

## **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**17 JANUARY 2023**

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 17 January 2023:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	S. Biles A. Chisholm F. Hogwood G. Jones (Chairman)
	Officers:	S. Newman M. Manley N. Hayes
Dorset Council	Councillors:	R. Biggs A. Canning S. Jones
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
Dorchester Civic Society		I. Gosling
Dorchester Heritage Magazine		M. Woodgate
The Keep Military Museum		F. Scott
Dorset Museum		E. Selby
Blue Badge Tourist Guide		J. Wallis
Thomas Hardy Society		M. Chutter
Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum		T. Little

#### 22. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Taylor (Dorchester Town Council), R. White (National Trust), A. Worth (Keep 106) and L. Poulson (Dorchester Local Nature Reserve).

#### 23. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2022, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

#### 24. **INFORMATION BOARD AT POUNDBURY**

A member of the public presented a proposal asking for support for a new information board 'Poundbury Romano-British Farmstead', located in Crown Square, Poundbury. No financial support was required as it would be fully funded by the proposer. Members suggested the board should contain a QR code to link to other information boards in

Dorchester. The representative from the Dorset Museum offered to fact check the text. The Committee asked that the Clerk establish where the finds from the original archaeological investigation were now held.

The Committee thanked the resident for undertaking this most useful project.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Committee give their support to the information board and the Clerk approaches the Duchy of Cornwall.

## 25. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

### (a) Tourism Partnership - Update

The Committee received a progress report from the Tourism Development Officer on:

- BrewDorch Festival, taking place in February to include walking tours and a pub race.
- Walking Festival, taking place in May.
- The 2022 Christmas Campaign had been a social media success, promoting local businesses.
- Autumn Campaign, promoting a weekend in Dorchester in the Autumn, reporters from the Evening Standard recently came down for a weekend.

## **RESOLVED**

That the update be noted.

### (b) Tourism Spending

The Committee was asked to consider proposals for:

- Discover Dorchester website changes arising from annual review, £2,000.
- TIP equipment, to setup a Super TIP at the Shire Hall where staff would be trained and a tablet provided for when staff were busy, £5,000.
- Home of Hillforts and Henges, the return of the festival in July 2023, £3,000 subject to procurement.
- Museums After Dark, following a very successful Museums After Dark in October this will be repeated on the 1 April 2023 and again in Autumn 2023, £500 for each, £1,000 in total.

## **RESOLVED**

That the proposed spending is approved.

### (c) Volunteer Blog Writers

The Tourism Development Officer asked for volunteers to write guest blogs for the Discover Dorchester website on Dorchester's heritage

**RESOLVED**

That those wishing to write a blog contact the Tourism Development Officer.

(d) Dorchester Tourism Partnership – Notes of Meeting

The Committee received the notes of the Tourism Partnership meeting held on 16 January 2023.

**RESOLVED**

That the notes of the Tourism Partnership meeting held on 16 January 2023 be received.

26. MILL STREAM PATH – SECTION FROM LONDON ROAD TO MILL STREET

The Committee received an update from Mark Chutter and Miranda Woodgate on the information boards, one draft board was shown to Members and the other three drafts had been sent to the design agency. It was hoped that all drafts would be ready for the next Committee meeting to get the final approval. It was suggested that the boards have QR codes linking them to a website with further information.

**RESOLVED**

That the update be noted.

27. ROMAN MOSAIC PROJECT – THE WALKS

The Committee heard an update from the Tourism Development Officer. Following a meeting of the Working Group on 16 January 2023, a celebration of Durnovaria Dorchester was being planned to link different areas of Roman Dorchester together.

**RESOLVED**

That the update be noted.

28. MOULE BLUE PLAQUE

The Committee was shown an updated Moule blue plaque, made with a different material and revised wording.

**RESOLVED**

That the Committee welcomed the new blue plaque, the Clerk to arrange the installation.

29. THOMAS HARDY VICTORIAN FAIR

The Chairman updated the Committee on the 2023 Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair, the

first meeting to take place in coming weeks. It was noted that a road closure for the event had been submitted.

**RESOLVED**

That the update be noted,

30. **MEETING DATES**

Members considered dates for future meetings.

**RESOLVED**

That the 2023-2024 Committee meeting dates be as follows:-

- Tuesday 18 April 2023 (already agreed)
- Tuesday 25 July 2023
- Tuesday 17 October 2023
- Tuesday 23 January 2024
- Tuesday 16 April 2024

31. **QUESTIONS**

No questions received.

32. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Thomas Hardy Society was in discussions with Camden Council over the future of the Hardy Tree following its recent collapse.

A question was asked when the water meadows information board would be returned following vandalism. The Clerk reported the board was ready but waiting for the stand to be replaced.

Chairman.....