



Dorchester Town Council

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You are summoned to a **Meeting** of the **Dorchester Town Council** to be held in the Council Chamber, the Municipal Buildings, High East Street, Dorchester, DT1 1HF on **Monday 30 January 2023 at 7.00pm**, to conduct the business set out in the Agenda below.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**

2. **Declarations of Interests**

Members are reminded of their responsibility to disclose appropriate pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests. A Member who declares a pecuniary interest must leave the room unless a dispensation has been granted. A Member who declares a non-pecuniary interest may take part in the meeting and vote.

3. **Minutes**

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 November 2022 (page 3).

4. **Police Update**

If in attendance, to receive a police update from Sergeant Matt Whetham.

5. **Presentations, Communications, Questions and Motions**

- a) To receive communications from the Mayor and the Town Clerk.
- b) To receive motions and questions received from Members no less than 5 days before the meeting.

6. **Minutes of Committees**

To receive and consider the Minutes of the following Committees:-

Planning & Environment Committee	5 December 2022	Page 6
Planning & Environment Committee	9 January 2023	Page 10
Management Committee	16 January 2023	Page 15
Policy Committee	23 January 2023	Page 25

To note the Minutes of the following Joint body

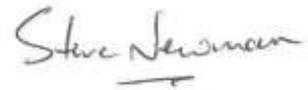
Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel
Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee

3 August 2022
17 January 2023

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7. **Update from Dorset Council Members**

To receive updates from Councillors M. Rennie, A. Canning, L. Fry, S. Jones and R. Biggs Dorchester Ward Members of the Dorset Council.



Steve Newman
Town Clerk
25 January 2023

At the conclusion of the Meeting members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Council or ask questions on matters of local concern.

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

28 November 2022

Council commenced at 7.00pm

Present: The Mayor (Councillor J. Hewitt) and Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, R. Biggs, S. Biles, A. Chisholm, L. Fry, F. Hogwood, S. Hosford, F. Kent-Ledger, G. Jones, S. Jones, D. Leaper, A. Lyall, R. Major, R. Potter, M. Rennie, R. Ricardo and D. Leaper.

Apologies: Councillor T. Harries.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Council stood in silent tribute to former Councillor and Mayor Wally Gundry and also former Mayoress Thelma Wills who had both passed away since the last Council meeting.

34. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 26 September 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

35. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

36. Police Matters

The Council was circulated with a report setting out the crime statistics for Dorchester during October.

37. Presentations, Communications, Questions and Motions

The Council received a presentation from Daniel Cadisch, Chief Officer, Citizens Advice (CA) on the work undertaken by CA over the past year and the challenges that were now being faced in respect of the cost of living crisis. Mr Cadisch responded to Members detailed questions. It was noted that CA was encouraging the Credit Union to go back to having face to face facilities rather than online only. The Council offered its support to this encouragement.

Members thanked Mr Cadisch and wished to thank all of the CA staff for the valuable work they had undertaken through the Covid pandemic and now the cost of living crisis.

The Mayor reported that she had presented the Freedom scroll to the Dorset Army Cadet Force and had been presented with a mounted bayonet which would be put on display in the Council Chamber.

The Mayor also reported that she had attended a Safe Families event in Poole, the High Sheriff's thanksgiving service and, along with the Town Clerk, had presented a scroll to the Prince of Wales School in respect of the work undertaken for the Ukraine crisis.

It was noted that the Ukraine Friday Café would be having a Christmas party on 8 January 2023 and a Christmas Dinner for the homeless was being arranged at the United Church on 19 December 2022, volunteers for either event would be welcomed.

It was reported that the Carers Hub would be inviting the Council to see the work it is undertaking in the old M&S building.

The Mayor informed the Council that a young Dorchester resident had obtained a silver and bronze medal at the first ever British Swimming Championships for people with Downs Syndrome. The Council agreed that this was a significant achievement and the young person should be presented with a certificate of congratulations from the Council.

The Town Clerk reported that the Community Play would be using the top floor of the North Square building for the next few months.

There were no Questions or Motions.

38. Planning and Environment Committee – 3 October 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 3 October 2022 be adopted.

39. Planning and Environment Committee – 7 November 2022

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

In respect of Minute No. 19 F13 (14B South Street) it was agreed that the Council should write to Dorset Council expressing its deepest concerns regarding the removal of the staircase which prevents the option for affordable housing which was desperately needed in the town.

Resolved

(1) That, in respect of Minute No. 19 F13 (14B South Street), the Council write to Dorset Council expressing its deepest concerns regarding the removal of the staircase which prevents the option for affordable housing which is desperately needed in the town.

(2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7 November 2022 be adopted.

40. **Management Committee – 14 November 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 14 November 2022 be adopted.

41. **Policy Committee – 21 November 2022**

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

Resolved

(1) That the assessed high level Strategic and Operational risks included in the Risk Register be approved and that the Risk Registers, as a whole, be approved.

(2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 21 November 2022 be adopted.

42. **Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee – 18 October 2022**

The minutes of the Joint Committee meeting were noted.

43. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- That Dorset Council had recently received a Limited Audit Opinion in respect of its corporate Landlord Responsibilities.
- Councillor R. Biggs reported on his attendance at a recent online Southwest Trains conference which had noted a 30% reduction in commuter take up since the Covid Pandemic.
- Domestic Abuse Forum – 16 Days of Action, please take note of this important campaign.
- That the Social Care budget was under significant strain.
- Car Boot Panel had, in the past week, issued £23,250 of grants to worthy causes.
- It was noted that both Dorset Council and the Town Council were not responsible for the rents charged to shops.

Council rose at 8.21pm.

