

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

11 July 2022

Present: The Mayor (Councillor J. Hewitt) and Councillors F. Kent-Ledger (Chairman), D. Leaper, A. Lyall, R. Major, R. Potter, M. Rennie and R. Ricardo.

Apologies: Councillors L. Fry, S. Jones, D. Taylor and A. Canning.

In Attendance

Councillors F. Hogwood and R. Biggs.

K. Johnson, D. Lochrie and C. Prosser, Cycling Without Age (Minute No 3).

1. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9 May 2022, adopted by Council on 24 May 2022, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr M Rennie declared a non -pecuniary interest in Item 7, Grant Application 4.

3. **Cycling Without Age**

The Committee considered correspondence and received a presentation in support of a grant application from representatives from Cycling Without Age.

Resolved

That a grant of £500 be awarded to Cycling Without Age and that the Town Clerk contact Cycling Without Age to offer the Town Council's assistance, in partnership, to help with any third party grant sourcing and to also offer space if available at Poundbury Cemetery to store their cycle.

4. **Site Visits**

The Committee considered the notes of the Site Visits meeting held on 7 June 2022 (as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes).

Resolved

That the notes of the meeting of the Site Visits held on 7 June 2022 be agreed.

5. **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.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted and the team thanked for their ongoing efforts.

6. **Borough Gardens Family Picnic**

The Mayor informed Members that she was looking to organise a family picnic on the Gardens for Ukrainian families and anyone else who wished to attend. The event was proposed to be held on Ukraine's National Day – Wednesday 24 August 2022.

Resolved

That the event be supported and £500 be made available for some live entertainment and free activities.

7. **Grant Applications**

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance.

Resolved

- (1) That the grant application from Dorchester Scout and Guide Hall, in the sum of £500, be agreed.
- (2) That the grant application from Dorset Carers Hub, in the sum of £500, be agreed.
- (3) That the grant application from Dorchester Poverty Action, in the sum of £500, be agreed.
- (4) That the grant application from Volunteer Centre Dorset (Casterfridge Project), in the sum of £460 be not agreed at this stage but that the Town Clerk make contact with the Volunteer Centre with a view to establishing more clearly the detail of the application and to invite them to present a revised application to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Committee also noted the Council's grant criteria which had been previously circulated. The Chairman reminded Members of the need to be familiar with the guidance around grant awards and to not make mention of sums of money available other than that stated in the Council guidance to any groups who may apply.

8. 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 5280 to 5288 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

9. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

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.

10. Fordington Green

(a) Easement – The Committee considered further correspondence from Jurassic Fibre.

Resolved

That an Easement be granted to Jurassic Fibre for the laying of ducting for fibre broadband. Officers are to check the quality of re-instatement carried out to ensure a good quality of repair.

(b) Use of the Green – Members noted that Fordington Green was occasionally being used for live music over the summer time. The Committee supported this community use in principle but expressed some concerns that, what was originally an agreement with one operator (that has now increased to two), for relatively informal musical events, was becoming very organised, with social media

advertising etc leading to larger and more frequent events with greater attendance.

Resolved

That the Town Clerk arrange a meeting with the event organisers to discuss the format and basis upon which events continue into the future to which the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and East Ward Members, will be invited. Also, to discuss the situation with a Dorset Council licensing officer to establish if any license is required and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

11. The Great Field

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk on a proposal to install CCTV at the Great Field. It was noted during discussions that anti-social behaviour occurs at times in many open spaces and that it tends to be transient in nature.

Resolved

That the installation of CCTV at the Great Field not be supported by this Committee at the present time but that the Town Clerk arrange a meeting with the Crime Reduction Partnership officers and local workers to further discuss the ongoing perception of and actual anti-social behaviour occurring in the area of the play area at the Great Field, with a view to further efforts being made to reduce any problems by both them and the Police.

12. The Borough Gardens at Christmas

The Committee had before it a report by the Town Clerk on a proposal to light up the Borough Gardens at Christmas.

Members recognised the potential of increasing the seasonal interest offer within the Gardens and requested that officers investigate how trees may be illuminated more informally and whether the Gardens could be used by such groups as Rotary or the Lions for Christmas themed events that were free to enter.

Resolved

That the Committee did not support the proposal.

13. Dorchester Bowls Club

The Outdoor Services Manager reported on a meeting held with the Bowls Club, Dorchester Youth Football Club and the Town Clerk the outcome of which was that both the Bowls Club and Football Club would prefer that only the two large changing rooms be relinquished back to the Bowls Club. The garage, First Aid room and Ref room to continue under the existing lease to the Council.

Resolved

That the Council's underlease be part relinquished so as to allow the two large changing rooms to revert back to Dorchester Bowls Club.

Chairman.....

Notes of a Site Visit held on 7 June 2022 at 9.30am.

Sites visited – Poundbury Cemetery, Maiden Castle Play Area, Fortress Green, Edward Road Play Area, King's Park Play Area and Red Cow Farm Open Space and Allotments Project.

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

Steve Newman, Deputy Town Clerk.
Carl Dallison, Outdoor Services Manager.

1. Poundbury Cemetery

The Group viewed the green burial area and were pleased to see that a selection of wildflowers were now growing.

Members were also informed of the new method of grave digging which involved removing the spoil from the graveside for the burial.

In regard to the road side wall it was felt that a plan should be drawn up to reduce the height of the wall so as to reduce the required ongoing maintenance. Consideration could then be given to establishing a new area for plaques or alternative burial options. It was felt that as the amount of space was limited and the burial buildings were still in use, that no further action should be taken at the present time in respect of converting the building to housing. This option of adding solar to the roof should however be investigated.

Those present also felt that it would be useful to have a site visit to Weymouth Crematorium cemetery at some stage to view the various different burial options offered at the cemetery.

2. Maiden Castle Play Area

Members viewed the play area and associated open space. The plans for a BMX / Bump Track submitted by local residents were viewed and it was agreed that the option which required no change to the goal posts would be the preferred option. It was noted that there was a need for the Council to retain an area for organic waste towards the top of the open space.

3. Fortress Green

The Group inspected the green open space Fortress Green. It was noted that some tree planting had taken place on the Green but that there was still room for more.

Members felt that as well as additional tree planting, the area would benefit from some managed 'wilding' so as to aid biodiversity.

4. Edward Road Play Area

Members viewed the play area at Edward Road. It was noted that the equipment and fencing was wearing and would need improving in the near future. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the

lease for the area was coming to an end the following year and the play area seemed to have very little use.

Members agreed that contact be made with the freeholder of the land in regard to their intentions for the land prior to the Council considering its options for the future.

5. Kings Park Play Area

The Group visited Kings Park Play Area which was a well used play area for younger children. There had been no significant investment in the play area for a number of years and Members felt that this should be addressed when considering the priorities for new play equipment investment around the town.

6. Red Cow Farm Lubbecke Way

Members visited the allotment site which had been provided as a part of the Red Cow Farm Development at Lubbecke Way. The Deputy Town Clerk reported on the proposal for the GAP project to take a sub-lease of the site once the Town Council had received its head lease from the Duchy of Cornwall. It was noted that the GAP project was seeking planning permission for the provision of a cladded container, composting toilet, raised beds and polytunnel.

The group was supportive of the project.

Meeting closed 12.26pm.