

# Dorchester Town Council

## Management Committee

13 November 2018

**Present:** Councillors C. Biggs, A. Canning, G. Duke, J. Hewitt, S. Jones (Chairman), F. Kent-Ledger, A. Lyall, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

In Attendance

Councillors A. Chisholm and T. Harries.

E. Moore, Damers School (Minute 23)

L. Low, Friends of the Borough Gardens (Minutes 25 and 27)

L. Poulsen, local resident (Minute 25)

P. Jordan, local resident (Minute 25)

**Apologies:** The Mayor (Councillor D. Taylor) and Councillor K. Rice.

### 22. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11 September 2018, adopted by Council on 25 September 2018, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 23. Single Use Plastic

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on an aspiration from E. Moore of Damers School for Dorchester to achieve the Surfers Against Sewerage Plastic Free Community Status. The plastic free community network aimed to free where we live from single use plastics. It was not about removing all plastic but rather stopping the reliance on avoidable single use plastic. At present there was over 400 plastic free communities, locally Ferndown, Broadstone and Charmouth were working towards becoming a plastic free communities with Wimborne and Lyme Regis already having achieved the status. The report set out the objectives that needed to be met to achieve the status one of which was for the local Council to pass a resolution supporting the journey to plastic free community status and another was for the local Council to appoint at least one representative to a steering group formed to take the campaign forward in the town.

E. Moore addressed the Committee and updated it with regard to the initiatives currently under way and the progress made with local businesses and schools. He also responded to Members detailed questions about the initiative.

The Committee fully supported the proposal and wished to congratulate E. Moore and Damers School for all the work and achievements that had been undertaken so far.

Members felt that publicity for the initiative, through the Council's newsletter should be given, once Plastic Free Community Status for the town had been achieved.

### **Recommended**

- (1) That Full Council resolves to support the journey for Dorchester to achieve Plastic Free Community Status.
- (2) That Councillor S. Jones be appointed to sit on the Steering Group once it is established.

#### **24. 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. The Outdoor Services Manager responded to Members detailed questions.

Members were pleased with the progress made towards reducing the Council's carbon footprint and also wished to thank the Outdoor Services staff for all their work in respect of Remembrance weekend. It was also felt that some further information about the new Mike Chapman sculpture should be placed in the next edition of Dorchester News.

The Committee felt that the new planters at the bottom of South Street had been a great success and it was hoped that improvements could also be made at Cornhill and Trinity Street in the future.

### **Resolved**

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

#### **25. Review of Borough Gardens Greenhouses**

Members considered a report by the Outdoor Services Manager which reviewed the operation of the greenhouses in the Borough Gardens and gave options for alternative methods of delivery of the service.

L. Low from the friends of the Borough Gardens and local residents L. Poulsen and P. Jordan addressed the Committee in support of keeping the greenhouses.

The Committee felt that the greenhouses were a valuable part of the Gardens and were valued by the community. It was noted that there were no detailed plans for alternative uses for the greenhouses site. Members felt that the community could become more involved with the greenhouses and with any ideas to develop the site in the future as had happened with the old bowling green area. The Committee also felt that some investment in the nursery area would be worthwhile.

### **Resolved**

That the greenhouse operation continue and that officers investigate and draw up some alternative options for the site, which may include additional investment in the nursery, possible additional community use to fit around normal growing

patterns and a public consultation exercise and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

**26. Review of Outdoor Events – Summer 2018**

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 considered whether the annual Town Council Music event held at Maumbury Rings should continue following a low attendance number this year. Some concern was expressed regarding the type of bands that had been chosen and the amount of advertising prior to the event.

The Committee felt that on the whole the August bank holiday weekend events had been successful and wished for them to continue in 2019. It was however requested that officers and the Town Council representative on Dorchester Arts discuss with Dorchester Arts the Committee's aspiration for a family friendly event with a mix of musical styles and local bands.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the 2018 summer events feedback be noted.
- (2) That the Maumbury Rings Festival be held again over the 2019 August Bank Holiday.
- (3) That officers and the Town Council representative on Dorchester Arts discuss with Dorchester Arts the Committee's aspiration for a family friendly event with a mix of musical styles and local bands.

**27. Allotment Fees 2019**

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 2019.

L. Low addressed the Committee to thank the Council for the provision of an allotment plot for a Syrian refugee family that were living in the town.

**Resolved**

- (1) That, as from 1 January 2019, 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 is no increase in the administration charge in 2019; the fees will therefore be:-

Rent - Full plot on any site	£36.00
Rent - Half plot on any site	£20.00
Water Charge – Full plot	£8.50

Water Charge – Half plot (excludes Frome Terrace – no water)	£6.50
Administration Fee for new tenants	£50.00

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

**28. The Great Field - Update**

The Deputy Town Clerk updated the Committee in regard to progress with the Great Field following the successful consultation held in 2017. Work was due to begin in the Autumn with the pathways which would circle and cross the field, there was to be a stepped amphitheatre near to Damers First School and a landmark natural play area to be installed next spring. The feedback from the consultation suggested that a skatepark should not be provided but that parkour equipment should be installed instead. 450 trees and 26,000 shrubs would be planted together with further swathes of species rich grassland.