Mayor

Dorchester Town Council
Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee
5 December 2022

Present: The Mayor (Councillor J. Hewitt) and councillors R Biggs, G. Jones, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, R. Potter (Chairman), M. Rennie and D. Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors A. Canning, L. Fry, R. Ricardo, T. Harries, S. Hosford and R. Major.

45. Declarations of Interest

Councillor S. Jones stated that as a member of Dorset Council's Area Planning Committee, she would keep an open mind on the planning applications and consider all information available at each stage of the decision process. She would take part in the debate but not vote on planning applications at this meeting.

46. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 November 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

47. Town Centre Masterplan and Local Plan Update

No further updates.

48. 20MPH Speed Limit

The Committee heard a request from a resident for a 20MPH speed limit in the Manor Park area.

Resolved

The Committee agreed to support in principal the proposal for a 20MPH speed limit in the Manor Park area. South ward councillors will discuss the next stages with the resident.

49. Planning Applications for Comment

The Committee considered the planning applications referred to the Council for comment by Dorset Council (Appendix 1).

50. Minute Update Report

i) Minute 42. Planning Applications for Comment of the Planning and Environment Committee - 7 November 2022 - Application P/CLE/2022/06314 14B South Street Dorchester DT1 1BS

The Chairman updated the committee, following discussions with Dorset Council the planning officer is recommending refusal. The empty homes department will look at doing the works needed and charging to the landlord.

51. Planning Issues to Note

1) A Member raised concerns over a broken street light on the A35 exit towards Max Gate

Resolved

That the Clerk reports the issue to Highways England.

2) A member praised the recent drain investigations on Kings Road and requested confirmation if these works have been completed and would other drains in Dorchester also be investigated.

Resolved

That the Clerk writes to Dorset Council Highways to ask if the Kings Road investigations are complete and if other drains in Dorchester will be checked.

Dorchester Town Council
Planning & Environment Committee – Monday, 5 December 2022
Planning Applications for Comment

East Ward (Councillors T. Harries, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger and R. Major)

- E1. P/LBC/2022/04224 19 Fordington Dairy Athelstan Road Dorchester DT1 1FD (Listed Building Consent)**
Retain works carried out to remove section of wall/partition to create sewing room within bedroom.
No Objection
- E2. P/HOU/2022/05483 33B London Road Dorchester Dorset DT1 1NF**
Erect two storey side extension.
- E3. P/HOU/2022/06502 & P/LBC/2022/0650310 South Walks Road Dorchester Dorset DT1 1ED**
Replace corrugated iron roof covering and roof structure of existing lean to extension, partially rebuild rear wall. External & internal alterations.
No Objection
- E4. P/FUL/2022/07194 8 Holloway Road Dorchester Dorset DT1 1LF**
Erect external staircase & replace first floor window with external door.
No Objection

North Ward (Councillor A. Canning & D. Taylor)

No applications received to date.

West Ward (Councillors L. Fry, J. Hewitt and R. Ricardo)

- W1. P/HOU/2022/06860 81 Queens Avenue Dorchester Dorset DT1 2EP**
Erect extension (demolish existing conservatory, garage, utility and car port).
No Objection

South Ward (Councillors G. Jones, R. Potter and M. Rennie)

- S1. P/FUL/2022/06067 Manor Park Church Of England First School Mellstock Avenue Dorchester Dorset DT1 2BH**
Siting of a converted container classroom on the existing playground for the use of the pre-school.
No Objection

Poundbury Ward (Councillors R. Biggs, S. Hosford and D. Leaper)

No applications received to date.

For Information

FI1. P/PALH/2022/06597 43 Kingsbere Crescent Dorchester DT1 2DY

Erect single storey rear extension: To extend 3.5 m beyond beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse: maximum height 3:6 m and height to eaves 2.4 m.

Dorchester Town Council
Minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee
9 January 2023

Present: The Mayor (Councillor J. Hewitt) and Councillors R Biggs, A. Canning, L. Fry, S. Hosford, G. Jones, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, R. Potter (Chairman), M. Rennie, R. Ricardo (Vice-Chairman) and D. Taylor.

In Attendance

Councillor F. Hogwood
Chris Peck, Dorset Council

Apologies: Councillor R. Major.

52. Declarations of Interest

Councillors S. Jones and L. Fry stated that as members of Dorset Council's Area Planning Committee, they would keep an open mind on the planning applications and consider all information available at each stage of the decision process. They would take part in the debate but not vote on planning applications at this meeting.

53. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 November 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

54. Town Centre Masterplan and Local Plan Update

The Chairman reported on the potential impact of the government announcement on the 5 December 2022 regarding the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and requested the Clerk arranges a meeting with Dorset Council to discuss the impact of the bill.

Resolved

That the Clerk contacts Dorset Council to arrange a meeting.

55. Fairfield Road Enhancement

Members heard a presentation from a Dorset Council officer regarding plans for Fairfield Road, followed by a question and answer session. Members discussed the possibility of the Council contributing towards the enhancement of the scheme. It was noted that the proposed scheme would be subject to a period of public consultation.

Resolved

- (1) That the scheme be supported in principle.
- (2) That, subject to further discussion and agreement on the final approved scheme, the Policy Committee be asked to consider a contribution towards additional enhancements if appropriate.

56. Dropped Kerb Request

Members were presented with a request for a dropped kerb on School Lane.

Resolved

That members support the proposal.

57. Street Naming – Brewery Square Development

The Committee was asked to support to a street name 'Dray Masters Lane' for the Brewery Square Development.

Resolved

That the Committee supports the name 'Dray Masters Lane' and wishes to express their thanks to the developer for consulting with the Committee.

