

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

31 July 2023

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

Apologies: Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, S. Biles, T. Harries, G. Jones and S. Jones.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 22 and 23 May 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

2. Welcome to New Councillor

The Council congratulated Councillor K. Reid on being elected to the Council to fill the casual vacancy which had arisen in the Dorchester East Ward.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported.

4. Police Matters

It was reported that Sergeant Matt Whetham had moved posts and that Sergeant Matt Bradley had temporarily stepped into that position.

The Council received a written report on the crime statistics for Dorchester and recent activity. Members expressed concern regarding the recent spate of catapult attacks on wildlife and property.

5. Presentations, Communications, Questions and Motions

The Mayor reported on a number of events and communications as follows:-

- The unveiling of a plaque and the opening of Duke of Edinburgh Garden at Poundbury by King Charles III and Queen Camilla.
- A very successful Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair.
- A civic visit from Lubbecke.
- Love Parks and raising the Green Flag.
- Keep 106 Community Radio's 5th anniversary.
- The Mayor to write congratulating the Dorchester BID on its very successful ballot.

No motions or questions had been submitted.

6. **Planning and Environment Committee – 5 June 2023**

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

The Council expressed its concern regarding central Government making it more difficult for Councils to make 20mph zones. It was noted that the Dorset Council 20mph policy was not straightforward and limited.

Resolved

- (1) That The Mayor and Councillors J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, F. Kent-Ledger, M. Rennie and D. Taylor be appointed to the Fairfield Road Task and Finish Group.
- (2) That Dorset Council be informed of this Council's view that the existing 20mph policy is too complex and consideration should be given to a 20mph area wide speed limit.
- (3) That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 5 June 2023 be adopted.

7. **Planning and Environment Committee – 3 July 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 July 2023 be adopted.

8. **Management Committee – 17 July 2023**

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

In respect of the arrangements for D-Day 80, which would include the lighting of a beacon, the Council discussed whether it would be possible to move the beacon to a location that was more visible such as Centenary Field at Poundbury. It was noted that the existing beacon at Salisbury Field was in a historical location and that there were several rules governing the location of beacons.

Resolved

- (1) That a report be presented to the next Management Committee on the issues related to establishing a new beacon in place of the existing one at Salisbury Fields.
- (2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 17 July 2023 be adopted.

9. **Policy Committee – 24 July 2023**

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

Resolved

- (1) That The Mayor and Councillors S. Jones, D. Leaper, R. Major, M. Rennie and K. Reid be appointed to the New Councillor Task and Finish Group.
- (2) That The Mayor, Chair / Vice Chair of the Informal Markets Joint Committee, Town Council BID representative, Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee and Councillors L. Fry, F. Hogwood and D. Taylor be appointed to the Town Centre Working Group.
- (3) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 24 July 2023 be adopted.

12. Update from the Dorset Council

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Dorset Council Director Peter Hopkins was leaving the authority.
- There was an urgent need for more fosterers in the area. There was a fostering stand that could attend events.
- Two heavyweight financial experts had been co-opted onto the Audit and Governance Committee.
- Dorset Council felt a TRO in respect of camper vans at Poundbury was not necessary.
- 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.
- The old Damers School had now been demolished.
- Dorset Council was presently consulting on housing need – please respond to the consultation.
- There was to be a review of the Dorset Pension Fund investments.
- The refugee barge had been located at Portland.
- The car park strategy was to be reviewed.
- The Council was updated on the Reablement Centre at DCH.
- People were still ignoring the TRO around St Osmund’s Middle School.

13. Appointments to Committees and Vacancies

The Council considered appointments to the vacancies on the Management Committee and the Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel.

Resolved

- (1) That Councillor K. Reid be appointed to the Management Committee for the remainder of the 2023-24 Council year.
- (2) That Councillor K. Reid be appointed to the Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel for the remainder of the 2023-24 Council year.

Council rose at 8.23pm.

Mayor

Public half hour

The Chair of STAND asked the Council how it might take forward its opposition to the proposed Dor13 Policy in respect of housing north of Dorchester. The Council and members of the public discussed the matter for some time and it was felt that it would be worth holding a special Planning and Environment Committee at some point in the near future to consider the matter further.