

# Dorchester Town Council

## Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

26 July 2021

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

Apologies: Councillors S. Biles, A. Canning, A. Chisholm, S. Hosford and D. Taylor

### 15. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of Council held on 5 and 24 May 2021 were confirmed and were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### 16. Presentations, Communications, Questions and Motions

The Mayor identified that the number of engagements was still low during the reopening after lockdown, but highlighted a recent trip with the Yeovil Freewheelers Blood Bike service.

### 17. Planning and Environment Committee – 5 July 2021

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

Councillors asked questions regarding the likelihood that the Dorset Council would engage with the proposed Transport Action Group and a new Network Rail consultation exercise.

#### Resolved

- a) That Dorchester Town Council support the setting up of the Dorchester Transport Action Group; take an active supporting role in the group; and that two councillors, Richard Biggs and Robin Potter, are the nominated Outside Body Representatives to work with the Group
- b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 5 July 2021 be adopted.

### 18. Management Committee – 12 July 2021

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

Members discussed information regarding the South Chapel at Weymouth Avenue cemetery, the Pump Track upgrade at Maiden Castle Play Area and the Bandstand ceiling. A councillor highlighted the positive impact on butterfly numbers of the new grass cutting regime at Fordington Cemetery.

#### Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 12 July 2021 be adopted.

### 19. Policy Committee – 19 July 2021

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

Members discussed the merits of the ward based approach for site visits.

### **Resolved**

- a) That the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct, as previously circulated, is adopted
- b) That the Financial Regulations, as previously circulated, are adopted
- c) That the appointment of an external advisor to support the recruitment of a new Town Clerk, is delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Policy Committee
- d) That the following additions are made to the Council's committee arrangements to take account of recent Member feedback
  - Comments regarding the local economy are considered during the town centre master planning workshop, to be programmed in August
  - The Planning and Environment Committee to consider an audit of Environmental issues prior to considering how additional Member time might be allocated to environmental issues
  - On the granting of the lease to Dorchester Arts, a new Group is established to monitor the partnership agreement relating to the operation of the Municipal Buildings, reporting to the Management Committee
  - The current Site Visit programme is strengthened to ensure all properties are visited on a risk-based approach, and that the Deputy Town Clerk also give consideration to an additional programme of ward focused visits
- e) That the Council prepares to submit a bid for new city status as part of the 2022 Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- f) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 19 July 2021 be adopted

#### **20. Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee – 20 July 2021**

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

A Member asked that the branding material created by the Tourism Partnership be circulated to all Members for information. A Member highlighted the need for a management plan for the river walk to ensure previous improvements were not lost.

### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee held on 20 July 2021 be noted.

#### **21. Dorset Council Matters**

Councillor Rennie highlighted the creation of a new pan-Dorset Housing register to be implemented by October 2021, which necessitated the temporary closure of the existing register to new entries. She also invited Members to look for a new Domestic Abuse information campaign promoted through Council vehicle displays.

Councillors S. Jones explained that Dorset Council had again suspended the majority of their face to face Council meetings and reverted to online meetings.

Councillors Biggs confirmed that Code of Conduct hearings were continuing face to face, that Dorset Council had also adopted the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, with new guidance on the use of social media presenting an increased workload for the Panel. He also commented on the continuing delays for Land Charge searches.

Councillor Fry discussed the development of a county wide Covid Recovery Plan and a longer term review of the Council's Cabinet model governance arrangements.

Mayor

Council rose at 8.00pm.