

# Dorchester Town Council

## Management Committee

11 November 2019

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor R. Biggs) and Councillors S. Biles, L. Fry, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger (Chairman), D. Leaper, A. Lyall, R. Major, R. Potter, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo.

**Apologies:** Councillor D. Taylor.

### 27. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 September 2019, adopted by Council on 30 September 2019, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 28. 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.

The Committee agreed that in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the discussion, a part of the report would be held with the press and public excluded at the end of the agenda.

#### Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

### 29. Allotment Fees 2020

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 2020.

#### Resolved

(1) That, as from 1 January 2020, 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 2020; the fees will therefore be:-

Rent - Full plot on any site	£37.00
Rent - Half plot on any site	£21.00
Water Charge – Full plot	£9.50

Water Charge – Half plot (excludes Frome Terrace – no water)	£7.50
Administration Fee for new tenants	£50.00

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

30. **Thomas Hardy Gardens Residents Association**

Members considered a request from the Thomas Hardy Gardens Residents Association asking that the mini pitches site at Sandringham Annex be renamed. The Committee felt that any new name should reflect the fact that it was the site of the old Hardy's School.

**Resolved**

That Sandringham Annexe be renamed as Hardy's Field.

31. **75th Anniversary of VE/VJ Day**

The Committee was informed that 2020 was the 75th Anniversary of VE and VJ Day. This year had been the 75th anniversary of D Day and the Council had worked successfully with the Keep Military Museum to plan a day of commemorative events which included a Civic Service in the Gardens.

It was proposed to once again partner with the Military Museum with regard to the 2020 commemorations which would most likely include a Civic Service in the Gardens on the re-arranged bank holiday – Friday 8 May 2020.

**Resolved**

That the proposal to work with the Keep Military Museum to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE/VJ, to include a Civic Service on Friday 8 May 2020, be supported.

32. **Requests for Financial Assistance**

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance.

**Resolved**

(1) That the grant application from Transition Town Dorchester for the purchase of trees be agreed in principle but that the grant only be confirmed following discussion with Town Council Officers regarding joint working, planting schedule, tree species etc.

(2) That the grant application from Buttermarket and Friends be not agreed this year but that the Council works with the Group for an application next year and be informed that the Poundbury PRA have a grant pot available.

- (3) That the grant application from AsOne Theatre, in the sum of £500, be agreed.
- (4) That the grant application from Transition Town Dorchester, Repair Café, in the sum of £400, be agreed.
- (5) That the grant application from SWD Multicultural Network, in the sum of £120, be agreed.
- (6) That the grant application from The Grove Pre-School Playgroup, in the sum of £250, be agreed.

### 33. **Summer Events 2019**

The Committee received a feedback report on the events that had been held during the 2019 summer. Members were pleased with the diversity of the events and attendances. The Committee felt that it would be beneficial to review the Maumbury Rings Bank Holiday Monday Music event.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the 2019 summer events feedback be noted.
- (2) That a Task and Finish Group be established to review the future format of the Bank Holiday Monday Maumbury Rings Music Day. The Group to consist of the Chairman and Councillors J. Hewitt, T. Lyall, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo.

### 34. **Service Review Task and Finish Group**

Members had before them the notes of the meeting of the Service Review Task and Finish Group (as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes). It was noted that the need for signage to King's Park Play Area had also been agreed and that the notes should be amended accordingly. The Committee also felt that the fences at Sandringham Sports Centre should be retained. With regard to Fordington Cemetery Members felt that it would be beneficial to have some steps cut and a handrail at the lowest end of the slope to the German War Memorial.

#### **Resolved**

That the notes of the Task and Finish Group, as amended above and including the recommendations, be agreed.

### 35. **Cemetery Matters**

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

The report which detailed 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 had been placed on the Council's internet.

**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 5091 to 5098 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.

It was noted that there had still been no decision regarding The Maltings.

**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. **Management Arrangements – Outdoor Services – Maumbury Rings**

The Committee considered the request to use space at Maumbury Rings. Although sympathetic to the request Members felt that Maumbury Rings was not a suitable location. It was felt that a holistic approach from all interested agencies within Dorset Council to identify a solution would be helpful.

