

Dorchester Town Council

Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

20 May 2025

Present: The Mayor (Councillor A. Canning) and Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, P. Farmer, L. Fry, J. Germodo, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, G. Jones, D. Leaper, V. Lloyd-Jones, M. Rennie and D. Taylor.

Apologies: Councillors S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, R. Major, R. Potter, K. Reid and R. Ricardo.

5. Declarations of Interest

Councillor M. Rennie declared an interest in respect of appointments to Dorchester Almshouses and Ashley Churchill & Thorner Trust.

Councillor J. Hewitt declared an interest in respect of appointments to Dorchester Almshouses.

Councillor S. Biles declared an interest in respect of appointments to Ashley Churchill & Thorner Trust.

6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 31 March 2025, were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

7. Police Matters

Sergeant Schofield was unable to attend the meeting.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he would invite representatives of the Community Safety Partnership, to make a brief presentation on their work, to a future meeting of the Council.

8. Presentations, Communications and Motions

There were no presentations or communications.

No motions had been submitted.

9. Planning and Environment Committee – 7 April 2025

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 April 2025 be adopted.

10. Planning and Environment Committee – 28 April 2025

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

In regard to Minute No. 66, Councillor M. Rennie reported on a recent incident where a Fire Engine could not access Cromwell Road due to poorly parked cars. The Mayor confirmed that Dorset Council was undertaking a parking review and that a report was to be presented to forthcoming Dorset Council Place and Resources Overview Committee. The Mayor undertook to ascertain how the Town Council would be able to input into the review.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 28 April 2025 be adopted.

11. Management Committee – 6 May 2025

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

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 6 May 2025 be adopted.

12. Policy Committee – 12 May 2025

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

Resolved

- (1) That the Council approves the Annual Governance Statement for 2024-25.
- (2) That the Council approves the Accounting Statement for 2024-25.
- (3) That the Council confirms the appointment of Darkin Miller Ltd as the Council's Internal Auditor for the 2025-26 Council Year.
- (4) That the Council has no conflict of interest with BDO LLP.
- (5) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 12 May 2025 be adopted.

13. **Annual Business**

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

Members requested that the Town Clerk ask the Dorchester Tourism Partnership to consider having two Town Council representatives rather than the present one.

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 D. Leaper be appointed Chair and Councillor F. Kent-Ledger be appointed Vice-Chair of the Management Committee.
- (3) That Councillor R. Ricardo be appointed Chair and Councillor L. Fry be appointed Vice-Chair of the Planning and Environment Committee.
- (4) That Councillor S. Biles be appointed Chair and Councillor V. Lloyd-Jones be appointed Vice-Chair 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 P. Farmer, L. Fry, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, M. Rennie and D. Taylor be authorised to operate the Council's bank mandates.

14. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Members were updated on the benefits of Dorset's new Local Visitor Economy Partnership accreditation.
- It was noted that Councillor S. Jones had been appointed Chair and Councillor L. Fry appointed Vice-Chair of Dorset Council.
- Work on developing the Local Plan was continuing.
- The Dorset Council Pension Fund Committee was to consider its investments in light of a deputation from Dorset Palestine Solidarity Campaign to the Annual Meeting of Dorset Council.

Councillor J Hewitt proposed, and it was agreed, that the Council should give its thanks to the Council's staff for all their work over the past month, it had been a very busy month with a number of different events.

Council rose at 8.10pm.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Management Committee

P. Farmer L. Fry W. Gibbons J. Hewitt F. Hogwood S. Jones
F. Kent-Ledger D. Leaper R. Major R. Potter M. Rennie

Policy Committee

R. Biggs S. Biles J. Germodo G. Jones V. Lloyd-Jones
K. Reid R. Ricardo D. Taylor

Planning & Environment

R. Biggs S. Biles P. Farmer L. Fry J. Germodo J. Hewitt
F. Hogwood S. Jones F. Kent-Ledger D. Leaper V. Lloyd-Jones R. Major
R. Potter M. Rennie R. Ricardo

The Mayor, Councillor Andy Canning is ex officio to the 3 Committees

JOINT BODIES

Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel

J. Hewitt J. Germodo S. Jones
F. Kent-Ledger K. Reid M. Rennie

Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee

S. Biles G. Jones* S. Jones F. Kent-Ledger D. Taylor

Twinning / Cultural Activities Panel (5 Members plus the Mayor)

J. Hewitt F. Hogwood S. Jones R. Major M. Rennie

APPENDIX 2 - APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Internal Roles			Appointed 2025-26
DAPTC Larger Towns Rep			The Mayor R. Potter
Municipal Buildings Monitoring Group (3)			F. Kent-Ledger, V. Lloyd-Jones, D. Taylor
Charitable Trusteeships			
Dorchester Almshouses (2)			S. Biles V. Lloyd-Jones
Ashley Churchill & Thorner Trust (2)			L. Fry M. Rennie
Other Bodies			
Dorchester Arts (one space plus substitute)			F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper
Dorchester Association L. History & Arch.			D. Taylor
Dorchester BID			J. Hewitt
Dorchester Bayeux Society			M. Rennie
Dorchester Lubbecke Society			F. Hogwood
Dorchester Tourism Partnership			R. Potter
Citizens Advice Central Dorset			D. Leaper
Dorchester Transport Action Group (2)			R. Potter W. Gibbons
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre (2)			P. Farmer J. Germodo
South Wessex Community Rail Partnership (previously Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership)			F. Hogwood
Thomas Hardy Society			W. Gibbons
Transition Town Dorchester (3 for 2025-26)			P. Farmer, F. Hogwood, D. Taylor

Volunteer Centre Dorset			D. Taylor
Sawmills Development Association (2 reps)			J. Germodo K. Reid