

Dorchester Town Council

Policy Committee

16 March 2020

Present: Councillors R. Biggs, A. Chisholm, F. Hogwood, S. Hosford (Chair) and G. Jones

Apologies: Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall and T. Harries.

Attending: Councillors S. Biles, J. Hewitt, D. Leaper, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

26. Minutes and Declarations of Interest

The Minutes of the Committee of 20 January 2020, adopted by Council on 27 January 2020, were taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Councillor R. Biggs declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of Dorchester Youth and Community Centre (minute 28b) and took no part in discussions. Councillor M. Rennie recorded her role as a representative of the same body.

Councillor S. Hosford declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of Dorchester Municipal Charities (minute 28c). Councillor R. Biggs recorded his role as an observer of the body as Mayor; neither councillor took part in discussions. Councillor M. Rennie recorded her role as Chairman of the same body.

Councillor A. Chisholm declared a non-pecuniary interest as a board member of Keep106 (minute 30) and took no part in discussions.

27. Finance Update at 29 February 2020

The Committee noted the Town Clerk's update covering the Council's Month 11 budget, cash, debtors and payments position, as well as the most recent internal audit report and an update on Corporate Plan projects.

Members asked questions regarding recommendations 3.3, 3.4, 5.1, 5.2 and 7.1 of the audit report, with answers being provided by the Clerk.

A Member requested clarification regarding the focus of the (Heritage) Tourism Strategy.

A Member requested details of a consultation meeting led by the Dorset Council in relation to the Local Plan. The Chairman of Planning & Environment Committee explained how this would be reported through the Committee process.

Resolved

- a) That the Payments list, totalling £208,283.13 is approved.
- b) That the Second Internal Audit Report, along with the officer responses, is noted

Recommended to Council

- c) That, in regard, to the Strategic and Operational Risk Register, considered at Policy Committee on 18 November 2019, the amended high level strategic and operational risks and the registers as a whole be approved

28. Climate Emergency – Projects Update

The Committee considered a number of recommendations emerging from work on the Council's services and partner initiatives.

The Committee noted progress on the development of a plan to introduce a biomass boiler for the Municipal Buildings and preliminary ideas for a heating solution at Weymouth Avenue South Chapel, recognising the need to achieve solutions that were consistent with planning requirements. Members also considered the latest information for a project to heat the Weymouth Avenue Recreation Pavilion.

The Committee received a short presentation from a member of Transition Town Dorchester regarding an initiative to plant 20,000 trees around the town.

Resolved

- a) The Weymouth Avenue Recreation Pavilion scheme is progressed to tender stage, with a budget of £40,000 being reserved from the Climate Emergency Fund
- b) That, subject to funding being required, the Town Council offer a grant of £1,500 to the Dorchester Youth and Community Centre towards new LED lighting
- c) That the Town Council funds the purchase of LED light bulbs to be used by tenants of Dorchester Municipal Charities, up to a total value of £200
- d) That £2,000 is allocated to a programme of tree planting initiatives delivered by Transition Town Dorchester, to be released as matchfunding when they are ready to proceed with specific projects related to land within the town

29. Council Calendar 2020-21 and future Annual Town Meetings

The Committee considered the calendar of meetings for the next municipal year.

Members discussed information provided regarding alternative approaches used by other Town Councils to discharge their obligation to hold an Annual Town Meeting. Members recognised the benefit of a gathering to promote the activity of the Council and its partners to the wider community.

Recommended to Council

- a) That the Municipal Calendar as laid out in the Appendix 1 is approved

- b) That the Town Clerk prepares a report for a future meeting of the Policy Committee with a proposal to discharge the obligation of the Annual Town Meeting through a separate event, the date to be confirmed

30. **Support for Keep106 in exchange for technical advice and support**

The Committee considered a report covering a proposed arrangement for mutual support with the local community radio station, Keep106. Members recognised the burden placed on one individual for the arrangement to work successfully.

Resolved

That a grant of £2,500 be awarded to Keep106 radio on terms to be confirmed by the Town Clerk

Chairman

APPENDIX 1

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2020-21

	2020								2021				
	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
COUNCIL	18 MM 19 (Tu)		27		28		23		25		22		24 MM 25 (Tu)
POLICY	11		20		21		16		18		15 MS@ 1830		17
MANAGEMENT	4		13		14		9		11		8		10
PLANNING AND ENVIRON		1	6	3	7	5	2	7	4	1	1	6 (Tu)	4 (Tu)
MARKETS JOINT PANEL *		24							20				
HERITAGE JOINT COMMITTEE			21			20			19			20	
SITE VISITS		9 @ 9.30AM		11 @ 4.00PM								13 @ 4.00PM	
CIVIC EVENTS	VE Day Fri 8	Hardy Sun 7					Remem Sun 8				29? ATM		
<i>BANK HOLIDAYS</i>	8,25			31				25/28	1			2,5	3,31

MM Mayor Making ATM Annual Town Meeting MS Mayoral Selection Committee

Meetings will ordinarily take place at 19.00 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings.

* The dates and timing of Markets Joint Panel meetings are still to be agreed with the Dorset Council