

## **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**16 APRIL 2024**

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	G. Jones (Chairman) A. Chisholm S. Biles
	Officers:	T. Hurley M. Manley
Dorset Council	Councillors:	S. Jones
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
Local Nature Reserve		L. Poulsen
Dorset Museum & Art Gallery		C. Dixon
Dorset Council - Archaeology		S. Wallis
Thomas Hardy Society		M. Chutter
Dorchester Civic Society		I. Gosling
Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum		T. Little
Dorset History Centre		M. Gayton
Blue Badge Tour Guide		J. Wallis
Town Crier		A. Harrison

#### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs F. Hogwood and (Dorchester Town Council), Cllrs L. Fry, A. Canning and R. Biggs (Dorset Council), R. White (National Trust), A. Worth (Keep 106), Joy Wallis (Blue Badge Guide) and E. Metcalfe (The Keep Military Museum).

#### 2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2023, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

#### 3. **BUDGET UPDATE**

A report on the budget position as at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 was presented. Cllr Tarr commented on how good the millstream information signs looked.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the budget update be noted.

#### 4. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Matilda Manley provided an update on the work of the Tourism Partnership. The Spring campaign was coming to an end and had included a paid for article in Good Housekeeping magazine. Future activities included pop-up crazy golf in South Street, the Walking Festival and the D-Day 80 celebrations which would include readings of the Terry Parker's diary – a local man who saw active service at the D-Day landings. Tamsin Little mentioned a book by a local woman who worked in the D-Day control room.

#### **RESOLVED**

The Committee report on the activities of the Tourism Partnership were noted.

#### 5. **HERITAGE OPEN DAY 2024**

Tony Hurley presented an update on emerging plans for Heritage Open Day on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The committee proposed that any publicity would clarify the timing for the lifting of the IronMan road closures and provide other transport information. The issue of access to the Oak Room in Antelope Walk was discussed.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the proposals for Heritage Open Day 2024 on 15<sup>th</sup> September were noted.

#### 6. **ONGOING PROJECTS**

Updates on the following were received:

- a) **Millstream information boards.** Tony Hurley presented a proposal for the location of the final information board close to the town mill, however members preferred a location closer to the mill and it was agreed that Cllrs Gareth Jones and Stella Jones would meet on site to decide on a more appropriate location.
- b) **Roman mosaic project.** Matilda Manley reported that there not capacity to take the project forward at present but a brief for an artist to take forward the project would be presented to the next meeting. It was agreed to reconvene the working group that originally developed the project to help refine the brief.
- c) **Dorchester Sheroes Project:** M. Chutter and Anya Pearson presented the results of school's consultation so far and the six leading nominees. Further consultation will be undertaken as part of the Chesil Pride and the Shire Hall Pride festivals.

#### 7. **FUTURE PROJECTS**

- a) **Roman baths interpretation project.** Tony Hurley presented an update on research into the Roman bath excavation archive at Dorset Museum and the development of online content. Members welcomed the update and were keen to see the existing design for the on-site interpretation panel fabricated and installed as soon as possible.
- b) **Water meadows project.** Stinsford Parish Council has responded positively to the

suggestion of a meeting to discuss the better interpretation of the water meadows. Both Cllr David Taylor and Ian Gosling were keen to attend the meeting. It was also suggested that the information panel at Handman's Cottage be redesigned.

- c) **History of Dorchester online content.** Matilda Manley reported that the web-content regarding the history of Dorchester in 15 objects was now ready to go online.
- d) **Town Pump enhancement proposal.** Ian Gosling reported on a very positive meeting with Wessex Water regarding the installation of a water fountain in the Town Pump – based on the design in old photographs. Ian will now discuss with Dorset Council's conservation officer.
- e) **Refurbishment of Treves memorial in Weymouth Avenue cemetery.** Ian Gosling reported on fundraising to have the memorial cleaned and refurbished – and members agreed to allocate a grant of £500 towards the project from the Committee's budget.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the interpretation board for the Roman baths be fabricated and installed on site as soon as possible.
- (b) That the interpretation panel near Hangman's Cottage be re-printed/redesigned.
- (e) That a grant of £500 be awarded to the Civic Society's project to refurbish the Treves memorial in Weymouth Avenue cemetery.

#### 8. **QUESTIONS**

None were raised.

#### 9. **URGENT ITEMS**

None were raised.

#### 10. **UPDATES FROM PARTNERS**

- Maria Gayton reported that the Salisbury Diocese is developing a Heritage Lottery bid to install electronic information points in any church linked to Thomas Hardy. Maria will provide an update at the next meeting.
- Shire Hall reported on the success of its new Friends group.
- Steve Wallis reported on the considerable press interest in the cleaning of the Roman Town House.
- Mark Chutter reported on the forthcoming Thomas Hardy Society annual conference starting on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

Chairman.....