

# Dorchester Town Council

## Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

25 July 2022

Present: The Mayor (Councillor J. Hewitt) and Councillors, R. Biggs, S. Biles, A. Canning, T. Harries, F. Hogwood, S. Hosford, F. Kent-Ledger, S. Jones, D. Leaper, R. Potter, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo.

Apologies: Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, A. Chisholm, L. Fry, G. Jones, A. Lyall, R. Major and D. Taylor.

### 15. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 23 and 24 May 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### 16. Police Matters

Sergeant Matt Whetham reported on the crime statistics for Dorchester. He also updated Members on current police issues and priorities. He then responded to Members detailed questions.

### 17. Presentations, Communications, Questions and Motions

The Mayor reported that Trevor Bevins would no longer be able to report on the activities of the Council. Trevor had reported on the Council's activities for many years and the Council wished to formally record its thanks to Trevor.

#### **Resolved**

That the Council record its thanks to Trevor Bevins for his many years of reporting on the activities of the Town Council.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor R. Biggs on his 29 years' service as a Town Councillor and Councillor R. Potter on his 26 years' service as a Town Councillor. Both Councillors were presented with a small gift.

There were no Questions or Motions.

### 18. Planning and Environment Committee – 6 June 2022

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 6 June 2022 be adopted.

19. **Planning and Environment Committee – 4 July 2022**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 4 July 2022 be adopted.

20. **Management Committee – 11 July 2022**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 11 July 2022 be adopted.

21. **Policy Committee – 18 July 2022**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

The Council considered the draft Communications Policy and noted the amendments which had been proposed by the Policy Committee. Members felt that further clarification was required in respect of 10 (6) Press Interview permissions.

**Resolved**

1. That approval be sought from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan for up to £700,000 over a maximum borrowing time of 30 years for the development of the Municipal Building. The annual loan repayments will come to around a maximum of £75,000 per annum. It is not intended to increase the Council Tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.
2. That the Communications Policy be amended and the final version be presented to the next meeting of the Council.
3. That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee meeting held on 18 July 2022 be adopted.

22. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- The need for more foster carers and the associated support network so as to enable children moving to Dorset under the National Transfer Scheme to be looked after within the County.

- The Library Service was presently consulting on a new strategy for the Service which was planned to be adopted in the spring of 2023.
- Dorset Council was again operating the holiday activities and food programme over the summer.
- That affordable accommodation for workers was one of the key reasons vacancies in the NHS and elsewhere were not being filled. It was important to ensure the 33% affordable homes requirement was met in all new developments.
- It was reported that the Dorset Community Safety Partnership had undertaken some good work at Poundbury. The importance of reporting any incidents was stressed.
- Any problems identified in respect of the work to replace the fibre network around the town to be reported to Councillor A. Canning.

Council rose at 8.15pm.

Mayor