58. Planning Applications for Comment

The Committee considered the planning applications referred to the Council for comment by Dorset Council (Appendix 1).

59. Minute Update Report

- i) **Minute 51.1. Planning Issues to Note of the Planning and Environment Committee - 5 December 2022, broken street light on the A35 exit towards Max Gate.**

The Clerk updated the issue had been reported on Fix My Street, it had not yet been repaired.

Resolved

That the Clerk monitors and follows up.

- ii) **Minute 51.1. Planning Issues to Note of the Planning and Environment Committee - 5 December 2022, Kings Road Drainage works and drainage works around Dorchester.**

The Clerk updated, Dorset Council Highways reported the works are still ongoing and ward members would continue to be updated. Other drains in Dorchester would only be investigated should a problem arise.

60. Planning Issues to Note

- 1) A member requested the Environment Agency be contacted for an update on their plans for flood prevention measures along the Mill Stream and around Mill Stream House.

Resolved

That the Clerk contacts the Environment Agency.

- 2) Members praised the works on the A35 to relieve the flooding at the exit onto the A352. A question was raised over the continuing flooding around the Max Gate roundabout.

Resolved

That the Clerk raises the issue of flooding at the Max Gate roundabout with Dorset Council Highways.

Dorchester Town Council
Planning & Environment Committee – 9 January 2023
Planning Applications for Comment

East Ward (Councillors T. Harries, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger and R. Major)

- E1. P/HOU/2022/06616 9 Gatcombe Close Dorchester DT1 2AW**
Build up over existing single storey extension to form first floor extension over. Erect rear single storey extension.

No Objection
- E2. P/HOU/2022/07795 30 Icen Way Dorchester DT1 1ER**
Replacement of profiled sheet roofing with roof lights and blocking up of existing side window.

No Objection
- E3. P/VOC/2022/07507 32 Prince Of Wales Road Dorchester DT1 1PW**
Convert and extend existing dwelling to provide 17 supported living apartments (Class C2) with communal facilities and associated landscaping (with variation of condition 3 of planning permission WD/D/20/002387 to amend approved plans.

No objection: Subject to the front boundary wall be retained and the parking space from original application reinstated, bringing number of parking spaces back up to six.

North Ward (Councillor A. Canning & D. Taylor)

- N1. P/FUL/2022/06018 36 High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1UP**
(Revised Application) Change of use from restaurant (use class E) to Indian Takeaway (use class Sui Generis). Installation of replacement flume on the rear elevation. (Amended description agreed 13 January 2022).

No Objection
- N2. P/FUL/2022/07965 14 South Street Dorchester Dorset DT1 1BS**
Change of use of upper floor flat (C3 dwellinghouse) to storage associated with the shop on the ground floor (Class E - Commercial, Business and Service).

Objection

as per policy: **‘ENV15. EFFICIENT AND APPROPRIATE USE OF LAND**

- i) Development should optimise the potential of the site and make efficient use of land, subject to the limitations inherent in the site and impact on local character.’ The committee felt it was inappropriate to lose the opportunity of residential accommodation when there is clear demand for affordable accommodation within the town centre. ‘

West Ward (Councillors L. Fry, J. Hewitt and R. Ricardo)

W1. P/HOU/2022/07778 6 Britannia Way Dorchester DT1 2QR

Erect first floor front and side extension above existing flat roofed garage, utility and porch.

No Objection

W2. P/FUL/2022/06835 18 Coburg Road Dorchester Dorset DT1 2HW

Demolish existing bungalow and erect 1 No. dwelling and associated detached annexe and garage.
Create new vehicular and pedestrian access and 2 No. parking spaces.

No Objection

South Ward (Councillors G. Jones, R. Potter and M. Rennie)

S1. P/HOU/2022/07251 52 Manor Road Dorchester Dorset DT1 2AY

Demolish existing garage, utility and conservatory and erect new two storey side extension with rear single storey and front single storey.

No Objection

Poundbury Ward (Councillors R. Biggs, S. Hosford and D. Leaper)

No applications received.

For Information

FI1. P/CLP/2022/07568 1 Earl Close Dorchester Dorset DT1 1DY

Erect single-storey rear extension. Replacement of existing first-floor rear window with doors and Juliet balcony. New doors and glazing added to the existing openings to the front entrance porch.

FI2. P/PALH/2022/07589 44 Coburg Road Dorchester DT1 2HR

Replace an existing rear Conservatory with a new flat roof extension. Adjacent lean-to roof to be replaced with a flat roof to match and the accommodation below re-modelled

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

16 January 2023

Present: Councillors A. Canning, L. Fry, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger (Chairman), D. Leaper, R. Major, R. Potter, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo.

In Attendance

Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles and G. Jones.

Apologies: The Mayor (Councillor J. Hewitt) and Councillors A. Lyall and D. Taylor.

37. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 14 November 2022, adopted by Council on 28 November 2022, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

38. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

39. Management Arrangements

The Committee considered a report from the Assistant Town Clerk Outdoor Services updating it on the work undertaken and the achievements made by the Outdoor Services Team since the last meeting of the Committee.

Members noted the publicity and information which had been circulated in respect of the diseased trees to be removed at the bottom of South Street. Members requested that Beech Court residents be kept informed.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

40. Coronation of King Charles III

Members considered the notes of the Task and Finish Group held on 10 January 2023, attached at Appendix 1, established to consider what commemorations, if any, should be made for the Coronation of King Charles III. The Committee felt that the arrangements, and the £2,000 funding proposed by the Task and Finish Group were appropriate and should be supported.

Resolved

That the notes of the Coronation Task and Finish Group held on 10 January 2023 be agreed.

