

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

16 June 2015

Present: Mayor R. Potter and Councillors C. Biggs, A. Canning (Chairman), G. Duke, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, T. Loakes, A. Lyall, M. Rennie, K. Rice and D. Taylor.

In attendance

Councillor T. Harries.

S. Scotchmer with regard to Minute No 3.

F. McLaren, Friends of the Borough Gardens with regard to Minute Nos 5 and 6.

1. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10 March 2015, adopted by Council on 24 March 2015, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. **Panels**

(a) Community Activities Panel

The Committee considered the minutes of the Community Activities Panel held on 9 June 2015 (as set out at Appendix I). Members noted that the proposed steam roller event on 27 June would be postponed until 2016 so as to enable a full event to take place and an appropriate budget to be allocated.

Resolved

That the minutes be approved so far as this Committee is concerned.

(b) Property Management and Maintenance Panel

Members agreed that it would be beneficial to hold the annual site visit meeting during the summer and that this should continue with the existing Panel membership with the one vacancy being filled by Councillor G. Duke.

Resolved

That Councillor G. Duke be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Property Management and Maintenance Panel and that the site visit meeting take place over the summer on a date to be agreed following consultation with the Chairman of the Panel.

(c) Arts Panel

The Chairman of the Arts Panel requested an update on Maumbury Rings Music Day. It was noted that Dorchester Arts had been requested to help book the bands and run the event on the day. There were two slots that still had to be booked. The Chairman expressed concern over the arrangements and the proposed programme for the day.

Resolved

That a meeting be arranged with the Chairmen of the Management Committee, Arts Panel and Dorchester Arts to agree the musical programme for the day.

3. **Sports Arena**

The Committee considered correspondence from local resident S. Scotchmer in respect of a proposal for a Sports Arena, or similar, in the area of Mountain Ash Road. Members were supportive of the proposal and noted that two potential sites were Hawthorne Road allotments and the Wessex Water site. Members felt that some preliminary investigations could be made with Wessex Water with regard to the possible use of that site and that the proposal be considered alongside the Sports Pitch and Cultural Facilities Audit report which was due to be presented to the September cycle of meetings.

Resolved

- (1) That the principle of a Sports Arena, or similar, facility in the area of Mountain Ash Road be supported.
- (2) That an initial enquiry be made with Wessex Water regarding the potential to use an area of land on its site
- (3) That the proposal be considered alongside the other priorities identified within the Sports Pitch and Cultural Facilities Audit report presently being undertaken.

4. **Management Arrangements**

The Committee considered the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team. Members requested again a 'Caution Children' sign at the entrance to Sandringham Sports Centre car park.

Resolved

That the schedule of work for the Outdoor Services Team be noted and that a 'Caution Children' sign be located at the entrance to Sandringham Sports Centre car park.

5. **Borough Gardens Bowling Green**

Further to Minute No 26/2014 the Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the process to be used for consulting users of the Gardens on what they would like to see happen on the old bowling green site.

The representative from the Friends of the Borough Gardens informed Members of their ideas and it was agreed that they would be included within the consultation which would take place during the annual Love Parks event on 29 July. The representative also informed the Committee that The Friends would like to make a financial contribution to a scheme and be involved throughout the project.

During discussion of this matter the Deputy Town Clerk updated Members on recent anti-social behaviour in the Gardens.

Resolved

That a consultation event takes place during Love Parks Day on 29 July and the outcome considered at the September meeting of the Committee.

6. Borough Gardens Notice Boards

Members were reminded that at the last meeting of the committee it was agreed “that a sum of money be set aside in special items in the 2016-17 budget for the purchase of three new notice boards unless savings in the 2014-15 or 2015-16 financial year can be identified to fund the notice boards.”

Funding of the new notice boards had now been identified from within this year’s budget, helped by a grant of £500 from the LTA, so long as a part of one of them was used to promote tennis in the Gardens.

The representative from the Friends of the Borough Gardens informed the Committee that the group was agreeable to the style and location of the notice boards and confirmed that the group would fund one of them subject to all of the boards acknowledging its support.

