

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

9 September 2014

Present: Mayor P. Mann and Councillors K. Armitage, T. James, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, A. Lyall, R. Potter (Chairman), M. Rennie and D. Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors D. Barrett, C. Biggs, S. Hosford and T Loakes.

14. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8 July, 2014, adopted by Council on 22 July, 2014, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15. Arts Matters

(a) Arts Panel

The Committee considered the Minutes of the Arts Panel held on 3 September, 2014 (for Minutes see Appendix I). Members noted that the Arts Council had decided not to fund Dorchester Arts through its National Portfolio Funding as from April 2015. The Committee felt that this should be seen as a positive sign as it meant that the Arts Council felt that Dorchester Arts was robust enough to continue without the funding. Members wished Dorchester Arts continuing success and confirmed the Council's commitment to working with them to achieve that success. It was noted that Dorchester Arts was likely to move to the proposed new arts space at Brewery Square at some time in the future and it would be necessary for the newly elected Town Council to establish a task and finish group to examine the use of the Municipal Buildings, its terms of use, pricing etc in readiness for that happening. It was noted that the bar franchise would need to be considered sooner as the existing arrangement came to an end in June 2015.

Members thanked the Chairman of the Arts Panel for all his hard work in organising and managing the Town Council's August Bank Holiday Music Day which went well despite the weather.

The Committee stressed the need for vehicle movements to be controlled at events in both Maumbury Rings and the Borough Gardens.

Resolved

- (1) That the Minutes be approved so far as this Committee is concerned.
- (2) That Council wishes Dorchester Arts continuing success and confirms the Council's commitment to working with them to achieve that success.

- (3) That, in 2015, the newly elected Town Council establish a task and finish group to examine the use of the Municipal Buildings, its terms of use, pricing etc in order to address the possibility of losing Dorchester Arts as a customer and attracting new customers and community arts organisations to the Buildings.

(b) Minutes of the Dorchester Arts Board

Members noted the Minutes of the Dorchester Arts Board meeting of 7 July, 2014.

16. **Management Arrangements**

(a) The Committee considered the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team. It was requested that the Poundbury play areas which were maintained by the Council be included on future reports. Members also noted that there could be an issue with the bamboo growing near to the greenhouses in the Gardens and that some of the glass work was in need of repair at the greenhouses. Members also felt that the excess plant sale should happen again in future years should there be excess plants. In respect of the shield beds Members felt that a photographic record of them should be kept and a copy of the photo sent to the organisation represented by the shield bed. The Committee noted that the refurbished benches around the town which had been undertaken in partnership with Dorchester BID were excellent.

In respect of events in the Gardens Members wished to particularly thank the Outdoor Services staff member that spent the whole day making bird boxes as a part of the Love Parks event. The Committee felt that the One World Festival had gone well and had been very well organised and the organisers should be congratulated. It was considered that the Council should purchase some rubber matting to be available for use to cover any trailing cables when events are held.

In respect of the operation of the Gardens refreshment kiosk Members agreed that it would be useful to invite Re-think to review the kiosk's operation and its future.

The Mayor expressed his appreciation for the hanging baskets and floral displays within the town centre but felt that there was a need to increase the displays at the southern end of South Street. The Council's representative on Dorchester BID confirmed that businesses in that area had been asked if they wished to have floral displays and confirmed that she would take this issue back to the BID.

Resolved

That the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team be noted and the actions proposed agreed.

(b) Members noted that the Borough Gardens had again been awarded the Green Flag and Heritage Awards. The Committee wished to express its congratulations to all involved and the Mayor confirmed that he had written to staff congratulating them.

(c) In respect of South Walks and Fiveways junction post and chain railings Members agreed that a bid for funding for the full repair should be considered as part of the 2015-

16 budget process and that in the short term the six posts which presently marked the boundary between South Walks Road and the turning area outside the library building be removed and reused, this work to be carried out by Outside Services staff.

17. **Cemetery Matters**

(a) Exclusive Right of Burial

The Committee had before it a report which detailed the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces in Dorchester, Poundbury and Fordington Cemeteries since the last meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

That the report on the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces in Dorchester, Poundbury and Fordington Cemeteries since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(b) Interments and Burial of Ashes

Members considered a report which listed the dates and times of interments and burials of ashes together with South Chapel usage at Dorchester Cemetery since the last meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

That the report listing the dates and times of interments and burials of ashes together with South Chapel usage since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(c) Headstones and Inscriptions

The Committee received and noted applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions.

Resolved

That the action of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 4041 to 4044 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

18. **Letting Venues – Monitoring Reports**

The Committee received the monitoring reports for the Weymouth Avenue Pavilion, Borough Gardens Community Room and the Municipal Buildings which included additional detail regarding forthcoming projects, scheduled maintenance and urgent repairs.

