

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee held at The Cricket Pavilion, Weymouth Avenue, Dorchester.

12 July 2021

Present: The Mayor (Councillor G. Jones) and Councillors S. Biles, L. Fry, F. Kent-Ledger (Chairman), D. Leaper, A. Lyall, R. Major, R. Potter, M. Rennie, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor

Apologies: Councillors A. Canning and S. Jones.

In Attendance

Councillors J. Hewitt and F. Hogwood.

J. Halsall in respect of Minute No. 3.

1. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8 March 2021, adopted by Council on 22 March 2021, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. **Site Visits**

The Committee considered the notes of the Site Visits meeting held on 22 June 2021 (as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes). In respect of the South Chapel it was noted that some information regarding the stained glass window should be made available outside of the chapel and that access to view the window should be retained. With regard to Kings Road playing fields Members felt that some consideration should be given to relaxing the no dogs rule at this site.

Resolved

- (1) That the notes of the meeting of the Site Visits held on 22 June 2021 be agreed.
- (2) That some external information regarding the South Chapel window be created.
- (3) That consideration be given to relaxing the no dog rule at Kings Road playing field.

3. **Pump Track**

Maiden Castle Play Area - Members welcomed local resident Jonathon Halsall to the meeting who then addressed the Committee with a proposal on behalf of a local interest group, to rejuvenate the existing pump track at Maiden Castle play area. It was hoped to increase the size of the area available by removing the top goalpost and create a quality facility that would be suitable for use by all age groups.

The Committee was very supportive of the proposal and noted the importance of community buy in to the project.

It was noted that the next stage would be to establish a draft plan which would be presented to the Committee.

Resolved

That the local resident community project to improve the pump track at Maiden Castle play area be supported.

Kings Road – The Committee considered a request from two local young people who wished the Council to consider the idea of installing a permanent concrete pump track at Kings Road Playing Fields.

Members felt that they did not wish to proceed with this project at the moment but that the young people be linked up with the Community Group who were working on the Castle Park play area pump track project.

Resolved

- (1) That Ruuan and Tye be thanked for contacting the Council with their idea for a concrete pump track at Kings Road playing field.
- (2) That the proposal not be considered further at present.

4. Management Arrangements

The Committee considered a report from the Outdoor Services Manager updating it on the work undertaken and the achievements made by the Outdoor Services Team since the last meeting of the Committee. It was reported that the BID was very pleased and supportive of the collaboration in respect of the bench refurbishment in South Street.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

5. Building Maintenance Plan – Borough Gardens

The Committee considered a report from the Outdoor Services Manager setting out proposals for the future maintenance of the built structures in the Borough Gardens. It was suggested that a traffic light system be used in respect of monitoring reports.

Members felt that it might be beneficial to replace the bandstand ceiling with a plastic/composite material and requested that this be investigated at some stage.

Resolved

That a maintenance plan for the Borough Gardens built structures, as set out in the report, be developed and funding set aside accordingly for its implementation.

6. **Policy on Donated Seats**

Members had before them a report by the Outdoor Services Manager which set out a proposed policy for seats donated to the Town Council.

Resolved

That the Donated Seat Policy, as set out in the report, be agreed.

7. **Grass Cutting – Fordington and Weymouth Avenue Cemeteries**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the existing arrangements for grass cutting at Fordington and Weymouth Avenue Cemeteries which had been changed this year in accordance with the Council's adopted Biodiversity Strategy.

Members felt that it was important that the public could access all areas of the Cemeteries reasonably easily and safely and that information was available to explain the new regime and the benefits of it in respect of biodiversity.

Resolved

That the number and location of pathways through the cemeteries be reviewed and new permanent signage erected.

8. **Grant Applications**

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance.

Resolved

- (1) That the grant application from Dorchester Cricket Club be agreed in the sum of £400. The Club to be encouraged to fit the defibrillator outside of the Pavilion. Should the cost be higher the Council to consider increasing its contribution.
- (2) That the grant application from the Alcohol Education Trust, in the sum of £300 against loss, be agreed.
- (3) That the grant application from Pride Matters in the sum of £200 to cover the cost of the Public Liability Insurance and Licence, be agreed.
- (4) That the grant application from the Civic Society in the sum of £1,750 be agreed.

9. **Cemetery Matters**

(a) Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes

The report which detailed the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces and the number of interments and burials of ashes together with South Chapel usage at Dorchester Cemetery, since the last meeting of the Committee had been circulated with the agenda.