41. **Lubbecke Twinning Anniversary**

Members considered the notes of the Task and Finish Group held on 11 January 2023, attached at Appendix 2, established to consider the arrangements for the fiftieth anniversary of the Council's twinning with Lubbecke.

It was reported that there was to be a visit from the Bayeux in September 2023. The Council had not been requested to do anything as a part of this visit.

It was also reported that 2024 was the eightieth anniversary of the liberation of Bayeux and the Director of Dorchester Arts had expressed an interest in developing a cultural twinning event around that anniversary. Members felt that this might be a way to revitalise the twinning and suggested that the Director attend the next meeting of the Committee to discuss the idea further.

Members felt that at some point it could be worth re-establishing the Twinning Panel rather than a task and finish group should there be a number of twinning events coming forward.

Resolved

That the notes of the Lubbecke Twinning Anniversary Task and Finish Group held on 11 January 2023 be agreed.

42. **2023-24 Estimates, Fees and Charges**

The Committee considered a report by the Finance Officer which incorporated draft Estimates for 2023-24 in respect of Allotments, Cemeteries, Cultural and Twinning, Municipal Buildings and Parks Gardens and Open Spaces. The report also included details regarding Reserves and the main changes which affected the proposed budget. The Town Clerk responded to Members detailed questions

The report also set out proposals for Cemetery fees and hire charges for the Borough Gardens House and the Tennis Courts.

During consideration of this matter Members requested that an update on any remaining sport and recreation S106 funds be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

- (1) That the Policy Committee be informed that the draft Estimates for 2023-24 be approved so far as this Committee is concerned.
- (2) That, with effect from 1 April 2023, the Cemetery fees and hire charges for the Borough Gardens House and Tennis Courts be as set out in Appendix 3.

43. **Summer of Sunflowers - 2023**

The Committee considered a report by the Tourism Development Officer on a proposal from the Tourism Development Partnership to build on last year's Summer of Sunflowers campaign. Funding required for the project was £1,600 to be allocated from the Tourism Development Budget.

Members felt that Dorchester BID may also wish to sponsor the project.

Resolved

That the Summer of Sunflowers 2023 project be supported.

44. Hawthorn Road Allotments - Pathway

The Committee considered a report from the Assistant Town Clerk Outdoor Services on a request received from a local resident for a surfaced pedestrian path to be created along the existing informal allotment lane at Hawthorn Road allotments.

Members felt that they should visit the allotment sites during this years site visits. A Member of the Committee would also be invited to take part in the annual allotment inspections.

Resolved

That the request for a surfaced pedestrian path to be created along the existing informal allotment lane at Hawthorn Road allotment be not agreed.

45. Alington Avenue Allotments – Request to Vary Rules

Members considered a report from the Town Clerk which set out a request from the Volunteer Centre to be allowed to erect a 7m polytunnel at its allotment plot at Alington Avenue allotments.

The Committee felt that the proposed polytunnel was too large and suggested that an alternative structure might be more appropriate.

Resolved

(1) That the request from the Dorset Volunteer Centre to erect a 7m polytunnel on allotment plot AA39a be agreed.

(2) That further discussion take place with the Volunteer Centre to try and identify a more appropriate structure which could be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

46. The Great Field – Donated Tree Policy

The Committee had before it a report by the Assistant Town Clerk Outdoor Services setting out outline principles for a proposed Great Field tree donation policy. Members felt that the principles should be agreed and that they should be applied to all of the Council's open spaces.

Once finalised the policy could be publicised through the Poundbury Magazine.

Resolved

That the creation of a tree donation policy for all of the Council's open spaces, based on the principles set out in the report, be agreed.

47. **Grant Applications**

The Committee considered a grant request from Dorchester Town Community Football Club. Members felt that the £10 per child for food was high and agreed that a grant should be given based on £5 per child. The grant to be conditional on 16 places being offered.

Members felt that it would be useful to receive a report on HAF funding and the Council's involvement during 2023-24.

Resolved

That the grant application from Dorchester Town Community Football Club in the sum of £240 be agreed subject to an additional 16 places being offered.

48. **Cemetery Matters**

(a) **Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes**

The report which detailed the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces and the number of interments and burials of ashes together with South Chapel usage at Dorchester Cemetery, since the last meeting of the Committee had been circulated with the agenda.

Resolved

That the report on the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(b) **Headstones and Inscriptions**

The Committee received and noted applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions.

Members also considered a memorial application for a specific headstone design proposed for a grave space at Weymouth Avenue Cemetery.

Resolved

(1) That the action of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 5314 to 5319 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(2) That the memorial application presented to the Committee be approved.

49. **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

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 matters the public and press representatives be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

50. **Fordington Farmyard**

The Committee considered a report from the Town Clerk .

Resolved

That the offer proposed be agreed.

Chairman.....

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE KING'S CORONATION TASK AND FINISH GROUP

9 JANUARY 2023

Present: Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, D. Leaper, R. Major and M. Rennie.

Officers: S. Newman, Town Clerk.

1. Terms of Reference

The Group noted its terms of reference.

2. Should the Council hold an Event(s)

Members discussed whether the Council should hold an event to commemorate King Charles III Coronation.

It was unanimously agreed that an event(s) should be held.

3. Saturday 6 May 2023

It was noted that there was a long tradition of celebrating Royal Jubilees, Weddings and Coronations with the lighting of beacons and Members felt that this would be an appropriate event for Coronation Day and the following draft programme and ideas were discussed:-

- Event to be held between 5.00pm and 8.00pm at Salisbury Fields
- Beacon lighting at 8.00pm
- Event to start at 5.00pm with entertainment from 6.00pm
- Due to the lack of power supply musical entertainment to be in the form of steel bands, choirs etc
- Some portable toilets to be hired
- A quiet generator to be hired
- Keep 106 to be involved
- It would be nice to involve the first schools at the event

No guidance had been received from the King's Pageant Master, but that could be issued towards the end of the month, final details to be established following receipt of that guidance – if there is any guidance.

