

## **DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL**

### **DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**25 JULY 2023**

At a Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 25 July 2023:

#### **PRESENT:**

Dorchester Town Council	Councillors:	G. Jones (Chairman) A. Chisholm F. Hogwood D. Taylor
	Officers:	T. Hurley M. Manley
Dorset Council	Councillors:	L. Fry
Dorchester Association		M. Rice
Dorchester Civic Society		I. Gosling
Local Nature Reserve		L. Poulsen
Dorset Museum		E. Selby
The Keep Military Museum		F. Scott
Blue Badge Tourist Guide		J. Wallis
Shire Hall Historic Courthouse Museum		N. Corey
Thomas Hardy Society		M. Chutter

#### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S. Biles (Dorchester Town Council), Councillors R. Biggs (Dorset Council), Councillor S. Jones (Dorset Council) R. White (National Trust) and Maria Gayton (Dorset History Centre).

#### 2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2023, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

Mike Rice raised again the issue vandalism in the town (item 43) and urged DTC to take action with regard to any vandalism / graffiti on its own property. Cllr Fry suggested that DTC help to report to the police an vandalism.

#### 3. **HERITAGE TOURISM STRATEGY - UPDATE**

Received the following:

- (a) **Update on the work of the Tourism Partnership.**

Matilda Manley provided an update on the recent consultation and research by Southampton University and its recommendations about the development of 'hyper local' histories. The committee welcomed the recommendations and Cllr Hogwood asked about the degree to which minority groups had been engaged with.

**(b) Funding proposal from Tourism Partnership.**

Matilda introduced the proposal from the Partnership for a new small grants fund. It was clarified that the administration fee charged by the Arts Development Company would not be derived from the £5,000 grant budget. The committee were supportive of the proposal and asked Matilda to make progress – there was no need to submit the details of the scheme to the committee for further approval, but a future update on progress would be welcome.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) The Committee received the notes of the Tourism Partnership meeting held on 11 July 2023.

**RESOLVED**

- (b) That the notes of the Tourism Partnership meeting held 11 July 2023 be received.

4. **HERITAGE OPEN DAY – 10 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The committee received the report from the Tourism Development Officer (DTC) on proposal for Heritage Open Day 2023. There was a discussion about whether the High West Street should be closed to traffic for the day to allow for walking tours and enable better views of the historic buildings. It was agreed to leave the final recommendation on the road closure to the heritage organisations involved in the event and that this should be relayed to the town council.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the town council be requested to ask Dorset Council that all town centre car parks be free to use on 10<sup>th</sup> September to support Heritage Open Day.

5. **ONGOING PROJECTS:**

Verbal updates on the following were received:

- a) Information board at Poundbury.
- b) Millstream Paths information boards – these are about to be printed subject to final agreement on the exact location of each board.
- c) Roman mosaic project – The Walks

**RESOLVED**

That the updates be noted.

## 6. **THOMAS HARDY VICTORIAN FAIR 2023 – EVALUATION REPORT**

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk on the evaluation of the Fair. In general, the Fair was successful and attracted large crowds of visitors. There was a discussion about the impact of the event on the indoor heritage attractions. Cllr Fry suggested that the organisations affected should develop a plan setting out how the town council could support them in order to offset any negative impacts of the Fair. The group anticipated that plans for the 2025 Fair would be initiated next Spring.

## 7. **FUTURE PROJECTS**

The committee discussed the following potential projects:

- a) Roman baths. This was discussed and the technical report about the site was awaited. Gareth Jones suggested that this matter stay on the agenda for future discussion about how to interpret the site. **It was agreed that the matter of an interpretation board would be investigated.**
- b) Water meadows. The better interpretation / promotion of the water meadows was discussed and it was agreed to keep the matter on the agenda for future meetings.
- c) Pop-up 'museum' for Dorchester. Concerns were raised about the impact of any 'pop-up' display on the heritage attractions but there was the potential for more outreach by the museums. The option for presenting more about the history of Dorchester by showcasing a selection of artefacts from the museums, perhaps online (via Discover Dorchester) or in vacant shop units. Mark Chutter also suggested that there was more potential for the museums to engage with schools.
- d) Mark Chutter outlined a proposal to create a statue of Henry Moule at Salisbury Fields. Cllr Fry was concerned about the cost of designing and commissioning such a statue and it was agreed that Lyme Regis Town Council would be asked for information about the process and cost of the new Mary Anning statue. This information would be present to the next meeting.

### **RESOLVED**

- a) That the updates be noted.
- b) That information on the commissioning of public art from Lyme Regis Town Council be presented to the next meeting.

## 8. **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2022-23**

### **RESOLVED**

That the Statement of Accounts 2022-23 be noted.

## 9. **QUESTIONS**

No questions were raised.

11. **URGENT ITEMS**

Linda Poulsen raised the issue of vandalism at the Riverside Reserve and that the Tom's Pond has been stolen. Cllr Fry urged that any such vandalism be reported to the police. Joy Wallis reported that the Friends of Borough Gardens had provided new information on the sundial.

Chairman.....