

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee held via the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

14 September 2020

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

In Attendance

Councillor G. Jones.

M. Derrien – Dorchester Cricket Club.

9. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 13 July 2020, adopted by Council on 27 July 2020, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

10. **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 also responded to Members other detailed questions. The Mayor updated Members regarding the rebuilding of the collapsed car park wall on the corner of West Walks and Bowling Alley Walk which would be going ahead once suitably matching bricks had been made.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

11. **Weymouth Avenue Recreation Ground**

The Committee welcomed Mark Derrien from the Dorchester Cricket Club who addressed Members regarding the Cricket Club's proposal to erect an advertising board at the entrance to Sawmills Lane. He explained the importance of sponsorship to the ongoing success of the Club and that the board would replace the need for banners on the perimeter railings.

Members felt that the proposal was acceptable in principle but that more detail would be required in respect of size, location, materials etc. Members also expressed concern regarding the banners on the Cricket nets and reminded the Club of the need to discuss any proposals for the area with the Town Council at the earliest opportunity.

Resolved

That the Chairman and Deputy Town Clerk meet with the Cricket Club to finalise a proposal for the advertising board which could then be brought to the next meeting of the Committee for consideration.

12. Municipal Buildings

Members considered correspondence from the Arts Society Dorset County (ASDC) seeking an assurance that it could continue to book the third Thursday of the month for at least two years in advance so as to ensure its future programming. It was noted that the Town Clerk had already provided an assurance that the Council would look to safeguard its existing client base but that following the proposed significant investment in the Buildings it was likely that ASDC's present hire charge, which had remained unchanged for four years, would be reviewed and most likely significantly increased. A review of all discounted entitlements for existing users would also be undertaken.

Resolved

- (1) That ASDC be reassured that the Council would safeguard its existing client base.
- (2) That following the significant investment in the Buildings a review of all discounted entitlements for existing users would be undertaken and it was likely that ASDC's hire charge would be increased.

13. Holmead Walk Play Area

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk which set out proposals for replacement play equipment at Holmead Walk play area.

Members agreed to replace the equipment and requested that the new equipment be as accessible and environmentally friendly as possible. The Committee also discussed the benefits and disadvantages of the different play equipment materials available. Councillor Leaper confirmed that he would seek the Duchy of Cornwall's view in respect of the play equipment materials for Holmead Walk.

The Committee felt that it would be timely to review play equipment generally and agreed that the next site visits focus on play areas.

Resolved

- (1) That the multi play and swings be replaced at Holmead Walk with the exact style of equipment being agreed with the Chairman of the Committee.
- (2) That the Policy Committee be requested to release up to £15,000 from the Holmead Walk Play Equipment reserve.

14. **Grant Application**

The Committee considered a grant application from a local group of volunteers who had come together to establish a Dorchester Parkrun at the Great Field. It was noted that the regular Parkrun was on a Saturday morning and the annual Lions fun run was held on a Sunday.

Resolved

That a grant of £500 be awarded to Dorchester Parkrun.

15. **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 circulated with the agenda.

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 5136 to 5149 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16. **Buildings Monitoring Reports**

The Committee received the Municipal Buildings monitoring report which included a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the activity of the Town Hall Keepers over the past two months.

Members were informed of an incident which had resulted in a small fire in the kitchenette of the Council Chamber. It was noted that this incident should be in the incident book and that Gary Jarman be thanked for his swift action in putting the fire out.

The Committee also requested that some pointing and coping work be undertaken to the Buildings car park party wall with the Kings Arms.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

Chairman