

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

15 July 2024

Present: The Mayor (Councillor R. Potter) and Councillors, A. Canning, P. Farmer, L. Fry, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper (Chairman) and M. Rennie.

Apologies: Councillor R. Major.

In attendance:

Councillors J. Germodo and K. Reid.

Officers: Tony Hurley (Assistant Town Clerk – Corporate), Carl Dallison (Assistant Town Clerk – Outdoor Services).

1. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Potter with regard to the Dorchester Chaplaincy. Cllr D. Leaper had been a member of People Need Nature. Cllr W. Gibbons knows the director of the Talk About Trust.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11 March 2024, adopted by Council on 24 March 2024, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. Outdoor Services – Update Report

The committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) with highlights including the refurbishment of Borough Gardens House and its imminent reopening as a community facility. Members congratulated the Outdoor Services team on the excellent state of the Gardens. Cllr Jones mentioned that a tree had been planted in the Gardens by the Lord Lieutenant to commemorate the King's coronation. Cllr Gibbons raised concerns about the booking in the Garden's for a Palestinian cultural celebration in August and members discussed risks and benefits of the event. Cllr Jones highlighted the council's general approach to being inclusive with regards to events celebrating other cultures.

Resolved:

That the Outdoor Services update report be noted.

4. Funding request from People Need Nature

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Open Spaces) on a funding request from the organisation People Need Nature to help it with the cost of maintain the swale area of The Great Field. The specialist expertise and capacity of People

Need Nature was discussed and members agreed support the request for funding and refer to Policy Committee for it to be considered as part of the annual review of revenue grants in September.

Resolved:

That a recommendation be made to September's Policy Committee that an annually renewable grant of £4,000 is awarded to People Need Nature to help it with operational, project and developmental cost for the management of the swathe at The Great Field.

5. Storage unit on The Great Field for Parkrun

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Open Spaces) regarding a request from the local organisers of Parkrun to place a shed on The Great Field for the storage of equipment. Cllr Kent-Ledger was concerned about the security of the shed and that it should be in a visible location. In general, members were supportive of the shed in principle but were undecided on the most appropriate location. It was proposed that the decision on the exact location be delegated for officers to decide in consultation with the chairman and vice chairman of the committee.

Resolved:

That the committee supports the installation of a secure storage unit for Parkrun at The Great Field and that the decision on its exact location and appearance be delegated to Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Management Committee.

6. Railings on Frome Terrace

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Open Spaces) on a request from the owners of River View for the stone wall to be inspected and repaired and, if necessary, for the adjacent railings adjacent to Frome Terrace to be removed to enable proper maintenance of the wall. The Assistant Town Clerk explained that the maintenance of the wall might be the responsibility of the council and that removal of the railings would require consultation with Dorset Council as they are within a Conservation Area. Members also requested that the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee be consulted.

Resolved:

That the ivy be severed and other shrub clearance along the garden wall in order that there can be a specialist inspection of the wall to decide on appropriate maintenance actions and for the metal railings to be removed subject to consultation both with Dorset Council's conservation officer and the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee.

7. Resurfacing of Borough Gardens' tennis courts

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on the imminent resurfacing of the older tennis courts in Borough Gardens funded by a grant

from the Lawn Tennis Foundation.

Resolved:

That the report on the resurfacing of Borough Gardens' tennis courts be noted.

8. Grant Applications

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance and also noted Dorchester Youth Council's comments on the applications. The following was decided:

- (a) That the decision on the award of a £500 grant to Mosaic for bereavement counselling sessions for young people be delegated to the Assistant Town Clerk in consultation with the Committee Chairman subject to the receipt of additional information on the scope of the service.
- (b) That the request from Dorset Food & Drink for a grant of £500 for young people's cooking workshop be declined.
- (c) That Dorchester Town Chaplaincy be awarded a grant of £500 for the purchase of seasonal gifts for local shops.
- (d) That Mid Dorset Mencap be awarded a grant of £500 towards the cost of ASDAN training.
- (e) That the Talk About Trust be awarded a grant of £500 towards the cost of free music entertainment and family activities at The Great Field and that there be discussions between the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the committee with the Trust regarding use of The Great Field area.
- (f) That the Dorchester Baptist Church be awarded a grant of £500 towards the cost of a Ukrainian Independence Day celebration event in Borough Gardens in August.

9. Minutes of Dorchester Arts board meeting

The minutes of the Dorchester Arts board meeting were considered by members. Cllr Jones considered that the programme could be more inclusive, with broader appeal, and that some ticket prices were too high.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Dorchester Arts board meeting minutes be noted.

10. Notes of Member Site Visit

The committee considered the Town Clerk's notes of the recent member site visits.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the recent member site visits be noted.

11. 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, and the use of the South Chapel, 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 5406 to 5432 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

12. 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.

13. Boxing Club - Weymouth Avenue Pavilion

The committee considered a confidential report from the Town Clerk. Members recognised the town council's significant investment in setting up the boxing club and were keen for a similar purpose to be found in order to make best use of the equipment.

Resolved:

1. That the boxing club space in Weymouth Avenue Pavilion be re-let for use as a gym or for boxing subject to:
 - a) a rent review;
 - b) discussions with the Cricket Club (as an adjoining neighbour) as to any restrictions that might be placed in an agreement so as to enable both parties to enjoy peaceable occupation;
 - c) the advertising of the opportunity on the Town Council website;
 - d) a scoring matrix be established for any interested parties to be judged against.
2. That a working group be established to oversee the process comprising the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Cllr R. Major and Cllr L. Fry.

Chairman.....