

Dorchester Town Council

Management (Informal) Committee

12 September 2022

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

Apologies: Councillors L. Fry, R. Potter and D. Taylor.

The meeting opened with Members standing for a one minute silence in respect of the recent death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

14. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 11 July 2022, adopted by Council on 25 July 2022, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

16. Site Visits

The Committee considered the notes of the Site Visits meeting held on 9 August 2022 (as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes). Members supported the Group's recommendation that some initial plans should be drawn up in respect of a possible small extension to the Garden's facilities building to be consideration by a future meeting of the Committee.

Members expressed their thanks to staff at the Weymouth Cemetery for their help and co-operation with the site visit.

Recommended

That the notes of the meeting of the Site Visits held on 9 August 2022 be agreed.

17. 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 agreed that any further trees offered by the developer of the County Hospital should be accepted.

Members felt that it would be worthwhile having an article in the spring Newsletter about the Gardens having a borehole.

General concern was expressed regarding the future of the town's tree stock due to the number of serious tree diseases presently in circulation.

Recommended

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

18. Grant Feedback

Members welcomed feedback from Dorchester Family Support who had received a grant from the Town Council.

Over 150 families had received help during the summer with over £19,000 spent on food. Sufficient funds were also available to support families at Christmas.

It was noted that there were other partners involved in the programme and Members felt that it would be good for those partners to be included in future feedback.

19. Summer Events 2022 Feedback

Members had before them a report by the Town Clerk on the 2022 summer events programme.

The Committee felt that the Council should publicise its support for events as much as possible. Members also wished to thank staff for organising and attending many events over the summer.

Recommended

That the report be welcomed.

20. Salisbury Fields

The Committee considered whether the Salisbury Fields metal picnic table should be removed or relocated. Some local residents had reported issues of anti-social behaviour around the area of the picnic table. Other local residents had requested additional picnic tables.

Members felt that a meeting should be held with Ward Councillors, local residents and the police. It was noted that a similar meeting was also to be arranged in respect of Mellstock Avenue play area and it might be that the meetings could be held on the same day.

Recommended

That the matter be considered further following a meeting with local residents and the police.

21. **Proposed Radio Base Station at Lubbecke Way**

The Committee considered correspondence from Clarke Telecom who were consulting on a proposal to install a radio base station on Council owned land at the river bank along Lubbecke Way.

Whilst accepting the benefits of a quality mobile network it was felt that the location proposed on a green river bank was not acceptable.

Recommended

That Clarke Telecom be informed that the Council does not agree to the proposed location on the river bank at Lubbecke Way but that if they wished to meet to discuss alternative options then that would be welcomed.

22. **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.

Recommended

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.

Recommended

That the action of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 5289 to 5297 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(c) **Fordington Cemetery**

The Committee considered correspondence in respect of the grass cutting regime at Fordington Cemetery. Members noted the concerns expressed and proposed that paths be cut, on request, so as to enable access to graves for regular visitors to the cemetery. It was noted that the grass was only allowed to grow from April and was then cut towards the end of July.

Recommended

That paths be cut, on request, so as to enable access to individual graves for regular visitors to the cemetery.

Chairman.....

Notes of a Site Visit held on 9 August 2022 at 9.30am.

Sites visited – Borough Gardens and Weymouth Crematorium Cemetery, Weymouth.

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

Steve Newman, Town Clerk.

Carl Dallison, Outdoor Services Manager.

1. Borough Gardens

The Group viewed the Borough Gardens House externally and in particular the Community Room. Members were advised of the Climate Emergency proposals for the House which included Air Source Heat Pumps and Solar. It was noted that the heat pumps would also be used to heat the greenhouses. **Those present were very supportive of the proposals.**

It was reported that the Garden's staff were continuing to use the community room due to the lack of suitable space at the facility building.

The Group then viewed the facility building and noted that the space afforded to the staff was significantly lacking. The Outdoor Services Manager reported that it might be possible to extend the building slightly without it becoming overbearing in the Garden's setting. The small extension would allow for sufficient space for staff and this would then enable the staff to move back to that building and allow the community room to be refurbished and available to hire once again.

Members agreed that plans should be drawn up for consideration by the Management Committee.

2. Visit to Weymouth Crematorium and Cemetery, Quibo Lane, Weymouth

Members viewed the various different options for memorialisation's which were offered by the Cemetery. These included various plaque designs, kerb plaques, tree plaques, tablets, above ground columbarium's and more.

Whilst it was felt that the Council would not wish to offer all of the options on view it was felt that some consideration might be given to allowing plaques on the wall at Poundbury Cemetery in addition to the existing kerb plaques. Other options may be considered at a later date or if requests were received from residents.

Meeting closed 11.51pm.