**Resolved**

That the Great Field update be noted.

**29. Sandringham Sports Centre – Parkour Equipment**

The Committee was informed that the parkour equipment at Sandringham Sports Centre had been vandalised back in the early part of the summer and had been taken out of use. Prior to this event some complaints had been received regarding anti-social behaviour in the area. Since the equipment had been taken out of use the Council had received one query regarding when the equipment was to be put back into use. This response was from a Director of Train Hard parkour which runs the successful parkour club in the town.

The Committee felt that the equipment had not been significantly missed and noted that new equipment was to be provided at the Great Field. It was however felt that the newly formed residents association for the area should be asked for its views on the matter and whether it would be willing to monitor its future use if the equipment was to be put back into good order.

**Resolved**

That the local Councillor(s) attending the next Residents Association meeting ask for its views on the matter and whether it would be willing to monitor its future use if the equipment was to be put back into good order.

**30. Maiden Castle Play Area – Wheelchair Accessible Swing**

Members noted that the Big Lottery Fund had awarded a grant of £6,395 towards the cost of installing a wheelchair accessible swing at Maiden Castle Play Area. Work was due to start installing the swing very shortly.

### **Resolved**

That the update ne noted.

#### **31. Governance Arrangements Task and Finish Group**

The Committee considered which of its members should be appointed to the Task and Finish Group being established by Policy Committee.

### **Resolved**

That Councillors G. Duke and J. Hewitt be appointed to serve on the Governance Arrangements Task and Finish Group.

#### **32. Dorchester School Holiday Food Club Programme**

The Committee received feedback in respect of the Dorchester Foodbank (lunch club) grant awarded by the Council which last August supported over 40 families who were entitled to free school meals during term time by providing two parcels to each family over the four week period. This year it was proposed to provide parcels every week but there were concerns when over 80 families applied for help. However thanks to the generosity of local organisations, charitable trusts, churches and individuals enough money was raised to meet the expenditure of £7,500 and a total of 251 parcels was supplied. Morning and afternoon sessions were held and enough people volunteered to support both sessions. The families were invited to stay for coffee and cake and once again volunteers supplied a good range of homemade cakes.

Parcels contained fresh meat, cheese, eggs, ham, fruit and vegetables and non perishable items of pasta, rice, tinned fruit etc. Vouchers were also provided to help with buying toiletries, baby food etc. It was hoped to provide parcels at Christmas and the project would continue next year.

### **Resolved**

That the grant feedback be noted.

#### **33. The Keep Military Museum – Funding Request**

The Committee considered a request for funding from The Keep Military Museum for a contribution from the Council's Cultural Activities budget for a contribution towards the Museum's proposed new gallery about the 75th Anniversary of D Day.

The Committee was informed that on 6 June 2019, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day, The Normandy Memorial Trust was unveiling a new memorial to honour the 22,000 plus soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who had died fighting under British command during D Day and the Battle of Normandy. The memorial would overlook 'Gold Beach' near the town of Ver-sur-Mer which was close to Bayeux. The Dorsetshire Regiment had played a large part on the landings on Gold Beach and the subsequent campaign to liberate Europe.

## **Resolved**

That a Cultural Activities grant of £5,000 be awarded to The Keep Military Museum.

### **34. Requests for Financial Assistance**

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the grant application from the South West Dorset Multicultural Network in the sum of £80 be agreed.
- (2) That the grant application from Dorchester Arts in the sum of £150 be agreed.
- (3) That the grant application from Dorset County Museum in the sum of £500 be agreed.
- (4) That the grant application from Womens Action Network in the sum of £50 be agreed.
- (5) That the grant application from Dorchester Youth Extra be deferred to allow time to see if a cheaper training provider could be found.

(Councillors S. Jones, F. Kent-Kedger and M. Rennie declared a personal interest in the respect of (4) above.)

### **35. 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 5037 to 5048 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

36. **Buildings Monitoring Reports**

The Committee received the monitoring reports for the Municipal Buildings and Borough Gardens House and it was

**Resolved**

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

37. **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.

38. **Corn Exchange Roof**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the appointment of professional services in respect of the forthcoming Corn Exchange re-roof project.

**Resolved**

That John, Stark and Crickmays Architects be appointed to manage the Corn Exchange re-roof contract.

39. **Dorchester Ballet and Dance**

The Committee had before it a report by the Town Clerk on an option for a permanent base for the Dorchester Ballet and Dance Club.

**Resolved**

That options are explored, as set out in the report, for a permanent base for the Dorchester Ballet and Dance Club and that Councillors F. Kent-Ledger and A. Lyall are appointed to a Task and Finish group to consider the proposal.

Chairman