

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee held via the Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

9 November 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

Councillors S. Hosford, G. Jones and F. Hogwood.
N. Mason, Public Health Dorset (Minute No 18).

17. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 September 2020, adopted by Council on 28 September 2020, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

18. Community Food Fridge Project

The Committee welcomed Naomi Mason, Public Health Dorset, to the meeting. Naomi then gave a presentation to Members regarding the community food fridge project the summary of which is set out below:-

- Community Fridges were a way to address food waste
- There was strong evidence to suggest that food insecurity was an issue in Dorset
- Food insecurity was a multidimensional problem, this was not the total solution
- Community Fridges were part of a larger 'food picture'
- There were many other benefits to running fridges
- Working together there was potential to make a difference

The Committee was very supportive of the project and noted that it was ready to proceed subject to finding a suitable location for the fridge. Members discussed various potential locations and agreed to forward any ideas or suggestions direct to Naomi.

Resolved

That the Community Food Fridge Project be supported.

19. 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 Deputy Town Clerk reported that the allotment representative from Herringston Road allotments was giving up his plot at the end of the year, he had been the allotment representative since the Town Council came into being. The Committee felt that it was

important to thank him and gave some consideration as to how best this could be achieved.

Members were also informed of the Town Council facilities that had been closed as a result of the latest Government Covid 19 lockdown.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

20. Borough Gardens Rose Garden

The Committee considered a report from the Outdoor Services Manager regarding the creation of a scented rose garden on the grass strip between the new tennis courts and the greenhouses. The rose garden was to be funded largely from donation and would include two commemorative benches. The idea for the garden originally came from Councillor R. Major who identified that David Austin Roses had bred new varieties named after Thomas Hardy characters.

Members felt that it would be a good idea to invite members of the public to suggest names for the rose garden with the donators agreeing the final name. With regard to relocating the existing sculpture, located between the new tennis courts and Bowling Alley Walks, to the rose garden the Committee felt that it might be better to consider a whole new sculpture for the rose garden.

Resolved

That, subject to the comments above, the creation of a rose garden as described in the report be agreed.

21. Weymouth Avenue Recreation Ground

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk which updated it on a meeting with the Chairman and Deputy Town Clerk and representatives of the Cricket Club to discuss the design and location of the proposed sponsorship board.

Members thanked the Chairman for resolving the matter with the Club and suggested that further regular meetings might be beneficial. The Mayor suggested that the provision of electric car charging facilities might be an option for the Club to consider in the future as an income generator.

Resolved

That, subject to receiving the necessary consents, the Cricket Club be authorised to erect a new sponsorship board at Weymouth Avenue Recreation Ground as set out in the report.

22. Allotment Fees 2021

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 2021.

Resolved

(1) That, as from 1 January 2021, 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 2021; the fees will therefore be:-

| | |
|---|--------|
| Rent - Full plot on any site | £38.00 |
| Rent - Half plot on any site | £22.00 |
| Water Charge – Full plot | £10.50 |
| Water Charge – Half plot (excludes Frome Terrace – no water) | £8.50 |
| Administration Fee for new tenants | £50.00 |

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

23. Grant Applications

The Committee considered two requests for financial assistance.

Resolved

(1) That the grant application from South West Multicultural Network (SWMN), in the sum of £300, be not agreed in the first instance but that discussions be held with SWMN with a view to a revised application being submitted to the next meeting.

(2) That the grant application from Light Up Dorchester Window Wanderland, in the sum of £150, be agreed and that further discussion be held with the group to establish if there were any further specific items that the Council might be able to contribute towards other than revenue costs.

24. 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 5150 to 5164 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

25. **Municipal 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 stressed the importance of not disposing of anything which might have a historic value.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

Chairman