

# **Dorchester Town Council**

## **Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber**

**25 September 2023**

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor A. Chisholm) and Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, L. Fry, J. Hewitt, S. Hosford, G. Jones, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, K. Reid, M. Rennie and D. Taylor.

**Apologies:** Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, A. Canning, T. Harries, F. Hogwood, R. Major, R. Potter and R. Ricardo.

### **25. Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 31 July 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **26. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest reported.

### **27. Police Matters**

There was no report from the police at the meeting.

### **28. Presentations, Communications, Questions and Motions**

The Mayor reported on a number of events and communications as follows:-

- The first Dorset COP had been held in the Corn Exchange and it was hoped that a form of declaration would be agreed by the end of the year.
- The first Streets Alive event organised by DTAG had been a great success.
- Heritage Open Day had been well attended with the High Street being able to be appreciated without traffic.
- A very interesting fiftieth twinning anniversary trip to Lubbecke.
- A reception held at the Dorset Museum for visitors from Bayeux.
- Anonymous and the Cider Festival events had both been very successful.
- A talk to U3A which was a thriving organisation in the town with over 1000 members.

The Council wished to thank Keep 106 Radio who had attended and covered many of the events reported by The Mayor.

No motions or questions had been submitted.

### **29. Planning and Environment Committee – 7 August 2023**

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

Councillor D. Taylor reported that his name should have been included within the Declaration of Interests at Minute No 6.

It was noted that the electronic car park signage had been switched back on but that there had been no improvement in its accuracy and it was still very misleading.

**Resolved**

(1) That, subject to Councillor D. Taylor being added to minute No. 6, the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7 August 2023 be adopted.

(2) That Dorset Council be informed of this Council's continuing concerns regarding the inaccuracy of the electronic car park signs.

**30. Planning and Environment Committee – 4 September 2023**

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

Members felt that it would be beneficial if there could be Licensing conditions or conditions within local planning policies regarding the 'wrapping' of shop windows which sold age restricted products such as alcohol and vapes.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 4 September 2023 be adopted.

**31. Management Committee – 11 September 2023**

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

Members noted that the Youth and Community Centre was also discussing what support could be given to reduce any anti social behaviour at Poundbury.

The Chairman confirmed that the financial benefits of the carbon reduction measures being undertaken at the Borough Gardens would be monitored and that the addition of battery storage considered once the system was completed and in use.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 11 September 2023 be adopted.

**32. Policy Committee – 18 September 2023**

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

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 18 September 2023 be adopted.

### 33. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Training had been provided in respect of Planning heritage and appeals.
- Dog Control Orders were due for review.
- 2024-25 budget planning cafes were due to commence shortly.
- Assurances had been given that Dorset Council's financial position was satisfactory at the present time.
- Speed monitoring at Peverell Avenue had been completed.
- Budget training had been provided.
- A good response had been received in respect of the Housing Strategy consultation.
- The local NHS was looking to directly employ more dentists.
- It was hoped to have a one stop family hub open at the library at Christmas.
- There was a need for more supported accommodation places for young people.

The Deputy Mayor updated Members on the distribution of money from her Mayoral Charity fund and help for Ukrainian's living in the town.

Council rose at 7.54pm.

Mayor

#### Public half hour

A local resident suggested that the impact of the Council's carbon reduction measures would be miniscule in terms of the whole world and that the money being spent at the Borough Gardens would be better spent on other priorities. If the project did go ahead monitoring of the outputs was crucial.