

# **Dorchester Town Council**

## **Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council**

**24 May 2016**

**Present:** Mayor T. Harries and Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, C. Biggs, R. Biggs, A. Chisholm, G. Duke, J. Hewitt, G. Jones, S. Jones, T. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, R. Potter and K. Rice.

**Apologies:** Councillors A. Canning, S. Hosford, T. Loakes, A. Lyall, M. Rennie, P. Stein and D. Taylor.

### **6. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 March 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **7. Communications & Questions**

The Council recognised 40 years of continuous service from 1976 – 2016 by Councillor Trevor Jones with a small gift.

The Mayor announced the recent deaths of two past Mayors, Doug Bowring, Mayor in 1986 and Don Smith, Mayor in 1987, and Members stood to remember them. The Mayor then announced a full calendar of events during June and July.

The Town Clerk announced the retirement of Peter Mullins on 10 June after 13 year service and Members asked that the Council's appreciation of his efforts be formally recorded and their best wishes be passed on to Peter.

The Town Clerk also announced the retirement, after 15 years as Mace Bearer, of John Hallett, who will be invited to a future meeting to receive the Council's thanks.

The Town Clerk reminded Members of the opportunity presented by Dorset County Museum to receive a presentation regarding their major refurbishment project on 28 June.

No questions were received in accordance with Standing Order 12(3). A councillor took the opportunity to remind Council of its commitment to introducing reports from District and County Councillors at its meetings.

### **8. Planning and Environment Committee – 4 April 2016**

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 April 2016 be adopted.

9. **Planning and Environment Committee – 3 May 2016**

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 May 2016 be adopted.

10. **Selection Committee – 10 May 2016**

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved**

- a) That it be reconfirmed that, as a general principle, when making appointments to Chairmanships, Joint Committees and Outside Bodies, an appointment should not extend beyond four consecutive year without a clearly stated justification being given
- b) That appointments should be made to each role on the Outside Bodies list in 2016-17, but that additional information be sought on the role of representatives on the Dorset Neighbourhood Justice Panel and the Dorchester Association
- c) That Councillor J. Hewitt be appointed a trustee of the Dorchester Municipal Charities for the period to May 2020
- d) That a review of the Panel process be undertaken in summer 2017
- e) That the Community Activity Panel be suspended for the next year to be replaced by greater use of Task & Finish Groups and greater reporting to Management Committee
- f) That Committee membership for the 2016-17 Council year should be as laid out in Appendix 1.
- g) That a target of 50% attendance be investigated for appointment to the Planning and Environment Committee from 2017-18 onwards

11. **Management Committee – 10 May 2016**

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 10 May 2016 be adopted.

**12. Policy Committee – 17 May 2016**

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

**Resolved**

- a) That the Annual Return (Appended to the Minutes of the Policy Committee and consisting of the Annual Governance Statement 2015-16 and Accounting Statements 2015-16) be adopted and signed by the Mayor and Responsible Financial Officer
- b) That the Treasury Strategy for 2016-17, as laid out in pages 5 – 8 of the Policy Committee agenda, be adopted
- c) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 17 May 2016 be adopted.

**13. Annual Business**

In accordance with Standing Order 39 Members considered the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to Committees.

**Resolved**

- a) That Councillor R. Potter be appointed Chairman and Councillor K. Rice be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee
- b) That Councillor S. Hosford be appointed Chairman and Councillor R. Biggs be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee
- c) That Councillor G. Jones be appointed Chairman and Councillor B. Armstrong-Marshall be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Policy Committee

Members gave consideration to the Council's Bank Mandate Signatures.

**Resolved**

- d) That Councillors T. Harries, S. Jones, R. Potter, M. Rennie and D. Taylor be authorised to conduct business on the Council's Bank Accounts during the period ending with the Annual Council Meeting in 2017

Council considered minute 2015/52 which identified the Council's approach to the General Power of Competence

**Resolved**

- e) That Council re-adopts the General Power of Competence for the period to May 2017

#### 14. **Adoption of the Corporate Plan following consultation**

The Town Clerk presented a report regarding consultation carried out on the draft Corporate Plan, identifying the positive response that the Plan had received and some constructive suggestions received during the process. Additional feedback consultation from partners was provided to the meeting and points of clarification were answered.

Members considered the key pieces of feedback. They confirmed that options for Affordable Housing for Rent should be considered by the separate body to take over land currently in the Council's ownership. They also invited the Town Clerk to introduce appropriate reference to strengthen the Council's commitment to developing cultural tourism and non-car forms of transport. In acknowledging the aspirations of partners for the Council to play a role working with surrounding parishes the Council reconfirmed a short term focus on the needs of the town.

A Member asked a question about progress with the allocation of section 106 Recreational monies by West Dorset District Council and the Town Clerk provided his understanding of the latest timetable.

#### **Resolved**

That, subject to some minor changes in wording to take account of views expressed in relation to Affordable Housing for rent, public transport, cultural tourism and working with the Parish tier, to be written by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Policy Committee, the Corporate Plan be adopted,

The Council rose at 7.45pm.

Mayor

At Public Question Time following the meeting questions were asked about the long term management approach to Burial plots, playground maintenance, in particular the slide at the Borough Gardens and Diabetes Awareness Week.

**Dorchester Town Council - Committee Membership**

**Appendix 1**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Environment</b>	<b>Management</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Markets Joint Panel</b>	<b>Heritage Joint C'ttee</b>
T. Harries (Mayor elect)	Y	Y	Y	Y		
B. Armstrong-Marshall	Y			Y		
C. Biggs	Y	Y	Y			Y
R. Biggs	Y	Y		Y		
A. Canning	Y	Y	Y			
A. Chisholm	Y			Y		
G. Duke	Y		Y		Y	
J. Hewitt	Y	Y	Y		Y	
S. Hosford	Y	Y		Y		
G. Jones	Y			Y		Y
S. Jones	Y	Y	Y			
T. Jones	Y	Y		Y	Y	
F. Kent-Ledger	Y	Y	Y			
T. Loakes	Y	Y	Y			Y
A. Lyall	Y		Y			
R. Potter	Y	Y	Y			
M. Rennie	Y	Y	Y		Y	
K. Rice	Y		Y		Y	
P. Stein	Y			Y		
D. Taylor	Y	Y	Y		Y	
	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>