Members stressed the importance of marketing, promotion and having a vibrant up to date website. It was noted that there were many different ways of promoting and a

strategy could be beneficial. Members felt that a long term aim should be a single events website for Dorchester. The Committee agreed that the group already established to investigate marketing and promotion plus Councillor D. Taylor meet again to take this matter forward.

Resolved

- (1) That the Weymouth Avenue Pavilion, Borough Gardens Community Room and Municipal Buildings Monitoring Reports be received.
- (2) That that the group already established to investigate marketing and promotion plus Councillor D. Taylor meet again in the near future to discuss future marketing and promotion.

19. Paid Invoices

The Committee inspected the cheque list and supporting vouchers in respect of payments made between 1 July, 2014 and 31 August, 2014 totalling £94,546.04 (net) together with direct debits for the same period totalling £66,471.42 (net).

Resolved

That the cheque transactions and direct debit payments lists be approved and signed accordingly.

20. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

The Committee considered whether to exclude press and public from the meeting.

Resolved

That in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

21. Municipal Buildings - Staffing

The Committee was informed that James Simpson had been appointed to the post of Senior Town Hall Keeper. Members also supported the proposed arrangements to make better use of the overtime budget by appointing a full time Town Hall Keeper which had the effect of increasing the establishment by a half time post.

Resolved

That the arrangements proposed in respect of appointing a full time Town Hall Keeper be agreed as far as this Committee is concerned.

22. **Water Easement**

The Committee considered a request for an easement in respect of an existing water pipe which was located on a short section of Frome Terrace Green.

Resolved

That an Easement be agreed in respect of the existing water pipe at Frome Terrace Green.

Chairman

Dorchester Town Council

Arts Panel

3 September 2014

Present: Mayor P. Mann and Councillors V. Allan, S. Hosford, T. James, F. Kent-Ledger and A. Lyall (Chairman).

In attendance:

Mark Tattersall, Artistic Director - Dorchester Arts

1. Dorchester Arts

(a) Future Funding Arrangements

The Artistic Director informed the Panel that the Arts Council had decided not to fund Dorchester Arts through its National Portfolio Funding as from April 2015. This funding was to the value of £56,000 per year. The Artistic Director felt that this news was disappointing but not a disaster as Dorchester Arts did have other sources of funding and was not just reliant on the Arts Council. Grant requests could also be made to the Arts Council for specific projects and events and this would be pursued. Work had also started on investigating new income streams and this included maximising box office income, maximising secondary spend, maximising lettings and additional fundraising. It was noted that at the present time there was no funding available for the 2016 Dorchester Festival or the Outreach worker. It was also noted that a proposal for a Street Performance Festival in 2015 had been placed on the back burner for the present time due to it now not being funded.

In response to a question the Artistic Director updated Members on progress with the proposed new arts space at Brewery Square and it was noted that this was unlikely to come into play for another four or five years.

The Panel discussed ways in which the Council could help Dorchester Arts whilst taking into account the issue of the Council potentially losing a regular customer to the Municipal Buildings in the long term. Discussions included the need to review the bar franchise agreement and operation when it expired in June 2015, a centralised entertainments website, help in kind in respect of equipment use, possible revised room hire arrangements, possible joint profit / risk ventures, branding of the Corn Exchange as a venue, partnership building with Dorchester Area School Partnership, investigating market town grant funding opportunities etc.

The Artistic Director thanked the Council for its ongoing help and support.

(b) Joint Promotions

The Artistic Director proposed Miracle Theatre's production of 'Dr Livingstone I Presume' as the last 2014-15 joint promotion with the Council. The show was due to be staged in the Corn Exchange in January, 2015.

Recommended

That the Council contribute £1,000 towards the production of 'Dr Livingstone I Presume' as the final 2014-15 joint promotion between Dorchester Arts and the Town Council.

2. Maumbury Rings August 2014 Bank Holiday Events

Members felt that both the Anonymous and Love Parade events went well. Some concern was expressed with regard to vehicle movements on site at Anonymous and this issue would be addressed during planning for 2015.

The Mayor thanked the Chairman of the Arts Panel for all his hard work in organising and managing the Council's Monday Music Day. The event had again gone very well although the weather was a disappointment. The Chairman thanked the Council's Outside Services staff for their help during the day and felt that the only difficulties he had encountered on the day was an issue with regard to payment to some of the performers and event security.

The Panel felt strongly that the events should continue and be held again in August 2015. It was also felt that Dorchester Arts be offered the opportunity to use the infrastructure on the Friday night.

Recommended

- (1) That the success of the Maumbury Rings August 2014 Bank Holiday Events be welcomed.
- (2) That the Council again organise its Maumbury Rings Music Day in August 2015.
- (3) That Dorchester Arts be offered the opportunity to use the infrastructure on the Friday night of the Bank Holiday.