

## **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**14 OCTOBER 2019**

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 14 October 2019:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	S. Biles F. Hogwood G. Jones (Chairman) F. Kent-Ledger R. Major
	Officer:	S. Newman
Dorset Council	Councillors:	A. Canning L. Fry S. Jones
Ancient & Honorary Guild of Town Criers		A. Chisholm
Civic Society		A. Gannon
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
Dorchester Chamber for Business		M. Woodgate
Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society		J. Murden
National Trust (for Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage)		H. Jefferson

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R. Biggs and D. Taylor (Dorset Council), T. Loasby (Blue Badge Tourist Guides), A. Bright (Shire Hall) and L. Gardner (The Keep Military Museum).

#### **2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

#### **RESOLVED**

That Councillor G. Jones be elected Chairman for the remainder of the 2019-20 Council Year.

3. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor A. Canning be elected Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the 2019-20 Council Year.

4. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2019, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

In respect of Minute No. 53 the Deputy Town Clerk responded to a number of questions regarding the appointment process used in respect of the Heritage and Tourism Project Manager post. It was agreed that a timeline of the process used for the appointment should be sent to Members so as to clarify the position.

5. **NEW MEMBERS**

The Committee welcomed the new Councillor appointments to the Committee and the representative from the National Trust (Max Gate and Hardy's Cottage).

6. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

7. **BELL BARROW INFORMATION BOARDS - SANDRINGHAM**

The Committee welcomed Michael Green from the Thomas Hardy Residents Association who circulated information and presented a proposal to the Committee in respect of information board(s) about the Bell Barrow situated in the vicinity of Sandringham.

Members were supportive of the proposal and suggested that the Residents Association look at a suitable location for the board, work up the text and photos for an information board with the assistance of the Committee. It was reported that grant funding might be available from Dorchester Town Council or Dorset Archaeological Committee. The Chief Executive of the Dorset County Museum offered support for photographic images that might be available through the Museum.

Whilst discussing information boards it was noted that a number of the Hardy Trail boards were in a poor condition.

**RESOLVED**

That the idea for an information board be supported and that the Residents Committee report back to the Committee with its final proposals in due course.

8. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members had before them revised terms of reference for the Committee which were agreed subject to reference to reference to the Heritage Tourism Steering Group reporting back to the Committee.

9. **CAR PARKING NEAR NORTHERNHAY**

Further to Minute No 49 the Committee considered a response from the Director of Place at Dorset Council in respect of the issues raised by the Committee about irresponsible parking at the entrance to Loders car park.

The Civic Society representative reported that there had been no improvement and that recent maintenance work had actually made the situation worse.

Councillor L. Fry volunteered to work with the Civic Society to lobby Dorset Council to take some action to improve the situation and protect the newly planted trees.

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor L. Fry work with the Civic Society to lobby Dorset Council to take some action to improve the situation and protect the newly planted trees.

10. **THOMAS HARDY VICTORIAN FAIR AND OPENDOR HERITAGE DAY EVENTS - FEEDBACK**

The Committee welcomed film maker Gary Jarman to the meeting who showed Members the films that he had produced for both the Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair and OpenDor Heritage Day events.

Members thanked Gary for the excellent films.

The Committee agreed that it should support the Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair and a Heritage Open Day event again in 2020.

**RESOLVED**

That the Committee supports a Thomas Hardy Victorian Fair and Heritage Open Day in 2020.

11. **PEDESTRIAN WAYFINDING SCHEME FOR DORCHESTER**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the new pedestrian wayfinding scheme for the town centre was to be installed during the last two weeks of October.

The Vice Chairman agreed that the Town Trails leaflet would be updated the next time it was printed.

**RESOLVED**

That the pedestrian wayfinding scheme installation be welcomed.

12. **THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY**

Further to Minute No 52 (2) it was noted that a project manager for the development of a Heritage Tourism Strategy had been appointed with a start date of 4 November 2019.

13. **QUESTIONS**

No formal questions had been submitted.

14. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Vice Chairman reported that Dorset Council had been successful in its Heritage Lottery Fund application for a grant toward improvements to the Roman Town House.

It was requested that the thin wooden edgings along the Millstream path be replaced with something more substantial such as the recycled material used for the boardwalk at the Local Nature Reserve.

It was reported that the new draft Corporate Plan for Dorset Council had no reference to culture, arts or museums and that heritage was only mentioned once. The Committee felt that this was a grave oversight and that the Committee's concerns should be passed to Dorset Council.

**RESOLVED**

That, following discussion with the Vice Chairman and the Chief Executive of Dorset County Museum, the Chairman of the Committee write to Dorset Council expressing the Committee's concerns regarding the draft Corporate Plan, in the strongest possible terms.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the meeting dates for next year would be:-

Tuesday 21 January 2020  
Tuesday 21 April 2020  
Tuesday 21 July 2020  
Tuesday 20 October 2020

Chairman: