

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

22 March 2021

The meeting was conducted using Zoom videoconferencing.

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

Apologies: Councillor D. Taylor.

41. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 January 2021 were confirmed and will be signed by the Mayor as a correct record at the next opportunity.

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

The Mayor highlighted a visit to Pavilion in the Park on the Great Field, which was due to open in April, as well as noting ongoing discussions with the Duchy of Cornwall regarding play equipment for the site.

He also noted a general increase in anti-social behaviour around the town, particularly relating to graffiti on the South Walks.

43. **Planning and Environment Committee – 1 February 2021**

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 1 February 2021 be adopted.

44. **Planning and Environment Committee – 1 March 2021**

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 1 March 2021 be adopted.

45. **Management Committee – 8 March 2021**

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 8 March 2021 be adopted.

46. **Policy Committee – 15 March 2021**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted, with three recommendations for Council decision.

The Clerk confirmed that the Council had now received planning permission for the Municipal Buildings extension, that a substantial grant from Low Carbon Dorset was

imminent, and that steps had been taken to secure Renewable Heat Incentive. Progress meant that the conditions on minute 2020/30c having been met, the Council would now conclude the appointment of main and specialist contractors for the project, which would start on conclusion of the roof works.

Resolved

- a) That all surplus funds above the £100,000 General Reserve target at 31 March 2021 are transferred to the Municipal Buildings Reserve
- b) That the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Policy Committee, is authorised to use these extra funds to
 - Meet the costs of additional building works identified as improvement opportunities, including those highlighted in the report to Policy Committee
 - Mitigate the impacts of the building being closed for lockdown and building refurbishment purposes on Dorchester Arts
 - Meet the cost of developing feasibility options up to planning application stage for 19 North Square with a local architect
- c) That the Council meetings calendar for 2021/22 (as appended to the minutes of the Policy Committee) is approved.
- d) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 15 March 2021 be adopted

47. Dorset Council Matters

Councillor Rennie identified future consultation regarding a homelessness and rough sleepers policy and that parking charges would be introduced on Sundays from April. She applauded the recent collaboration between Brewery Square and Dorset County Hospital to reuse construction spoil between the two sites and also welcomed the growing role of DAPTC.

Councillor S. Jones highlighted the closure of South Walks House and its potential impact on the town economy. She also noted the conclusion of recent consultation exercises on Dorset Council's Climate Emergency Strategy and the Local Plan.

Councillor Canning recognised positive moves being made by the Dorset County Pension Fund to adopt a more climate friendly approach. He noted that there had been 32,000 responses to the Local Plan consultation and also noted the increased need for a town centre development masterplan as a result of the South Walks House closure.

Councillors Biggs highlighted the lack of responses from the under 35's to the Climate Emergency proposals and also noted the lack of a response from Dorset MPs. He also noted the delays to the planning decision for the play equipment on the Great Field, but also welcomed the adoption of roads on Poundbury and the installation of EV charging points.

Mayor

Council rose at 7.30pm.