**Resolved**

That the request to use Maumbury Rings not be agreed.

Chairman

## DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

## NOTES OF THE SERVICE REVIEW TASK AND FINISH GROUP

7 NOVEMBER 2019

Present: Councillors F. Kent-Ledger, S. Jones, R. Major, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

Officers: S. Newman, Deputy Town Clerk and C. Dallison, Outdoor Services Manager.

**Background**

The Deputy Town Clerk reminded Members that the Group had been established to review the Service Operations of the Council on a site by site basis to help inform the emerging Corporate Plan.

The Group had before it a table which identified all the sites and which asked the questions 'is the service relevant', 'can it be delivered in another way', 'could someone else take on a management role', 'should the Council be investing in developing the site' and 'what was the resource required – cash or people'. The table also listed those areas which would be suitable for tree planting. Officers had met separately to review all the sites and had identified a number of issues which Members might wish to look at further, these had been highlighted on the table.

Prior to a detailed discussion regarding the sites the issue of water fountains and recycling bins was discussed. It was noted that there was an ongoing cost of maintenance and water provision to water fountains and that the refill scheme was a good alternative solution and that much of the recycled specific waste in busy areas was contaminated with general waste and that general waste was picked after collection to stop recyclable materials going to general waste.

**Service Review**

Members considered the table and all of the individual sites. Some of the sites required a Member decision as it had also included some specific requests that had recently been received from residents.

**Outcomes**

- 19 North Square and the Municipal Buildings – these sites needed further consideration when a final decision was known regarding The Maltings.
- Louds Mill Depot -consideration to a long term plan for the site – Members wished to visit the site prior to making any recommendations of this site.
- Weymouth Avenue Pavilion Sewerage disposal – Members felt this was an environmentally friendly solution and a low priority for change.
- The Great Field – Integration of operation into the Council's workload in due course. Members were shown plans of the new play area which were noted.
- Edward Road Play Area – Review nearer the end of the existing lease (2023).
- Elizabeth Place – The Group noted a request from a local resident for the whole of the open space to be fenced. **Recommended** – That no additional perimeter fencing be installed.

- Mellstock Avenue Play Area – Members were informed of a request from some residents in Weatherbury Way for additional fencing. **Recommended** – That no additional perimeter fencing be installed. Members also felt that there should be no change to the existing fencing.
- King’s Park Play Area – The Group felt that this play area would benefit from signage so as to let people know it was available.
- Syward Close Play Area – Members felt that this site was not well used at present and consideration to its future use should be given at some stage.
- Weymouth Avenue and King’s Road – The future role and ideas for these two sites would need further developing prior to any decision.
- Gabriel Green – A local resident had requested wildflower and more trees on this site. Members felt that this request could usefully be considered by the new residents association.
- Fordington Cemetery – Members requested that the installation of estate railing in the area of the German War Memorial be investigated.
- Weymouth Ave Cemetery – North and South Chapel – Members were supportive of investigating alternative/additional uses for the Chapels.
- Poundbury Cemetery – The Group agreed that alternative uses for the building be investigated as well as an alternative ashes facility in lieu of the existing ashes chamber.
- Sandringham Sports Centre play area – The Group noted a request from a resident asking that the play area be fenced to protect users from dogs. It was noted that the independent play inspection had not recommended any additional fencing. **Recommended** – That no additional fencing be supplied for the play area.
- Sandringham Sports Centre pitches – The Group felt that removing the fencing along the path of the main pitches would open up that space. Also a field gate into the mini pitches on that side would also allow easy access for maintenance.
- Sandringham Petanque – Members felt that users should be consulted on moving the court – the Group’s preference was to relocate somewhere at Sandringham.
- Borough Gardens – Members wished to review the southern end of the Gardens, to include the House, Greenhouses and tennis courts 1 and 2.
- Trees – A separate report on tree planting sites informed by the Group’s discussion would be prepared.

Steve Newman  
Deputy Town Clerk