

Dorchester Town Council

Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

24 May 2022

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

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

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4 April 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

6. Communications and Motions

The Mayor thanked all those involved in the Mayor Making event on the previous evening.

It was reported that Kingston Maurward College had won a silver gilt award at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, a significant achievement. The Mayor confirmed that she would write to congratulate the college.

7. Planning and Environment Committee – 4 April 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 4 April 2022 be adopted.

8. Planning and Environment Committee – 3 May 2022

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

In respect of Minute No 81 it was reported that the Chief Executive at Dorset Council had agreed that a review should be undertaken in respect of the way planning applications were dealt with through the scheme of delegation.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3 May 2022 be adopted.

9. Management Committee – 9 May 2022

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

In response to a question it was noted that the toilets at the PIP café would be open to the public whilst the café was open.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 9 May 2022 be adopted.

10. Policy Committee – 16 May 2022

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

The Council considered the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statement for 2021-22 both of which were set out in Appendix 1 of the Policy Committee Minutes.

Resolved

- (1) That the Council approves the Annual Governance Statement for 2021-22.
- (2) That the Council approves the Accounting Statement for 2021-22.
- (3) That the freedom of the Town be awarded to the Dorset Army Cadet Force at a special meeting of the Town Council to be held later in the year.
- (4) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 16 May 2022 be adopted.

11. Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee – 19 April 2022

The minutes of the Joint Committee meeting were noted.

12. Update from the Dorset Council

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Dorset Council had received a grant of £875,000 to support Dorset families by creating a network of ten Family Hubs, one of which would be located in Dorchester. Family Hubs were welcoming places and spaces for children, young people and their families where they would be able to chat without an appointment to get some help from a variety of services.
- Work being undertaken on a pilot scheme, through the Chesil Partnership, with other agencies, in respect of early intervention around domestic violence.
- That the Corporate Parenting Board was looking at why many unaccompanied children were being looked after outside of the County.
- The proposed reforms to the governance arrangements of fire authorities set out in the recent Government Fire Reform White Paper.
- That all planning development proposals would now require a statement around achieving phosphorus and Nitrogen nutrient neutrality at Poole Harbour.

- A proposed review of governance arrangements at Dorset Council.

13. **Annual Business**

Council considered appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies and its Bank Mandate and whether to adopt the General Power of Competence to the next Annual Meeting.

The representative from the South Wessex Community Rail Partnership reported that South West Railways and Network Rail had applied for Department for Transport Access for All funding to replace the bridge at Dorchester South with a new bridge and lift. Members agreed that the application should be supported.

Resolved

- (1) That the appointments as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 be approved.
- (2) That the Council adopts the General Power of Competence for the period to the next Annual Meeting of Council.
- (3) That Councillors T. Harries, S. Jones, M. Rennie, R. Potter and D. Taylor be authorised to operate the Council's bank mandates.

(Note – Councillor M. Rennie wished to be recorded as abstaining from the vote in respect of the appointment of the Chairman to the Management Committee.)

14. **Police Matters**

Sergeant Matt Whetham introduced himself to the Council and reported on the crime statistics for Dorchester. He also updated Members on current police issues and priorities which included anti-social behaviour. He then responded to Members detailed questions.

Sergeant Whetham hoped to attend future meetings and if he was not able to attend he would provide a written update for the Council. It was agreed that any correspondence should be directed through the Town Clerk.

Council rose at 8.15pm.

Mayor

Dorchester Town Council - Committee Membership 2022-23

Appendix 1

Councillor	Council	Planning & Environment	Management	Policy	Markets Joint Panel	Heritage Joint C'ttee
J. Hewitt (Mayor)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
B. Armstrong-Marshall	Y			Y		
R. Biggs	Y	Y		Y – Vice-Chair		
S. Biles	Y			Y		Y
A. Canning	Y	Y	Y			
A. Chisholm	Y			Y		Y
L. Fry	Y	Y	Y			
T. Harries	Y	Y		Y		
F. Hogwood	Y			Y		Y
S. Hosford	Y	Y		Y - Chair	Y	
G. Jones	Y	Y		Y		Y
S. Jones	Y	Y	Y		Y	
F. Kent-Ledger	Y	Y	Y - Chair		Y	
D. Leaper	Y	Y	Y			
A. Lyall	Y		Y		Y	
R. Major	Y	Y	Y - Vice-Chair			
R. Potter	Y	Y - Chair	Y			
M. Rennie	Y	Y	Y		Y	
R. Ricardo	Y	Y – Vice-Chair	Y			
D. Taylor	Y	Y	Y			Y
	20	14	11	8	6	5

Dorchester Town Council – Outside Body Representation

Appendix 2

Internal Roles		Appointed since
DAPTC Larger Towns Rep	A. Chisholm The Mayor	2021 Annually
Charitable Trusteeships		
Dorchester Almshouses (2)	R. Biggs S. Hosford	2022 2019
Ashley Churchill & Thorner Trust (2)	R. Major R. Ricardo	2019 2019
Other Bodies		
Dorchester Arts	D. Leaper	2022
Dorchester Association L. History & Arch.	D. Leaper	2021
Dorchester BID	R. Ricardo	2021
Dorchester Bayeux Society	R. Major	2021
Dorchester Lubbecke Society	S. Hosford	2021
Dorchester Tourism Partnership	S. Hosford (R. Potter reserve)	2021
Citizens Advice Central Dorset	S. Biles	2021
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre	M. Rennie	2019
South Wessex Community Rail Partnership (previously Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership)	A. Chisholm	2019
Thomas Hardy Society	S. Jones	2019
Transition Town Dorchester	F. Hogwood	2019
Volunteer Centre Dorchester	S. Biles	2019