

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE

17th JULY, 2012

At a Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 17th July, 2012:

PRESENT Councillors V.J. Allan, R.M. Biggs, T.C.N. Harries, Trevor Jones (Chairman), P.G. Mann and D.S. Roberts.

APOLOGY for absence was received from The Mayor (Councillor A.J. Canning).

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 15th May, 2012, adopted by Council on 22nd May, 2012, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. **MINUTE OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered Minute 5 of the Management Committee relating to the Appointment of Panels for 2012-13 and it was

RESOLVED

That Minute 5 of the Management Committee be approved so far as this Committee is concerned.

3. **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

The Committee received and noted the Council's Management Accounts for the period ended 30th June, 2012.

Arising from the consideration of this item the Chairman reported that he was continuing to press for a meeting with the Council's previous external auditors concerning the presentation of the Council's Final Accounts in past years and hoped to receive confirmation by the end of this week that they were prepared to take part in such a meeting.

4. **INTERNAL BORROWINGS**

The Committee received and noted the report of the Town Clerk submitted in accordance with the request contained in Minute 58 (2011-12).

The Financial Services Provider confirmed that procedures had been put in place to ensure that similar problems could not recur in the future.

5. **INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Committee received and noted the report of the Council's Internal Auditor on his findings during his recent visit.

6. **PANELS 2012-13**

(a) **Membership of Panels – 2012-13**

The Committee considered the allocation of Members of this Committee to Panels following the receipt of Councillors' individual preferences.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the following Members be appointed by this Committee to Panels for the 2012-13 Council Year:

Arts

Councillor V.J. Allan

Borough Gardens

Councillor G.M. Jones

Community Activities

Councillor P.G. Mann

Grants

Councillor V.J. Allan

Outdoor Services

Councillor T.C.N. Harries

Property Management and Maintenance

Councillor D.S. Roberts

Resources

Councillors T.C.N. Harries, Trevor Jones and P.G. Mann

Risk Management

Councillors R.M. Biggs and G.M. Jones

(b) **Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen**

Members considered the appointments of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to those Panels that were responsible to the Policy Committee. Members agreed not to appoint Vice-Chairmen at this stage.

It was

RESOLVED

That the following Chairmen of the Panels stated be elected for the 2012-13 Council Year:

Resources

Chairman – Councillor Trevor Jones

Risk Management

Chairman – Councillor R.M. Biggs

7. **CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION SURVEILLANCE**

In accordance with Minute 57(10) (2011-12) the Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk on the Dorchester CCTV Scheme and the Council's involvement with it.

During the consideration of the report Members expressed their regret that there appeared to be no evidence to inform and assessment of the effectiveness of this, or any other, CCTV scheme and, following discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the West Dorset District Council be requested to confirm that a contribution towards the revenue costs of operating the CCTV scheme would be sought from the developer of the Charles Street site following completion of the development.
- (2) That the Town Clerk be requested to investigate the possibility of this Council's annual contribution being reduced as a result of a reduction in the number of hours during which the cameras are monitored bearing in mind that most incidents are detected between 11pm and 4am and to report back to a future meeting of this Committee.

8. **HIGHWAY AMENITY MAINTENANCE**

In accordance with Planning and Environment Minute 7(2) the Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk and the Compliance Manager on the practicalities and costs of this Council assuming responsibility for highway amenity maintenance within the Town.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That no action be taken.

9. **DORCHESTER TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT PLAN – STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

As an urgent item the Committee considered an invitation received from the Dorset County Council for this Council to appoint a Member representative to serve on

the Dorchester Transport and Environment Plan Stakeholder Group which had been created to replace the previous Joint Member Panel and it was

RESOLVED

That all Members of Council be notified of this vacancy and invited to volunteer to fill it at the next Council Meeting but that they be informed of this Committee's opinion that the Council's representative should be the Chairman for the time being of the Traffic Panel.

10. **PAYMENTS BY PARISH AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND CHARTER TRUSTEES**

As an urgent item the Committee considered the proposals set out in this Consultation Paper which had been published today and on which comments were invited by 11th September, 2012.

The Government proposed to make a Legislative Reform Order repealing Sections 150(5) and 246(12) of the Local Government Act 1972 which required all cheques and other orders of payment issued on behalf of town and parish councils to be signed by two elected members.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk be authorised to respond to the consultation supporting the proposal.

11. **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

It was

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 matter, the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this Meeting during its discussion.

12. **COUNCILLOR F.E. KENT-LEDGER**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk on the medical circumstances which had precluded Councillor F.E. Kent-Ledger from attending any meetings since the Planning and Environment Committee on 6th February, 2012 and which were likely to continue for some time.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the Council approves Councillor Kent-Ledger's reason for non-attendance for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Chairman