

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

27 September 2021

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

Apologies: Councillors A. Canning, F. Kent-Ledger and D. Taylor.

22. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of Council held on 26 July 2021 were confirmed and were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

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

The Mayor provided information regarding recent Mayoral engagements, recognising events as diverse as the VJ Day commemoration in the Borough Gardens, the Cider Festival and the Young Marketeers event at the Fairfield Market.

24. **Planning and Environment Committee – 2 August 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 2 August 2021 be adopted.

25. **Planning and Environment Committee – 6 September 2021**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. The minutes were amended to recognise a declaration of interest given by Councillor S. Jones prior to the discussion of application 2021/02623 Four Paddocks land.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 6 September 2021 be adopted.

26. **Management Committee – 13 September 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 13 September 2021 be adopted.

27. **Policy Committee – 20 September 2021**

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 20 September 2021 be adopted.

28. **Dorset Council Matters**

Councillor Biggs highlighted a new obligation placed on Dorset Council to evaluate the value for money of its services, discussed at a recent Audit and Governance Committee.

Councillor Fry noted the appointment of the existing Deputy Chief Constable as the new Chief Constable, which itself would result in an important appointment to the vacant post. He also recognised recent planning training focused on Sustainability and Appeals.

Councillor S. Jones highlighted the continuing delays on Development Control applications and Land Charge searches. Members noted the implications of poor service delivery on both domestic applicants and groups such as the Community Land Trust. The Chairman of Planning and Environment Committee agreed to write to Dorset Council.

Councillor Rennie noted that the ex-Chief Constable would now take up a role with the Safeguarding for Children Board. She also raised concerns regarding the low number of households registering on the new Housing Applications system and encouraged Members to raise the profile of the Register whenever possible.

29. **Town Clerk Appointment Panel**

The Mayor reported on arrangements for setting up a Panel for the purpose of appointing a new Town Clerk and nominated five Members to the Panel, based on a ballot of all Members and criteria established to ensure a balanced Panel.

Resolved

That Councillors R. Biggs, S. Hosford, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger and R. Major be appointed to the Town Clerk Appointment Panel.

Mayor

Council rose at 7.35pm.