

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

14 November 2017

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

In Attendance

B. Murphy – Duchy of Cornwall (Minute No. 31)

Apologies: Councillor A. Lyall.

30. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 September 2017, adopted by Council on 26 September 2017, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

31. **The Great Field - Update**

The Committee welcomed Ben Murphy from the Duchy of Cornwall who updated Members on the Great Field Community Facilities Consultation the first session of which had just been held. The consultation would inform a draft master plan for the area which would then be made available to the public for comment and feedback. Over 350 people had attended the first consultation. The themes emerging were for environmental / pastoral projects at the north (cemetery end) of the Great Field with natural play / skatepark at the south. Additional consultation was being undertaken with young people through the town's schools. Members felt that the consultation process had been good and had involved the whole town.

The representative from the Duchy of Cornwall then went on to talk about the new brown and black and white signs that had recently been erected around Poundbury. He apologised that the Town Council had not been directly consulted as he had believed that this would have been undertaken as part of the process followed by Dorset County Council Highways Authority and Highways England which were the Authorities that dealt with the signage applications. The representative explained that the signage had been requested by Poundbury businesses which had received feedback from customers that they could not find premises, Poundbury was also a tourist destination. It was noted that the black and white signs had been changed to that colour by the Highways Authority, the application for signage had requested brown signs. Members felt that the black and white signs gave the impression of Poundbury being a separate entity to Dorchester. It was also felt that the location of the sign on Bridport Road could alienate those residents living in 'old' Poundbury. The Committee felt that changing the black and white signs to brown signs would help mitigate the concerns regarding the signage and the representative agreed that he would investigate this possibility.

Members thanked the representative for attending the Committee.

Resolved

- (1) That the update on the Great Field consultation event be noted.
- (2) That the comments from the Duchy of Cornwall representative in regard to signage be reported back to planning and Environment Committee.

32. Management Arrangements – Outdoor Services

The Committee considered a report from the Outdoor Services Manager updating it on the work undertaken and the achievements made by the Outdoor Services Team since the last meeting of the Committee. Members congratulated the team on their work over the summer which had been very noticeable and well received.

The Committee felt that some work to enhance the Remembrance Garden and fiveways junction grassed and planted areas would be beneficial now that the road improvements had been completed. It was noted that options to improve those areas were being considered.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

33. Borough Gardens – New Tennis Courts

Members were informed that The Chiltern Group had been appointed to build the new tennis courts in the Borough Gardens. It was anticipated that work will commence on 8 January 2018 and would last for approximately 8 – 12 weeks. Some groundworks associated with the project might commence prior to this date.

Having met the contractor on site a small change was proposed to the exact location of the new courts. Instead of the fence butting up directly against the raised walls of the old Bowling Green it would actually be located 900mm away from the walls so as to allow a maintenance strip around the courts and to do away with the requirement for underpinning the existing wall.

Due to the number of lorry movements the Council had requested a suspension of the parking, during working hours, along West Walks Road for the period of the contract and also for a closure of the road and the Walks adjacent to the old Bowling Green for the period of the works so as to allow for a compound for the contractor. Members requested that Weld Court, Housing 21 and residents be contacted and advised of the proposed restrictions.

Resolved

- (1) That the update be noted.
- (2) That Weld Court, Housing 21 and residents be contacted and advised of the proposed restrictions.

34. Borough Gardens / Maumbury Rings Summer Events 2017 - Feedback

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk which provided feedback on the events held in the Borough Gardens and Maumbury Rings over the summer.

Members were pleased with the variety of the events and the level of attendances. It was requested that the Town Council be acknowledged in any future publicity.

Resolved

- (1) That the 2017 summer events feedback be noted.
- (2) That the Maumbury Rings Festival be held again over the 2018 August Bank Holiday.

35. Allotment Fees 2018

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk which set out the cost of the various elements of the allotments service and gave recommendations for fee increases in 2018.

Resolved

- (1) That, as from 1 January 2018, the allotment rent and the water fee both be increase by £1.00 each no matter the size of the allotment plot.
- (2) That there be no increase in the administration charge in 2018; the fees will therefore be:-

Rent - Full plot on any site	£35.00
Rent - Half plot on any site	£19.00
Water Charge – Full plot	£7.50
Water Charge – Half plot (excludes Frome Terrace – no water)	£5.50
Administration Fee for new tenants	£50.00

- (3) That the practice of charging double fees for non-Dorchester residents continues.

36. The West Dorset Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2017

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the implementation, as from 1 October 2017, of the West Dorset Dog Related Public Spaces 2017. Members felt that for the time being consent should be given to allow users of the area to exercise their dogs off their leads.

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted
- (2) That for the time being consent be given to allow users of Maumbury Rings to exercise their dogs off their leads.

37. Grant Applications

The Committee considered grant applications from St Osmund's Middle School, the William Barnes Society, Dorchester Casterbridge Rotary Club and Southwest Dorset Multicultural Network.

Resolved

- (1) That a contribution of £750 be made to St Osmund's Middle School in respect of its WW1 Performance.
- (2) That the request from the William Barnes Society not be agreed.
- (3) That contributions be made to Dorchester Casterbridge Rotary Club in respect of the Dorchester Marathon as follows:- 2018 - £500, 2019 - £400, 2020 - £300, 2021 - £200, 2022 - £100.
- (4) That a contribution of £120 be made to Southwest Dorset Multicultural Network in respect of the 2018 Holocaust Memorial Day event.

38. Cemetery Matters

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

The Committee had before it a report with details of the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces and 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 4970 to 4984 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

39. **Buildings Monitoring Reports**

The Committee received the monitoring reports for the Municipal Buildings, Weymouth Avenue Pavilion and Borough Gardens House.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

40. **Dorchester Arts**

The Committee had before it the minutes of the Dorchester Arts Board meeting held on 25 September 2017. The Chairman also reported on a meeting of Town Councillors and Dorchester Arts held recently and that reports would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee in respect of the bar franchise agreement and Dorchester Arts lease of the Municipal Buildings. It was also reported that Dorchester Arts had requested that it (and the Town Council) fly a Dorchester Arts flag from the Christmas tree holders, or stronger replacements, on the front of the Building.

Resolved

(1) That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

(2) That the Deputy Town Clerk be authorised to agree the Dorchester Arts flag following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

41. **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

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 press representatives be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

42. **Borough Gardens Clock Redecoration**

The Committee considered a report by the Outdoor Services Manager on revised proposals for the redecoration of the Borough Gardens Clock.

Resolved

That the proposal set out in option 3. of the report be pursued at a total cost of £43,037 excluding VAT. To sufficiently fund the project the Town Clerk will, as part of the budget process for 2018-19 recommend an increase to the appropriate earmarked reserve plus a one off contribution bringing the reserve to £38,000. The remaining £10,000 to be requested as a Special Item.

43. **Borough Gardens Kiosk**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the future operation of the Borough Gardens kiosk. Members noted the ongoing discussions with Rethink and agreed the new Framework Agreement for the kiosk.

Resolved

That the arrangements set out in the report be agreed.

Chairman