Resolved

That three new notice boards be purchased and installed in the following locations:-

- Just inside the Cornwall Road gate to the right as you walk in.
- Just inside the West Walks gate to the left as you walk in.
- Just outside of fence to the left, as you walk in, of the Albert Road/Princes Road main gate.

7. Restoration of John’s Pond

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the need to undertake some restoration work to John’s Pond in order to address a number of serious issues that had been identified which included removal of silt, repair to the sluice gate and rebuilding the walls of the pond following tree root removal.

The work would need to be undertaken by a specialist contractor and the cost had been estimated at £6,080. A grant of £500 had been awarded from The Grid Community Award Scheme towards the project and Members agreed that Policy Committee be requested to identify further funds so as to enable the project to go ahead.

Once the work had been completed Members felt that a small event to re-open the pond should be undertaken.

Resolved

That Policy Committee be requested to identify the remaining funding so as to allow the John's Pond restoration project to be undertaken.

8. Dorchester Cricket Club

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on the relationship the Council had with Dorchester Cricket Club and how that could evolve to give DCC a greater role in management and maintenance of the site and become a more self-contained club over a period of approximately five years. In the short term some modest internal alterations to the Pavilion had been agreed so as to allow the club to improve its social arrangements, which included locking up after matches and the operation of a bar and television on match days. As a part of this process it had been identified that a number of existing arrangements for the building might be carried out more efficiently and these were set out in the report.

Depending on the success of the changes to date it was proposed to report back to the Committee at the end of the season on the likelihood of success of a plan to give the Club a greater role in managing the site over the next five years.

Members were supportive of the action taken to date and requested that discussions also took place with the other main user of the site St George's Cricket Club.

Resolved

That the report be received and the action already taken and proposed to be taken be agreed.

9. Cemetery Matters

(a) Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes

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.
- Detailed the number 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 on the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(b) 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 4072 to 4090 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

10. **Letting Venues – Monitoring Reports**

The Committee received new style 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. The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members of the changes made to the reports which aimed to make them clearer and more concise. The Committee agreed the revised style of reports subject to some minor changes which included putting them in chronological order, making clear which weddings were 'exclusive' weddings and the percentage of income received over anticipated income.

Resolved

That the revised Weymouth Avenue Pavilion, Borough Gardens Community Room and Municipal Buildings Monitoring Reports be received.

11. **Paid Invoices**

The Committee noted that the cheque list and supporting vouchers in respect of payments made since the last meeting of the Committee would now be presented direct to the Policy Committee as a part of its regular financial monitoring reports.

12. **Information Reports**

The Committee received the Minutes of the Dorchester Arts Board meetings held on 9 February 2015 and 27 April 2015.

Resolved

That the Dorchester Arts Board Minutes be noted.

Dorchester Town Council

Community Activities Panel

9 June 2015

Present: Mayor R. Potter and Councillors T.C.N. Harries, S.C. Hosford, E.S. Jones, F.E. Kent – Ledger, M.E. Rennie (Chairman).

1. Financial Assistance Applications

The Panel considered grant applications which had been received.

Recommended

(1) That the request from Volunteer Centre Dorset be deferred until a completed grant application form and the set of accounts is received.

(2) That a grant of £70 be awarded to Dorchester and District Gardening Club to meet their insurance costs. The Panel recommended that the Dorchester and District Gardening Club contact other agencies, such as Transition Town Dorchester, to help with their sustainability issues.

(3) That £300 be awarded to the Rotary Club of Dorchester to help fund the Picnic in the Park Event on the proviso that a full set of accounts are provided for any further requests for funding.

(4) That £150 be awarded to AsOne Theatre for a development community workshop on the proviso that the workshop be a free event for a Dorchester school and / or youth organisation. The Panel agreed to award the cost of one day's hire of the Corn Exchange if the facility was used for the workshop.

(5) That the request from the Duchy of Cornwall be deferred until a completed grant application form and the set of accounts is received.

(6) That the application from the Dorset One World Festival be approved and the sum of £500 be awarded.

The Panel requested that the existing grant application process and application form and process and criteria be reviewed.

(Note – Councillor R Potter declared a personal interest in respect of 1. (1) above and Councillor F Kent-Ledger declared a personal interest in respect of 1. (6) above, neither interest was a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct and both Members remained in the meeting and voted.)