4. Sunday 7 May 2023

It was reported that the Lions Club had a 'Fun Day' booked at the Great Field for the Sunday. Initial discussions with the Lions had indicated that they would be willing to partner with the Council to make their event Coronation related. Members felt that the inclusion of a Crown Making workshop

for children would be a good addition to that event. The Town Clerk to discuss further with the Lions.

5. Bank Holiday Monday 8 May 2023

The Group was informed that Age UK had cancelled its proposed event for this date due to there being a similar event on the Sunday.

Members felt that the Council should not run another event on this day.

6. Anything Else

The following ideas were discussed:-

- Speak with Dorchester BID about flags and a possible crown competition in shop windows
- Dress one of the vacant shop windows in Antelope Walk with memories and photos of King Charles III in the town.
- That the new trees to be planted outside of Café #1 to be commemorative to the Coronation and the Mayor to be involved in the planting.

7. Budget

It was considered that a budget of approximately £2,000 would be sufficient to fund the various activities.

8. Next Meeting

To be arranged as and when necessary.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

Minutes of the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Twinning with Lübbecke Working Group Meeting held on Tuesday, 10 January 2023 at 7pm via Zoom Video Conferencing

In attendance: Cllrs S Jones, F Kent Ledger, R Major, D Taylor and M Rennie.

1. Dates of Proposed Commemoration Celebrations

It was agreed that the dates for the proposed commemorations would be confirmed once a meeting had taken place with representatives from the Lübbecke Society, a meeting would be arranged with them at the earliest convenience.

2. Proposed Itinerary / Activities

The Committee agreed to await confirmation from the Lübbecke Society as to what their arrangements would be but would be content to facilitate similar arrangements to what was organised to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the twinning between Dorchester and Bayeux in 2019, which included the provision of accommodation for the visiting Mayor and civic party, a civic supper and support to the twinning society for an event to commemorate the twinning.

The Committee agreed that it was important to 'showcase' Dorchester and the Council's partnerships and projects and focus any activities within the Town and the work of the Town Council.

3. Proposed Commemoration Gift

It was suggested that a historic map of Dorchester, framed would be appropriate.

CEMETERIES FEES

Interments	1 Apr 22	1 Apr 23
a) An infant under 2 years or stillborn	Nil	Nil
b) A person aged 2 years or older	£715	£730
c) A casket of ashes	£195	£200

Scattering of ashes

a) In a previously used plot or in the Poundbury Pavilion chamber	£64	£65
b) In the Garden of Remembrance	£32	£33

Exclusive rights of burial in earthen graves

For an exclusive right for 50 years, including Memorial Rights in an earthen grave:

a) Full Sized Plot	£980	£995
End of term Renewal for 25 years	£830	£845
b) Ashes plots and infant under 2 years	£650	£665
End of term Renewal for 25 years	£510	£520

Additional Interment, Scattering and Exclusive Rights fees will be charged for

- Non-residents – fee doubled. Residence is defined as living in Dorchester or Winterborne Herringston within previous 10 years or previously resident for at least 25 years.
- Non-standard grave sizes – additional fee to be agreed with the Funeral Director

Monuments, gravestones, tablets and monumental inscriptions

Right to erect or place a headstone, footstone, tablet, flat stone, plaque or monument in any other form at any site not subject to Exclusive Right of Burial	£225	£230
Additional inscription on a gravestone or other memorial (for each deceased)	£108	£110

BOROUGH GARDENS COMMUNITY ROOM HIRE FEES

Prices include VAT. Performing Rights Fee may also be payable.	Per Session £	Hourly Rate £	Hourly from 5.00pm £
Voluntary and Community Organisations	60	28	40
Other Non-Commercial or Private Events	70	30	45
Commercial	95	40	65

Session times for the Borough Gardens House are 8.00am – 1.00pm, 1.00pm – 5.00pm and 5.00pm – 11.00pm (on request only).

TENNIS FEES

Annual Membership	£45
Dorchester Resident Discount	- £10

Dorchester Town Council

Policy Committee

23 January 2023

Present: The Mayor (Councillor J. Hewitt) and Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, R. Biggs, A. Chisholm, F. Hogwood, S. Hosford (Chairman) and G. Jones.

Apologies: Councillors S. Biles and T. Harries.

In Attendance

Councillors S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

20. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 21 November 2022, adopted by Council on 28 November 2022, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

21. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

22. Finance Update

Members considered a report by the Financial Controller which updated them on the financial position of the Council as at end of December 2022. The report also confirmed that there was no debt over 30 days and gave details of the payments list from 1 November 2022 to 31 December 2022.

Resolved

That the payments list, totalling £425,986.75, be approved.

23. Medium Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2023-24

The Committee considered a report of the Financial Controller covering the draft budget for the Policy Committee, the overall Revenue Budget, the Medium Term Financial Strategy and levels of Reserves.

Members agreed that the General Reserve should not be reduced further in future years and that the Council's grants policy be reviewed by the Management Committee.