Resolved

That the report on the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(b) Headstones and Inscriptions

The Committee received and noted applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions.

Resolved

That the action of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 5184 to 5222 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

10. **Municipal Buildings Monitoring Reports**

The Committee received the Municipal Buildings monitoring report which included a report by the Deputy Town Clerk on the activity of the Town Hall Keepers over the past two months, progress on the installation of a new lift and the re-roofing project.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

Chairman

Notes of a Site Visit held on 22 June 2021 at 9.30am.

Sites visited – Borough Gardens, Maumbury Rings, Weymouth Avenue Cemetery, Sandringham Sports Centre, Mellstock Avenue Play Area, Kings Road Playing Fields and Salisbury Fields.

Attending: The Mayor (Councillor G. Jones) and Councillors L. Fry, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, R. Major, R. Potter and M. Rennie.

Steve Newman, Deputy Town Clerk.

Carl Dallison, Outdoor Services Manager.

1. The Borough Gardens

Members toured the Gardens and the Outdoor Services Manager gave an update on the work that had been and was about to be undertaken. The following actions / items were agreed or noted:-

- That the outdoor gym equipment be replaced as and when required.
- That some Japanese Maples be planted along the snowdrop bank adjacent to West Walks.
- To investigate the possibility of establishing two parking spaces near to the toilets / kiosk.
- Investigate the cost of getting the wording on the fountain re-engraved.
- The work recently undertaken to the Borough Gardens House and the bandstand was to a good standard. Members wished for the original painted sign on the BGH to be refreshed.
- Work would be required on the large trees adjacent to the old tennis courts and the trees adjacent to Bowling Alley Walk sooner rather than later.
- The rose garden would be formally named and opened on 31 July 2021. Members felt that an information board about the garden and the type of roses planted would be beneficial.
- Members supported the idea of a surplus plant sale operated through the Friends of the Borough Gardens.

2. Maumbury Rings

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on the work undertaken to refurbish the Pavilion and Members supported an idea from Councillor M Rennie to have some trees planted near to the fence line on the railway line side of the site.

It was noted that boundary wall on the old police station side of the site was in need of attention.

Members agreed that the 'thank you' banner should be removed from the railings soon after 19 July 2021.

3. Weymouth Avenue Cemetery Chapels

The Group inspected both the North and South Chapels. Members noted that the South Chapel was no longer required for use as a Chapel and confirmed the proposal of the Service Review Group that the space be made available for use as a storage space by local community groups. Depending on what it being stored it might be necessary to obscure the lower parts of the windows.

4. Sandringham Sports Centre

The Group inspected the area freed up by the removal of the parkour equipment and looked at potential alternative sites for the petanque court which was required to be moved when the new ballet club facility was built. Members felt that the petanque users would be best served by relocating to the Great Field. If this was not acceptable an alternative area between the outdoor gym equipment and the fence was identified.

The footprint of the new ballet club was shown on the ground. Members felt that once built it might benefit from some softening at the front by way of green planting. It was also felt that the opportunity should be taken to re-line the car park once the facility was built.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed those present of a small housing development proposal on land adjacent to the car park.

5. Mellstock Avenue Play area

Members visited the play area and were informed of the ongoing concern of neighbours in respect of children climbing through the hedge and onto their property. It was noted that some patching of the original fence had been undertaken last summer.

After considering the options it was agreed that further fence patching and the planting of 'spiky' shrubs be undertaken so as to deter children from climbing through the fence line.

6. Kings Road

The Group visited Kings Road playing fields where the Outdoor Services Manager showed Members the new tree planting and explained the proposals for the future planting of the area. The Group also talked about the potential for a pedestrian bridge which it was hoped would be possible through developer contributions. The exact location of a bridge to be confirmed.

It was noted that the steam roller in the play area would need to be taken out of action for a number of weeks shortly so as to enable maintenance to be undertaken.

7. Salisbury Fields

A local resident met with the Group at Salisbury Fields and explained the community wildflower planting scheme that was being undertaken along a meter wide strip adjacent to the boundary at the southern end of the field. Members were supportive of the project.

The Outdoor Services Manager explained the tree work that was proposed to the existing trees and future planting of new trees.

An idea to reduce grass cutting in some parts of the field was also discussed and a report on this matter would be the subject of a future Committee report.

Meeting closed 2.00pm.