

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

13 January 2020

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

Apologies: Councillors L. Fry and D. Taylor.

39. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11 November 2019, adopted by Council on 25 November 2019, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

40. 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 Outdoor Services Manager reported that, for the safety of the public, the Borough Gardens and Maumbury Rings would be closed during winds of 50mph or more.

Members wished to thank the Outdoor Services staff for their work over the Christmas period particularly in respect of the Christmas lights and the planters at the bottom of South Street.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

41. 2020-21 Estimates, Special Items and Fees and Charges

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk which incorporated draft Estimates for 2020-21 in respect of Allotments, Cemeteries, Cultural and Twinning, Municipal Buildings and Parks Gardens and Open Spaces. The report also included details regarding Reserves and the main changes which affected the proposed budget. The Deputy Town Clerk responded to Members detailed questions.

Members noted that circa £19,000 had been provisionally included for Special Items and the report set out proposals in respect of that resource.

The report also set out proposals for Cemetery fees and hire charges for the Municipal Buildings, Borough Gardens House and the Tennis Courts.

Whilst discussing this matter Members also raised the issue of the Town's twinning links with Bayeux and relationship with the Bayeux Society and requested that a report on the history and future of twinning be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

- (1) That the Policy Committee be informed that the draft Estimates for 2020-21 be approved so far as this Committee is concerned including the Special Items as set out below:-
 - War memorial – remedial works to the weathered faces - £7,000.
 - Borough Gardens – create a rose pergola north of the tennis courts - £4,000.
 - Events – Additional support for events delivered by other organisations - £5,000
 - Play areas – replacement of self-closing gate mechanisms - £3,000
- (2) That the charges for hire of the Municipal Buildings and Borough Gardens House not be increased in 2020-21.
- (3) That the Tennis Court membership fee be increased to £30 per year with a discount of £5 to those members that live in the town.
- (4) That the charges in respect of Dorchester, Fordington and Poundbury Cemeteries be as set out in Appendix 1 with effect from 1 April 2020.

42. Salisbury Fields

Members considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on a proposal to install an adventure / play trail at Salisbury Fields. Four similar play trail designs with costs were presented to Members who agreed that the lowest cost trail be purchased and installed. Funding for the proposal was available from the play area reserve. The Committee requested that careful consideration be given to the siting of the equipment.

Resolved

That the play trail identified in the reports be installed at Salisbury Fields at a cost of £3,995.

43. Requests for Financial Assistance

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance.

Resolved

- (1) That the grant application from Dorset ME Support Group be not agreed.
- (2) That the grant application from the Sexual Trauma and Recovery Service (STARS), in the sum of £500, be agreed.

- (3) That the grant application from Dorchester Arts Parkinson's Dance, in the sum of £500, be agreed.

(The Chairman declared an interest in respect of (3) and did not speak or vote, Councillor J. Hewitt, Vice-Chairman took the Chair for that item. Councillor S. Jones also declared an interest and did not speak or vote.)

44. **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 5099 to 5109 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

- (c) The Social Fund (Children's Funeral Fund for England) Regulations 2019

The Committee had before it a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the implementation of The Social Fund Regulations 2019. Members noted the information contained within the report and agreed the change to the cemeteries fees structure. Members felt that information about this fund might usefully be put in a future edition of the Town Council newsletter.

During discussion it was reported that the wildflower signs at Fordington Cemetery needed replacement and also that a number of graves at Poundbury Cemetery had unauthorised memorials on them. It was agreed that Poundbury Cemetery should be included in the February site visits meeting.

Resolved

That the report be noted and that change in the cemeteries fees structure be agreed.

45. **Buildings Monitoring Reports**

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

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

46. **Dorchester Arts**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Dorchester Arts Board meeting held on 29 October 2019.

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

47. **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.

48. **Municipal Buildings and Borough Gardens House Regular Hire Discounts 2020-21**

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk which set out a schedule of the hire discounts, and the reason for the discounts, received by various hirers of rooms within the Municipal Buildings and the Borough Gardens House Community Room. The report also set out proposed revised charges for those discounted regular hirers.

Resolved

(1) That the schedule of discounts be agreed.

(2) That the revised charges be agreed as from 1 April 2020.

49. **Lease Renewal**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk seeking authority to renew the lease of John's Pond for a further 30 years on the same terms and conditions as previously.

Resolved

That the lease for John's Pond be renewed for a further 30 years.

Chairman

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Dorchester, Fordington and Poundbury Cemeteries Fees 2020-2021

INTERMENTS

1 Apr 20

a) A child before 2 years or stillborn	Nil
b) A person aged 2 years or older	£655
c) A casket of ashes	£180

SCATTERING OF ASHES

a) In a previously used plot or in the Poundbury Pavilion chamber	£62
b) In the Garden of Remembrance	£30

EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL IN EARTHEN GRAVES

For an exclusive right for 50 years, including Memorial Rights in an earthen grave:

a) Full Sized Plot	£945
End of term Renewal for 25 years	£800
b) Ashes plots and infant under the age of 2	£630
End of term Renewal for 25 years	£490

Additional Interment, Scattering and Exclusive Rights fees will be charged for

- Non-residents – fee doubled. Residence is defined as living in Dorchester or Winterborne Herringston within the previous **ten** years or previously resident for at least **twenty-five** years.
- Non-standard grave sizes – additional fee to be agreed with the Funeral Director

MONUMENTS, GRAVESTONES, TABLETS AND MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Where not already included in an exclusive right of burial, for the right to erect or place a headstone, footstone, tablet, flat stone, plaque or monument in any other form at any site. £215

An additional inscription, after the first, on a gravestone or other memorial (for each deceased) £103

CHAPEL HIRE

Use of South Chapel at Weymouth Avenue £250

Note – in line with the decision of the Service Review Task and Finish Group, the closure of the South Chapel for Funeral Services, so as to enable a full review of uses for both North and South Chapels, will be investigated this year.

VAT is not chargeable on any of the above fees