Recommended

That the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Revenue Budget 2023-24, as set out in the Appendices 1 to 4 of these Minutes, be adopted, to include: -

- A Council Tax Band D charge of £206.21, an increase of £4.04 (2%)
- A precept of £1,668,507, an increase of 5.4%

24. **Cornhill / South Street**

Further to Minute No. 14(2)/2022 the Committee considered a report by the Tourism Development Officer which set out ideas for improving the street scene at Cornhill and South Street. In respect of Cornhill the suggestion was to relocate some of the items that were in place at present such as the litter bins and information board, provide additional seating and new paving, the aim of which was to provide an improved place for people to rest and be a more flexible space that could be used to draw more people into the town centre. In respect of South Street as a whole it was proposed to replace seven of the existing lampposts with new lampposts that were suitable for use with flower hanging baskets.

The Committee agreed that the lampposts should be replaced so as to allow hanging baskets to be erected this summer. Members felt that a task and finish group should be established to look at improving Cornhill and other suitable spaces. It was noted that this project could be something that the Dorchester BID would wish to support in its new prospectus. Consideration should also be given to Cornhill Market.

Resolved

- (1) That a task and finish group be established to work up an improvement scheme for the Cornhill area and other suitable areas in the town centre.
- (2) That Council, at its next meeting, be asked to nominate Members to sit on the task and finish group.
- (3) That seven replacement lampposts suitable for use with hanging baskets be provided in Cornhill / South Street at a cost of £3,000 each to be funded from the Public Realm reserve.

25. **Menopause Strategy**

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk on the possible introduction of a Menopause Policy.

Resolved

That a Menopause Policy for the Council, based on the report, be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

26. **The Municipal Buildings Electricity**

Members considered a report by the Finance Officer on electricity use in the Municipal Buildings between March and November 2022. During this time contractors were still on site meaning that the office space could not be used and Dorchester Arts could only put on a limited programme in the rest of the building. The Committee agreed that the Council should contribute 65% (£10,058) towards the cost of electricity for that period. Dorchester

Arts to pay the remaining £5,416 (35%). It was noted that this was a transitional cost and that the Council would not expect to make any further contribution.

During discussion of this matter it was agreed that the Management Committee review the outcome of the carbon reduction works undertaken at Weymouth Avenue Pavilion.

Resolved

That a contribution of £10,058 be made to the March to November 2022 electricity costs of the Municipal Buildings, to be funded from within existing budgets.

27. Transition Town Dorchester

Members were reminded that the Committee had previously agreed a grant of £2,000 to Transition Town Dorchester for the purchase of trees. This grant had not been drawn down due Transition Town being able to obtain trees for free from the Woodland Trust.

A request had been received asking whether £500 of that £2,000 could be used as a 50% contribution towards the cost of fencing the community orchard at Poundbury.

The Committee requested that Transition Town Dorchester be asked to undertake some work at the Railway Orchard which appeared in need of some attention.

Resolved

That £500 be contributed to the cost of fencing at the Transition Town community orchard at Poundbury.

28. Calendar of Meetings 2023-24

The Town Clerk presented a draft calendar of meetings for 2023-24.

The Committee discussed the format of the informal Annual Town Meeting and agreed that it should be held in the Corn Exchange on the morning of, but not a part of, the May Community Lunch. The Council's partners be invited to set up displays and residents be encouraged to attend to drop in and meet the Council and its partners. The Annual Report be available to view at the session and Members and Officers be in attendance to respond to questions and queries from residents. The event to be advertised in the Council Newsletter and social media.

Recommended

(1) That the Calendar of Meetings 2023-24, as set out in Appendix 5 to these Minutes, be agreed.

(2) That an informal Annual Town Meeting be held in the Corn Exchange prior to the May Community Lunch as set out above.

Chairman.....

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Actual	Budget	Budget
	£	£	£
CORPORATE & DEMOCRATIC			
Members Allowance	22,176	22,800	23,500
Members Training (inc CRB) & Travel	774	500	400
Civic & Ceremonial Expenses	1,124	1,000	1,000
Mayoral Expenses	10,361	12,600	12,850
Town Crier	552	600	600
Entertaining & Gifts	46	400	408
Youth Council & Democracy Day	0	200	600
Office Team	200,246	209,839	229,249
Met by Precept on Taxpayer	235,279	247,939	268,607
OTHER SERVICES			
Tourism Development	26,396	8,000	8,000
Sawmills rent	8,600	8,600	8,600
To Public Realm Reserve	53,600	54,700	10,000
To Development Reserve	90,000	0	0
Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee	0	3,000	3,000
Citizens Advice	0	8,000	8,887
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre	20,800	21,200	21,200
Dorchester Cricket Club	2,000	0	0
Apprenticeships	6,262	15,000	15,000
Videographer	5,000	5,200	5,500
Debt Charges	39,116	27,578	16,752
Staff - Community Development	44,436	97,942	113,813
Total Expenditure	296,210	249,220	210,752
Treasury Interest	-4,972	-5,000	-20,000
Sawmills rent recharged	-4,300	-4,300	-4,300
Market Income	-19,544	-15,000	-15,000
Total Income	-28,816	-24,300	-39,300
Met by Precept on Taxpayer	267,394	224,920	171,452

