

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

25 March 2024

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

Apologies: Councillor B. Armstrong-Marshall.

53. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 January 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

54. Declarations of Interest

Councillor T. Harries declared a personal interest in respect of Policy Committee Minute No. 56/2024.

55. Police Matters

There was no representative from the Police in attendance.

56. Appointment of New Town Crier

The Council considered the recommendation of the Appointments Panel established to appoint a new Town Crier for Dorchester.

Members were pleased to support the recommendation that Anthony Harrison be appointed. The new Town Crier then addressed the Council and it was unanimously

Resolved

That Anthony Harrison be appointed as Dorchester's new Town Crier.

57. Presentations, Communications, Questions and Motions

The Council received a presentation from Christopher Ward and his colleague Natasha McLaughlin from Julian House, a charity that supported vulnerable and at risk individuals.

The representatives responded to Members detailed questions about the work of the organisation in the local area and its aspirations for the future.

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

- It was the last meeting of the present Council and the Mayor wished everyone well for the future.
- The Mayor's Civic Day would be held on Thursday 18 April 2024.
- Councillor Rennie presented a 40th anniversary Bayeux and Dorchester twinning commemorative plate to the Mayor. The plate had been in the possession of a previous Bayeux Society Chairman who had passed away.

No motions or questions had been submitted.

58. Planning and Environment Committee – 5 February 2024

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 5 February 2024 be adopted.

59. Planning and Environment Committee – 4 March 2024

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 March 2024 be adopted.

60. Management Committee – 11 March 2024

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

Members felt that it would be helpful if a representative from the Youth Council attended a meeting of the Council periodically to report back on its activities. It was noted that Councillors were welcome to attend Youth Council meetings and that if they wished to do so they should contact the Community Development Officer. It was reported that the Council did have a protocol in respect of working with young people that Members should familiarise themselves with.

It was confirmed that grant recipients would be invited to the Informal Annual Town Meeting.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 11 March 2024 be adopted subject to Councillor A. Canning being included in those present at the meeting.

61. Mayoral Selection Committee – 18 March 2024

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

Resolved:

That in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters the public and press representatives be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

The Deputy Mayor then reported on the selection of a Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2024-25 Council Year.

The Council then returned to open session and it was

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 18 March 2024 be adopted.

62. Policy Committee – 18 March 2024

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

The Chairman of the Town Centre Working Group informed Members that a recent application to Dorset Council for funding towards footfall counters in the town centre had been successful.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 18 March 2024 be adopted.

63. Update from the Dorset Council

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- The Beryl Bike share scheme was to be introduced to the Dorchester, Weymouth and Portland area by the summer.
- Dorset Council's 2021-22 financial accounts had finally been signed off.
- The School streets project around St Osmund's was delayed due to the need for further consultation.
- The Household Support Fund was to be extended for a further six months.
- Shire Hall had not been grant funded by Dorset Council, it was hoped to have this decision reversed.
- Still no financial support from Dorset Council for the Dorchester Youth and Community Centre.

- Dorset Council was one of only three Councils that had been chosen by the Government to be a pathfinder authority for its stable homes built on love strategy.
- The pineapple project that helps safeguard young women is being extended to Dorchester.
- Dorset Council, partner agencies, local services, and the Dorset Family Court to pilot a new scheme to create the conditions for families to get the help they and their children need at an earlier stage.

Council rose at 8.21pm.

Mayor