

Dorchester Town Council

Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

23 May 2023

Present: The Mayor (Councillor A. Chisholm) and Councillors, R. Biggs, S. Biles, A. Canning, L. Fry, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Hosford, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, R. Major, R. Potter, M. Rennie, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, T. Harries, G. Jones and A. Lyall.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 March 2023 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.

No motions or questions had been submitted.

7. Police Matters

There was no report from the Police at this meeting.

8. Planning and Environment Committee – 3 April 2023

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 3 April 2023 be adopted.

9. Planning and Environment Committee – 2 May 2023

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

In respect of the Planning Application for 5A Grosvenor Road it was reported that despite the Council objecting the decision had been delegated to an officer rather than being taken to Committee. It was important for the Council's objections to be taken seriously and it was suggested that the Planning Authority be informed of the Council's concerns in this regard.

It was noted that the Developer of the Prison site would be attending the next Planning and Environment Committee and a request had been submitted for the application to be discussed by the Planning Authority's Committee rather than delegated to an officer. It was noted that there were a number of concerns from local residents about the development and a suggestion was made that a display about the proposals might be made available at the Prison site.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 2 May 2023 be adopted.

10. Management Committee – 9 May 2023

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

In respect of Minute No 67 it was noted that grant funding was no longer available for local authorities from Low Carbon Dorset. The Town Clerk confirmed that Dorset Council would be asked if there were any alternative grants available for carbon reduction initiatives.

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed Twinning / Cultural Activities Panel be established.
- (2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 9 May 2023 be adopted.

11. Policy Committee – 15 May 2023

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 2022-23 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 2022-23.
- (2) That the Council approves the Accounting Statement for 2022-23.
- (3) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 15 May 2023 be adopted.

(NOTE: Councillors M. Rennie and R. Ricardo declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of the Business Improvement District and did not take part in any discussion or vote on that matter.)

12. Update from the Dorset Council

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- The change in its Cabinet members and Portfolio holders.
- A very enjoyable Civic Service at Sherborne Abbey in respect of the Coronation of King Charles III.
- A successful event had been arranged to present certificates to the recipients of car boot grants.
- The consultation on improvements to Fairfield Road was proceeding.
- Further work had been undertaken to the netting at Damers Road railway bridge to stop pigeons from nesting.

- There was to be a scrutiny review of the National Grid and Water Pollution – reports to be produced by the end of the 2023-24 Council year.
- The old Damers School was to be demolished in the near future.
- There was to be a review of Day Centres across the County.
- Care leavers review had been completed and the results were awaited.
- There had been some progress with the Poundbury 20mph speed limit request.

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.

It was agreed that those Members appointed to outside bodies should report back on the work of those bodies towards the end of the 2023-24 Council year.

Resolved

- (1) That the appointments to Committees, Joint Bodies, Panels and Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 be approved.
- (2) That Councillor F. Kent-Ledger be appointed Chairman and Councillor R. Major be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee.
- (3) That Councillor R. Ricardo be appointed Chairman and Councillor R. Potter be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee.
- (4) That Councillor R. Biggs be appointed Chairman and Councillor S. Hosford be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Policy Committee.
- (5) That the Council adopts the General Power of Competence for the period to the next Annual Meeting of Council.
- (6) That Councillors T. Harries, S. Jones, M. Rennie, R. Potter and D. Taylor be authorised to operate the Council's bank mandates.

Council rose at 7.50pm.

Mayor

APPENDIX 1

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Management Committee (11 Members)

A. Canning	L. Fry	S. Jones	F. Kent-Ledger	D. Leaper	T. Lyall
R. Major	R. Potter	M. Rennie	R. Ricardo	D. Taylor	

Policy Committee (8 Members)

B. Armstrong-Marshall	R. Biggs	S. Biles	T. Harries	J. Hewitt
F. Hogwood	S. Hosford	G. Jones		

Planning & Environment (no limit)

R. Biggs	A. Canning	L. Fry	T. Harries	J. Hewitt	S. Hosford
G. Jones	S. Jones	F. Kent-Ledger	D. Leaper	R. Major	R. Potter
M. Rennie	R. Ricardo	D. Taylor			

The Mayor, Councillor Alistair Chisholm is ex officio to the 3 Committees

PANELS

Twinning / Cultural Activities (5 Members plus the Mayor ex-officio)

J. Hewitt	S. Hosford	S. Jones	R. Major	M. Rennie
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JOINT BODIES

Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel (6 members)

J. Hewitt	S. Hosford	F. Kent-Ledger
A. Lyall	M. Rennie	S. Jones

Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee (5 members)

S. Biles	A. Chisholm	F. Hogwood	G. Jones	F. Kent-Ledger
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APPENDIX 2 - APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES			
Internal Roles	Previous Appointees		Appointed 2023-24
DAPTC Larger Towns Rep	A. Chisholm The Mayor		D. Taylor The Mayor
Municipal Buildings Monitoring Group	R. Biggs S. Hosford and F. Kent-Ledger		F. Kent-Ledger, S. Hosford, R. Biggs
Charitable Trusteeships			
Dorchester Almshouses (2)	R. Biggs S. Hosford		S. Hosford, R. Biggs
Ashley Churchill & Thorner Trust (2)	R. Major R. Ricardo		R. Major R. Ricardo
Other Bodies			
Dorchester Arts	D. Leaper		D. Leaper
Dorchester Association L. History & Arch.	D. Leaper		D. Leaper
Dorchester BID	R. Ricardo		J. Hewitt
Dorchester Bayeux Society	R. Major		M. Rennie
Dorchester Lubbecke Society	S. Hosford		S. Hosford
Dorchester Tourism Partnership	S. Hosford		R. Potter
Citizens Advice Central Dorset	S. Biles		S. Biles
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre	M. Rennie		M. Rennie
South Wessex Community Rail Partnership (previously Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership)	A. Chisholm		A. Chisholm
Thomas Hardy Society	S. Jones		S. Jones
Transition Town Dorchester	F. Hogwood		F. Hogwood
Volunteer Centre Dorchester	S. Biles		S. Biles
Sawmills (2 reps)	N/A		R. Major, R. Potter