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Actual	Budget	Budget
	£	£	£
OFFICES TEAM			
Salaries	232,378	280,058	303,041
Employers National Insurance	22,952	29,788	30,377
Employers Superannuation	51,166	61,613	66,669
Training Courses	4,543	1,200	7,000
Travel & Subsistence	4,782	1,100	2,500
Subscriptions (Professional Bodies)	3,337	3,600	3,800
Cleaning Materials	146	1,200	1,000
Rates	7,236	7,300	7,236
Gas	1,623	1,250	2,000
Electricity	1,867	3,000	4,500
Water	302	500	550
Repairs & Maintenance	251	2,700	3,400
Financial Services	7,754	8,500	8,670
Employment Law and H & S	3,024	3,000	3,225
Legal & Professional Fees,			
Advertising	6,705	1,000	500
Insurance	29,703	34,000	34,000
Printing & Stationery	430	1,000	1,000
Newsletter	4,274	4,200	5,415
Office Equipment & IT	7,251	5,500	10,500
New Website			3,000
Telephones	2,038	1,900	2,000
Photocopier Charges	401	500	600
Postage	126	500	550
Total Expenditure	392,287	453,409	501,533
Recharge to Dorchester Markets			
Panel	-1,689	-1,800	-1,800
Net Expenditure recharged to Services	390,598	451,609	499,733
Recharged to			
Corporate & Democratic			
Management	200,246	209,839	229,249
Allotments	3,781	3,749	12,408
Development	44,436	97,942	113,813
Cemeteries	26,938	26,571	44,417
Parks & Open Spaces	58,354	56,863	63,836
Municipal Buildings	42,546	41,884	20,181
Cultural Activity & Twinning	14,297	14,760	15,830
	390,598	451,608	499,733

REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Actual	Budget	Budget
	£	£	£
Parks & Open Spaces	533,058	569,661	654,307
Allotments	4,130	131	15,045
Municipal Buildings	318,606	408,645	406,996
Cemeteries	65,122	59,614	68,006
Cultural & Twinning Activities	74,400	70,760	83,330
Corporate & Democratic	235,279	247,939	268,607
Other Services	267,394	224,920	171,452
Operational Budget	1,497,989	1,581,670	1,667,743
Precept	1,516,277	1,581,669	1,668,507
Transfer to General Reserves	18,288	-1	764
Subjective Analysis of Revenue			
Employees	710,018	816,210	885,665
External Payments	564,271	488,412	579,206
Transfers to Earmarked	308,500	370,600	325,100
Capital Financing Costs	39,116	27,578	16,752
Income	-123,915	-121,130	-138,980
Transfer from Earmarked	0	0	0
Operational Budget	1,497,989	1,581,670	1,667,743
General Reserve			
Opening Balance at 1 April	128,408	128,408	100,000
Transfer from Ops Budget	21,180	-1	764
To Corporate Projects Reserve	0	-1	764
Closing Balance at 31 March	149,588	128,408	100,000
Earmarked Reserves			
Opening Balance at 1 April	1,899,451	1,583,369	1,323,957
Transfer from Revenue	440,060	871,500	430,102
Other Income & Transfers	459,767	0	0
Expenditure from Reserves	1,247,980	816,044	535,466
Closing Balance 31 March	1,551,298	1,638,825	1,218,593
All Reserves held at year end	1,700,886	1,767,233	1,318,593
Tax Base	7,650.00	7,823.30	8,091.30
Band D Charge	196.64	202.17	206.21
O/s PWLB Debt at 31 March	128,000	94,000	56,000

Medium Term Financial Strategy	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	Yoy %
Revenue Budget	£000	£000	£000	£000	Chang
Employees	816	886	903	921	2.00
External Payments	488	579	591	603	2.00
Transfers to Earmarked	371	325	332	338	2.00
Capital Financing Costs	28	17	16	15	-
Income	-121	-139	-142	-145	2.00
New/Transferred Services	0	0	0	0	
Operational Budget	1,582	1,668	1,700	1,733	
Precept	1,669	1,669	1,702	1,736	
Transfer to General Reserves	87	1	2	3	
General Reserve					
Opening Balance at 1 April	118	100	100	100	
Transfer from/to Operational Budget	0	1	0	0	
Transfer to Corporate Projects Reserve	18	1	0	0	
Closing Balance at 31 March	100	100	100	100	
Earmarked Reserves					
Opening Balance at 1 April	1,551	1,324	1,219	1,150	
Transfers/Payments in to Reserves	1,628	430	332	338	
Payments/Transfers out from Reserves	1,855	535	400	400	
Closing Balance 31 March	1,324	1,219	1,150	1,088	
All Reserves held at year end					
Corporate Project Unallocated at Year End	109	369	594	594	
Outstanding Debt at Year End	£k	70	56	42	28
Council Tax	£k	202	206	210	215
Tax Base		7,823	8,091	8,091	8,091

Notes

1. Precept assumes Council Tax rises @ 2.00% from 2022/23, no Tax Base growth
2. Any CIL receipts credited to Corporate Projects Reserve
3. Best estimate of new or transferred services, driven by cuts in other tiers
4. Operational surplus is transferred to Corporate Projects Reserve to pay for MB works
5. Earmarked Reserves expenditure reflects best available knowledge
6. General Reserve set at £100k
7. Further limited savings may be identified in budgets during ongoing review processes

