final programme.

Members also felt that the traffic situation in the town on Heritage Open Day would have been better if the road closure applied for had been authorised.

14. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

(a) **Heritage Tourism Strategy – Progress**

The Committee received a progress report from the Tourism Development Officer which updated it on the work undertaken against the agreed Tourism Strategy Action Plan.

Members thanked the Tourism Development Officer for all the work being undertaken.

**RESOLVED**

That the progress update on the Heritage Tourism Action Plan be noted.

(b) **Tourism Partnership**

The Committee received the notes of the meeting of the Tourism Partnership held on 4 October 2022.

It was noted that a new Partnership Chair had been appointed, that the results of the two 2022 summer campaigns were available to download, that the ‘Summer of Sunflowers’ and ‘Day out in Dorchester’ campaigns would be run again in 2023.

The Partnership had also agreed to support and work collaboratively with the ‘Totally Locally’ initiative to promote local shopping in the run up to Christmas.

The Committee was reminded of the advertising opportunities available through the Keep 106 community radio.

The tourism opportunity in respect of the new cycle ways which stretched as far as Bristol was also noted.

**RESOLVED**

That the notes of the well-attended meeting of the Dorchester Tourism Partnership held on 4 October 2022 be received.

(c) **Heritage Tourism Strategy - Review**

Volunteers were sought to review the Heritage Tourism Strategy which had been identified by Red Kite some years ago.

**RESOLVED**

That Councillors G. Jones and D. Taylor together with M. Woodgate and A. Worth review the Heritage Tourism Strategy and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

15. **REVIEW OF EVENTS**

(a) **Heritage Open Day**

Members of the Committee reported back on the Heritage Open day held on 17 September, 2023 which, despite there not being a road closure and the death and mourning period for HM The Queen, had been very successful. The Committee was also pleased that Fordington had been included in the events.

The Committee thanked the Project Co-ordinator for all her hard work in organising the event.

It was noted that road closures should be requested for the 2023 Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair and Heritage Open Day as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED**

That the update be noted and that next year's Heritage Open Day be held on Sunday 10 September 2023.

(b) **General review of the Season**

The Committee felt that it would be useful to have a forward plan of events to be organised by the Committee and the Tourism Partnership.

It was noted that the events diary on the Discover Dorchester website was very good and that the regular emails sent out by Fran Leaper in respect of events at Poundbury was another excellent resource.

The Museum representatives reported on their summer seasons which had been mixed.

It was felt that people's behaviour had changed as a result of Covid which meant that there was a lot more last minute bookings for events and activities.

16. **MILL STREAM PATH – SECTION FROM LONDON ROAD TO MILL STREET**

M. Chutter and M. Woodgate updated the Committee in respect of the proposed information boards to be located along the Millstream from London Road to Mill Street. It was hoped to have fully drafted and designed boards available for the next meeting of the Committee.

**RESOLVED**

That the update be noted and the draft designs be presented at the next meeting of the Committee.

17. **ROMAN MOSAIC PROJECT – THE WALKS**

Members noted that there was nothing further to report at the present time.

18. **SPECIALIST HERITAGE PROJECTS**

The Chairman asked the Committee to give consideration as to whether there was specialist heritage within the town which were in need of promotion, interpretation or conservation.

Members reported the following matters:-

- That the graffiti under the railway bridge had been painted out. Some Members felt that any new artwork might reference Brunel.
- That the town had some amazing pre Roman history which could be exploited – Mount Pleasant, Maumbury Rings, Maiden Castle etc
- Protecting the Water Meadows – an application for Listing had been submitted plus a second one for Blue Bridge. It was noted that the local farmer who had worked the land for many years had a significant amount of local knowledge about this area and some oral history would be very worthwhile.
- The Linneys at Fairfield Market site had a great deal of interesting history and could be refurbished for many different uses.
- It was noted that the WW1 POW camp hut at Northernhay looked as though it was no longer in use and could usefully be Listed.

**RESOLVED**

That the ideas set out above be noted for possible future actions.

19. **BENCH AT SALISBURY FIELDS AND MOULE BLUE PLAQUE**

M. Chutter requested that the bench next to the information board at Salisbury Fields could do with refurbishing and that the wording on the Moule plaque was incorrect.

**RESOLVED**

That the bench be added to the list for refurbishment and that M. Chutter supply revised wording so as to enable a new blue plaque to be fabricated.

