

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

4 April 2022

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

45. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of Council held on 24 January 2022 were confirmed and were signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

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

The Deputy Mayor presented a small gift to Mr. Barry White, who was retiring as Mace Bearer after 5 years of service.

Prior to the discussion of a motion to be put to Council, Councillors R. Biggs, L. Fry, S. Jones and M. Rennie declared an interest as Members of Dorset Council and left the room. Councillor Kent-Ledger took the chair.

A motion was proposed by Councillor Potter and seconded by Councillor Chisholm

"That this Council notes the intention of Dorchester Civic Society to apply to register land north of Dorchester (including the proposed site for the DOR 13 development) as a non-designated local heritage asset, and supports this intention"

Members debated the motion, focusing in particular on the rich archaeological heritage and literary associations of the site.

Resolved

That this Council notes the intention of Dorchester Civic Society to apply to register land north of Dorchester (including the proposed site for the DOR 13 development) as a non-designated local heritage asset, and supports this intention.

Councillors R. Biggs, L. Fry, S. Jones and M. Rennie rejoined the meeting and Councillor Biggs took the chair.

On behalf of the Mayor the Town Clerk expressed thanks to organisers of Beerex, the Dorchester Ballet Show at the Weymouth Pavilion and to the High Sheriff for an event held at the Dorset Museum. He also offered congratulations to the organisers of the Science Fair and to Dorchester Arts for the numerous community events organised under Mars in March. The Mayor had also opened the new Tourist Information Point in the Trinity Street Post Office and the very striking exhibition "Love Dorchester like a Local" in South Street. The Deputy Mayor also recognised the vigil held for those caught up in the Ukraine conflict.

The Town Clerk invited Members to note a revised date for the Annual Town Meeting of 20 May 2022, set to coincide with a Community Lunch scheduled for the

same day, also with a plan to provide an opportunity for the wider community to make comments on the emerging Town Centre Masterplan. Members requested that an evaluation of the meeting look at the potential for a Saturday event in future years and that organisations supported by the Council be invited to explain how that support had helped them during the year.

47. **Planning and Environment Committee – 7 February 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 7 February 2022 be adopted.

48. **Planning and Environment Committee – 7 March 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 7 March 2022 be adopted.

49. **Management Committee – 14 March 2022**

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

A Member asked whether a Grants list could be provided alongside future grant applications. The Chair gave context to the creation of the Group to monitor the delivery of services by Dorchester Arts at the Municipal Buildings. A Member asked that consideration be given to the siting of the beacon used for national celebrations.

Resolved

- a) That, subject to the final approval of the lease by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Management Committee and Councillor D. Leaper, the Council enter into a lease for The Great Field, to be prepared on the basis of the Heads of Terms and accompanying documents reviewed at this meeting of the Committee
- b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 14 March 2022 be adopted.

50. **Policy Committee – 21 March 2022**

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

Resolved

- a) That, having considered the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, recognising the scale of the Council's Revenue Budget and the complexity of operations delivered by the Council, as well as the role that the Council is required to play to facilitate and support infrastructure required for the future growth of the town, the Basic Allowance be set at £1,069 for 2022/23
- b) That no additional allowance is paid to the Chairman of Council
- c) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 21 March 2022 be adopted.

51. **Mayoral Selection Committee – 21 March 2022**

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

Resolved

- a) That Councillor Janet Hewitt be invited to prepare to fill the office of Town Mayor, and Councillor Gareth Jones the office of Deputy Town Mayor, of Dorchester during the 2022-23 civic year
- b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 21 March 2022 be adopted.

52. **Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee – 18 January 2022**

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

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee held on 18 January 2022 be noted.

53. **Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel – 23 February 2022**

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

A Member asked that information regarding improvements to the North Linneys at Fairfield be passed to the Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel held on 23 February 2022 be noted.

53. **Dorset Council Matters**

Councillor S. Jones identified work being undertaken to place families at the centre of interactions between officers and children and young people when considering options for their support. She also identified plans to create a Dorset Education Board focused on improving educational standards across schools in Dorset and plans for a wider range of services to be delivered through libraries.

Councillor M. Rennie explained work being undertaken in relation of the creation of the new Integrated Care Service to replace the Clinical Commissioning Group. She also called for local feedback regarding two future scrutiny exercises to be conducted into dentistry and Care Support as well as an exercise looking at the Affordability of Housing.

Councillor R. Biggs highlighted another attempt to create new storage space for the Joint Archives Service. He also discussed the disconnection between Council officers and local ward members when considering anti-social behaviour, most recently in relation to Poundbury. He was asking for officer advice regarding the making of by-laws or a PSPO for The Great Field. Other Members highlighted the role of the Outreach Service provided by Dorchester Youth Centre.

Councillor L. Fry identified that a new Public Space Prevention Order was due for sign off at Dorset Council Cabinet, and that new policies regarding 20mph Zones and Air Quality were due for consultation shortly.

Mayor

Council rose at 19.40pm.

At a Public Question Time following the meeting a question was raised regarding the Council's views on air condition units being included in new Development Control applications. The Council will research the issue.

A Member also highlighted the continued lack of progress to determining the Community Land Trust Development Control application for the Tennis Courts site.