RESERVES	Cttee	Balance	Paid In	Spend	Balance	Paid In	Spend	Balance	Reason for holding Reserve
		Mar 22	22/23	22/23	Mar 23	23/24	23/24	Mar 24	
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Earmarked Reserves									
Infrastructure & Equipment									
Cemeteries	Man	63,936	18,100	225	81,811	6,100	30,000	57,911	Buildings/infrastructure refurb.
MB Repairs & Maintenance	Man	3,795	1,168,581	1,126,706	45,670	10,000	45,670	10,000	Building works/refurb
MB Front of House works	Man	0	250,000	250	249,750		249,750	0	
Parks Premises	Man	47,329	5,300	261	52,368	8,000	50,000	10,368	Buildings/infrastructure refurb.
Play Equipment	Man	28,467	10,000	21,615	16,852	11,000	0	27,852	Equipment replacement
Tree Reserve	Man	0	0	0	0	30,000	0	30,000	Tree Works
Public Realm	Pol	400,758	54,700	0	455,458	10,000	0	465,458	Infrastructure refurb
Vehicles & Equipment	Man	69,557	19,900	0	89,457	20,000	20,000	89,457	Fleet & equipment replacement
Cultural									
Arts, Culture & Sport	Man	29,874	0	10,074	19,800	0	0	19,800	Cricket Club, RHSS Fund, Mayors Fund
Christmas Lights	Man	3,607	2,000	0	5,607	0	0	5,607	Replace lights
Tourist Information	Pol	18,603	100	7,000	11,703	0	5,000	6,703	TIC Replacement Projects
Miscellaneous Reserves									
New Corporate Projects	Pol	661,192	98,848	650,768	109,272	260,000	0	369,272	Own or partner capital projects
Apprenticeship Reserve	Pol	9,815	0	2,250	7,565	0	0	7,565	
Planning Advice Reserve	Pol	21,844	0	2,055	19,789	0	10,000	9,789	Local Plan & other advice
Climate Emergency Reserve	Pol	88,427	0	18,666	69,761	75,002	50,000	94,763	Own or partner Climate projects
Development Reserve	Pol	75,002	0	0	75,002	0	75,002	0	Development Assistant
Treasury	Pol	15,000	0	15,000	0	0	0	0	To offset losses on asset sale

Graves In Perpetuity	Man	14,092	0	0	14,092	0	44	14,048	Maint. and flowers on 6 graves
		1,551,298	1,627,529	1,854,870	1,323,957	430,102	535,466	1,218,593	
Total Earmarked Reserves									
General Reserve	Pol	118,288	-1	18,287	100,000	0	0	100,000	General Emergency Fund
Total Reserves		1,669,586	1,627,528	1,873,157	1,423,957	430,102	535,466	1,318,592	

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023-24

	2023								2024				
	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
COUNCIL	22 MM 23 (Tu)		31		25		27		29		25		20 MM 21 (Tu)
POLICY	15		24		18		20		22		18 MS@ 1830		+
MANAGEMENT	9 (Tu)		17		11		13		15		11		+
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	2 (Tu)	5	3	7	4	2	6	4	8	5	4	2 (Tu) & 29	-
MARKETS JOINT PANEL		*							*				
HERITAGE JOINT COMMITTEE			25 (Tu)				17 (Tu)		23 (Tu)			16 (Tu)	
SITE VISITS		6 @ 9.30AM		8 @ 9.30AM								9 @ 9.30PM	
CIVIC EVENTS	23 ATM	Hardy Sun 4					<u>Remem</u> Sun 12						21 ATM
BANK HOLIDAYS	1, 8, 29			28				25, 26	1		29	1	6,27

MM Mayor Making

MS Mayoral Selection Committee

ATM Formal Annual Town Meeting (it is proposed to hold an 'informal' ATM prior to the Community Lunch the week before the formal ATM)

Meetings will ordinarily take place at 19.00 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings.

* The dates and timing of Markets Joint Panel meetings are still to be agreed with Dorset Council.

+ 2024 is an election year, as per 2019 it is proposed not to hold the May Policy and Management Committees with any urgent items going direct to the Council meeting.

DORCHESTER MARKETS INFORMAL JOINT PANEL

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 AUGUST 2022

Present: Cllrs Mary Penfold, Laura Beddow, Janet Hewitt, Tony Lyall, Nick Ireland, Molly Rennie, Roland Tarr and Fiona Kent-Ledger

Apologies: Cllrs Stella Jones, Susie Hosford, Dave Bolwell, Simon Gibson, Jane Somper and John Worth

Also present: John George, Ensors

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Graham Duggan (Head of Community & Public Protection), David Northover (Democratic Services Officer), Hannah Massey (Lawyer - Regulatory) and Steve Newman (Town Clerk)

44. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

45. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mary Penfold declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of the South Street Market, where her son sporadically has a food stall.

46. Public Participation

There was no public participation to report.

47. Market Activities and Progress

The committee received an update on the Dorchester Market activities and discussed progress made to date.

The Panel also heard from John George – Ensors who circulated his proposal for investing in the Market. It was reported that the legal advice was that it was not possible to offer a further extension to the existing contract and that a fresh procurement process would need to be undertaken. All of those present felt that this process should be commenced as soon as possible.

The Panel also made the following observations:

- Chase assets & property about any long-term view on use of site given upcoming procurement
- Unauthorised storage in the shed building

- Discussion about whether new contract or DTC to operate
- Presentations from potential operators ahead of procurement process
- To re-circulate the Daryl Chambers report
- To discuss the future of the Linneys and views of Planning & Conservation Officers.

48. **Financial position**

The informal panel considered a report of the senior accountant and members were advised that the total income accounted for during 2021/22 was £30,022 against a budget of £165,165, leaving an income deficit of £35,143. It was also noted that the main reason for the shortfall was the continued effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, on the Cornhill Traders Budget.

Members also noted that for 2020/21, there had been a 50% reduction in the budgeted income contribution of £47,824 in relation to Fairfield Car Park income in recognition of the reduced Market activities during restrictions.

However, in 2021/22, the full budgeted £48,541 contribution was received from Parking services following the easing of Covid restrictions and return a more normal trading environment.

Decision

That the income and expenditure statement for 2021/2 be approved.

49. **Car Boot Sale Fund**

Members considered a report of the Community Engagement Project Officer (DC) setting out the update on the current grant fund of the Dorchester Car Boot Fund as of July 2022 and asking the informal panel to open the grant fund for 2022/23.

Decision

- (a) That the 2022/23 Car Boot Sale Fund be opened to eligible groups from mid-September for a period of 6 – 8 weeks.
- (b) That a group consisting of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Panel, together with one other Member from each Council, be authorised to consider and agree the car boot fund grant applications.

Chairman

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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.....