

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

6th May 2025

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

Apologies: Councillors W. Gibbons, R. Major and A. Canning

In attendance:

Councillors S. Biles, V. Lloyd-Jones and K. Reid.

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

69. Declaration of Interests

Councillors D. Leaper declared an interest in respect of Minute No. 71, Cycling Without Age, and Councillor R. Potter declared an interest in respect of Minute No. 78 (a) and (b), DTAG.

70. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 17 March 2025, adopted by Council on 31 March 2025, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

71. Cycling Without Age – Access to Borough Gardens.

Cllr Leaper passed the chairing of the meeting for this particular item to Cllr Kent-Ledger. The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) on a request from the organisation Cycling Without Age to ride their tri-shaws in Borough Gardens, despite a bylaw prohibiting the riding of bicycles in the Gardens. Mr David Goddard, representing Cycling Without Age (CWA), was invited to address the committee and answer member questions. Mr Goddard explained that CWA wanted to expand their service into the town centre and engage with residents in nearby care homes – he also felt that allowing tri-shaw access to the Gardens was in accordance with the town council's equality objectives.

Members discussed the request at length and considered the conflict between the request and the bylaw. Members were concerned that the Gardens were very busy, particularly in the summer, and that the paths were not wide enough to also accommodate the tri-shaws. Cllrs Kent-Ledger and Rennie highlighted that the council did support CWA by providing both storage and battery charging facilities for the tri-shaws free of charge. Mr Goodard stated that the passengers would not be able to get out of the tri-shaws to walk into the Gardens due to infirmity – many had to be assisted into the tri-shaw by use of a hoist. Cllrs Hewitt and Lloyd-Jones stated that they personally worked with disabled groups making use of the Gardens and considered that the paths would not be wide

enough to accommodate both wheelchairs and tri-shaws. Members also felt that the route around the town via the Walks should provide sufficient interest and enjoyment without the need to encroach on Borough Gardens.

Resolved:

That the initial decision by Town Clerk to refuse access to Borough Gardens for the Cycling Without Age tri-shaws be upheld and that the request for access be refused.

72. Outdoor Services – Update Report – Late Winter

The committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services). It was reported that the Gardens had recently been judged for the Green Flag. New battery powered equipment was being trialled by the Outdoor Services team with promising results. Cllr Fry asked if, in future, any new picnic benches would be wheelchair accessible and the Assistant Town Clerk confirmed that this would be the case. Cllr Stella Jones suggested that where trees were going to be felled due to disease, that perhaps signs could be attached to the trees to explain the reason for the proposed felling.

Resolved:

That the Outdoor Services update report be noted.

73. Location of Bench on The Great Field

The committee received the report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services). Cllr Hogwood requested that officers explore the potential for public donations towards the cost of the new bench to be ring-fenced in the council's account. Cllr Fry suggested that the new bench be located slightly to the west of the proposed location so that it looked across Mansell Square rather than facing the rear of the bus shelter – this suggestion was supported by the committee.

Resolved:

That a new bench be located on The Great Field overlooking Mansell Square subject to satisfactory ground conditions and in accordance with the conditions set out in section 3 of the officer's report.

74. Allotments update

The Committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on the current position with regard to the renting of vacant plots at Loud Mills.

Resolved:

That the allotment update report be noted.

75. Weymouth Avenue Pavilion boxing facility – update

The committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on the establishment of a new boxing facility by Launchpad Dorset at the Weymouth Avenue Pavilion as previously agreed by the Committee.

Resolved:

That the update report on the Weymouth Avenue Pavilion boxing facility be noted.

76. Fordington Green – Penguin Little Book Stop

The committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on a request for members of the community in Fordington for the Town Council to allow the installation of a Penguin Little Book Stop on Fordington Green. Local residents were currently applying to Penguin Books Ltd to receive one of the ninety Little Book Stops that were being distributed nationally.

Resolved:

That permission be given to residents to install a Penguin 'Little Book Stop' on Fordington Green in a position to be agreed by the Town Clerk.

77. Heritage Information Panel – Duke of Edinburgh Gardens

The committee received a report from the Town Clerk regarding a proposal to install a heritage information panel in Duke of Edinburgh Gardens in order to provide information on the Romano-British farmstead that was discovered on Poundbury. The proposal from a local resident, who had designed the panel with input from Wessex Archaeology, would not require any funding from the Town Council although the Outdoor Services staff may undertake the installation.

Resolved:

That the Committee agreed the installation of the heritage information panel on Duke of Edinburgh Gardens, in accordance with the design in Appendix A, subject to the consent of the Duchy of Cornwall.

78. Grant Applications

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance and it was

Resolved:

- (a) That a grant of £69 be awarded to Dorchester Transport Action Group towards the cost of room hire.
- (b) That a grant of £400 be awarded to Dorchester Transport Action Group towards the cost of first aid and sound equipment hire for cycling event.
- (c) That no grant be allocated to the William Barnes Society for its archiving project.
- (d) That a grant of £500 be awarded to the Talk About Trust towards the cost of

the Holiday Hangout event on The Great Field.

79. **Notes of Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel meeting on 17th March 2025.**

The minutes of the Panel were considered by members.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Panel be noted.

80. **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 5468 to 5480 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Chair.....