

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE

18th JANUARY, 2011

At a Meeting of the Policy Committee held on 18th June, 2011:

PRESENT The Mayor (Councillor L.M. Phillips) and Councillors M.A. Allwood, R.M. Biggs, V. Black, T.C.N. Harries, C.M. Hebditch, S.C. Hosford and Trevor Jones (Chairman).

In attendance:
Councillor R.B. Potter.

28. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 16th November, 2010, adopted by Council on 23rd November, 2010, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

29. **MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES**

(a) **Planning and Environment Committee – 4th January, 2011**

The Committee considered the under-mentioned Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee:

Minute 47 – Grit Bins
Minute 48 – Estimates.

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That Minute 47 be considered at Minute 42 below.
- (2) That Minute 48 be considered at Minute 35 below.

(b) **Management Committee – 11th January, 2011**

The Committee considered the under-mentioned Minutes of the Management Committee:

Minute 46(b) – Trees in South Walks and Salisbury Walk
Minute 47 – Estimates 2011-12

It was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the potential financial implications of Minute 46(b) be noted.
- (2) That Minute 47 be considered at Minute 35 below.

30. **EXTERNAL AUDIT: ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER – 2009-10**

The Committee received and noted a copy of the Annual Audit Letter in respect of 2009-10.

31. **INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Committee received and noted a copy of the most recent reports of the Council's Internal Auditor together with the explanations of the points raised in them and the action which had been or would be taken in response to them.

32. **MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS**

The Committee received and noted the Council's Management Accounts for the period ended 31st December, 2010.

33. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

The Committee received and noted an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy for the period to 31st March, 2016. The Financial Services Provider table a modified version of the Strategy to take account of the reduction made by the Dorchester Markets Joint Committee at its meeting on 12th January, 2011 in estimated income from the operation of the Wednesday Market.

34. **GENERAL FUND AND SPECIFIC RESERVES BALANCES**

The Committee considered the report of the Financial Services Provider on an appropriate level of General Reserve which it would be prudent for the Council to maintain.

It was

RESOLVED

That the recommendations set out in the report be approved and that the Council maintain a minimum General Reserve in 2011-12 of £278,845.

35. **DRAFT BUDGET AND ESTIMATES – 2011-12**

(a) **Planning and Environment Committee**

The Committee considered the draft Estimates for the Planning and Environment Committee as approved by that Committee at Minute 48 and it was

RECOMMENDED

That the draft Estimates for the Planning and Environment Committee be approved so far as this Committee is concerned (but see Minute 40 below).

(b) Management Committee

The Committee considered the draft Estimates for the Management Committee as approved by that Committee at Minute 47.

It was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the draft Estimates of the Management Committee be approved so far as this Committee is concerned.
- (2) That, with effect from the Estimates for 2012-13, the Estimates for the Municipal Buildings and Cultural Activities be presented separately.

(c) Policy Committee

The Committee considered its draft Estimates for 2011-12.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the draft Estimates for 2011-12 as now submitted be approved.

(d) Budget for 2011-12

The Committee considered the Budget for 2011-12 and the precept required.

It was

RECOMMENDED

- (1) That the Revised Estimates for 2010-11 and the Estimates for 2011-12 be approved.
- (2) That a precept in the sum of £1,130,081 be levied on the West Dorset District Council in respect of the financial year 2011-12 requesting that payment be made in two equal instalments on 1st April and 1st October, 2011.

36. **HEART TOWN PROJECT**

In accordance with Minute 24 the Committee gave further consideration to a revised draft agreement in respect of the proposed designation of Dorchester as a Heart Town.

Following discussion it was

RECOMMENDED

That the draft agreement as now submitted be approved subject to the deletion of the requirement for the Council to promote the BIG Donation and that, instead, residents be encouraged to make donations to the charity shops of their choice.

(Councillors V. Black and C.M. Hebditch declared personal interests in this matter because of their involvements with other local charities.)

37. **LOCALISM BILL**

The Committee received and noted the report of the Town Clerk on the apparent implications of the Localism Bill for town and parish councils.

38. **CITY STATUS COMPETITION**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk on the announcement of a competition for the creation of a new city to mark HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Members noted that a strong case could be made for Dorchester to be accorded city status and that applications were invited by 27th May, 2011.

It was

RECOMMENDED

That the Town Clerk be authorised to submit an appropriate entry.

39. **WEST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL – LAND DISPOSALS**

The Committee considered offers received from the West Dorset District Council to transfer the ownership of All Saints Church, a strip of land at Orchard Street and two footpaths off Barnes Way to the Council for nominal considerations of £1 each.

It was

RESOLVED

That the offers be declined.

40. **DORCHESTER WEST STATION – ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE**

The Committee considered a request received from Dorset County Council for this Council to contribute the sum of £10,000 towards the costs of the scheme to provide improved access for disabled people to Dorchester West Station. Members noted that the total cost of the scheme was approximately £145,000 and that the Council's agreement to contribute would enable the scheme to proceed.

It was

RESOLVED

That the Council contribute £10,000 towards the costs of the scheme in the 2011-12 financial year and that the appropriate amendments be made to the Estimates approved at Minute 35 above.

41. **SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS**

It was

RESOLVED

That in view of today's announcement that the consultation period on the proposed withdrawal of school crossing patrols by the Dorset County Council was being extended to 31st March 2012 this matter be considered at the Meeting of this Committee to be held in September, 2011.

42. **GRIT BINS**

It was

RESOLVED

That consideration of this matter be deferred until the next Meeting of this Committee to enable the meeting referred to at Planning and Environment Minute 47 to take place.

Chairman