20. **QUESTIONS**

No questions had been received.

The representatives from the Keep Military Museum and Shire Hall reported that they would welcome members of the Committee to attend their venues for a tour.

21. **URGENT ITEMS**

No urgent items.

Chairman.....

## POUNDBURY INFORMATION BOARD PROPOSAL

**This message in brief:** A resident asks the Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee to support an already fully funded proposal to install in Crown Square Poundbury a historical information panel about the "**Poundbury Romano-British Farmstead.**"

Councillor Jones,

Would the Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee be interested in co-sponsoring the installation of a historical information panel about a Durnovaria-related Roman site in Poundbury, the Poundbury Romano-British farmstead?

No money is needed. This project is fully funded by an anonymous but not secret Poundbury resident who is interested in local history (me).

Your Committee's contribution would be to authorise the use of the logos of the Town of Dorchester and the Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee on the information panel. It would also be helpful if your Committee, rather than me, approach the Duchy office with this proposal. I have not yet done so.

The suggested location of the information panel is the south edge inside the central flower bed "island" of Crown Square park in Poundbury, oriented with the reader facing northeast.

The suggested style of the information panel is the same as the Great War panel on Centenary Field in Poundbury; that is, low to the ground, unobtrusive, and at child eye level. (see photo attached to this message)

I have commissioned a choice of two draft formats for the panel. The first, by Wessex Archaeology, is ready (see attachment). The second, by the Wallis Agency, will not be ready by the 27 December deadline for your 17 January committee meeting agenda, but I will have it shortly after the New Year.

It would be helpful if you express your preference between the two formats when you contact the Duchy office.

Regards,

Draft text for the information panel:

### THE POUNDBURY ROMANO-BRITISH FARMSTEAD

When Britain was part of the Roman empire from 43 to 410 CE (AD), the ground on which you are standing was farmed by Celtic British people who were descendants of the tribe known as the Durotriges.

They grew wheat, barley, vetch (sort of like peas), cabbages, and radishes. They didn't have any potatoes, tomatoes, or sugar back then.



Their diet included soft, sticky gruel or porridge. Some of them had tooth decay because they didn't brush their teeth often enough.

They raised lots of sheep, all of which had horns, as well as cows, but hardly any pigs. They also raised chickens. They had small horses the size of modern ponies.

Besides what they grew on their farm, they also ate hazel nuts, limpets, cockles, and oysters.

To sell what they produced, they walked to nearby Durnovaria, today's Dorchester.

They wore hobnail shoes. Sometimes they lost coins and jewellery such as the brooch which the woman in the picture is wearing. Archaeologists found that brooch in what is now Vittoria Court.

Most of their houses were near Peninsula Way and just this side of Pavilion Green. Their houses were made of wood, with thatched roofs. Hardly any of their windows had glass, and their houses didn't have fancy mosaic floors like you can see in the Roman town house behind County Hall in Dorchester.

[Source of this information: Excavation report, Prehistoric Activity and a Romano-British Settlement at Poundbury Farm, Dorchester, Dorset, by Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy and Philippa Bradley, Wessex Archaeology Report 28, ISBN 978-1-874350-56-9]



When Britain was part of the Roman empire from 43 to 410 CE (AD), the ground on which you are standing was farmed by Celtic British people who were descendants of the tribe known as the Durobriges.



# POUNBURY FARM

## A Romano-British Farmstead



The people who lived at Pounbury Farm grew wheat, barley, veal (part of the pig), cabbages, and cabbages. They didn't have any potatoes, tomatoes, or sugar beet then. Their diet included milk, sticky gruel or porridge. Some of them had teeth decay because they didn't brush their teeth often enough.

At Pounbury Farm, they raised lots of sheep, all of which had horns, as well as cows, but hardly any pigs. They also raised chickens. They had small houses, the bits of modest jetties. Besides what they grew on their farm, they also ate hazel nuts, berries, berries, and cysters.

To sell what they produced, they walked to nearby Dumocrota, today's Dorchester. They wore hobnail shoes. Sometimes they wore coats and jewelry such as the brooch which the woman in the picture is wearing. Archaeologists found that brooch in what is now Victoria Court.

Most of their houses were near Pounbury Way and just the side of Poulton Green. Their houses were made of wood, with thatched roofs. Hardly any of their windows had glass, and their houses didn't have fancy mosaic floors like you can see in the Roman town house behind County Hall in Dorchester.