

Dorchester Town Council

Policy Committee

20 September 2016

Present: Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall (Chairman), A. Chisholm, S. Hosford, T. Jones and P. Stein.

Also present: Councillors J. Hewitt & M. Rennie

Apologies: Mayor T. Harries and Councillor R. Biggs and G. Jones

7. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Committee of 19 July 2016, adopted by Council on 26 July 2016, were taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

8. **Financial Report 2016-17**

The Town Clerk provided an update covering the Council's Month 5 spend in relation to the budget, and the current debt and payments position. He responded to a question regarding the salaries budget and profiling.

Resolved

- a) That the Payments list totalling £214,985.97 is approved
- b) That the Photocopying budget be reduced to £4,500

9. **Corporate Plan – Key Events since last full Update in May 2016**

The Committee received a report covering progress on Corporate Plan projects.

A member asked the Town Clerk to consider the HLF's Townscape Heritage Initiative as an alternative to the Great Places Fund. The Committee asked that the Town Clerk seek further information regarding the decision of the LEP to reject the two expressions of interest which had been submitted to them.

Noting progress on the Trinity St Tennis Courts Affordable Housing scheme the Committee appointed Councillors Armstrong-Marshall and Chisholm to observe the next phases of development.

It was noted that there had been an under spend of £70,000 on Phase 1 of The Walks refurbishment project, with no pressing need to accelerate later phases of the project.

The Committee noted the potential to supplement the proposed paving works in South Street and asked that further work be undertaken to evaluate options for additional paving works, adding the Cornhill to those already covered in the report.

Recommended to Council

That an additional £70,000 is made available to improve paving in South Street, with options for its use to be presented back to the Committee

The Town Clerk identified the need to determine whether to progress a Neighbourhood Plan for Dorchester and undertake work to understand the impact of the West Dorset Local Plan on housing development in and around the town. Two District Councillors present undertook to raise the issue at a forthcoming West Dorset District Council member briefing.

10. **Poundbury Cemetery Capital Infrastructure**

The Town Clerk explained the background to the need for phase 2 of the cemetery infrastructure works to be commissioned.

A member of the Committee identified that the original design had involved extensive discussions with the Duchy of Cornwall. The Town Clerk confirmed he would review the original agreement as part of the process of briefing an architect for the scheme.

Resolved

That a procurement process is undertaken to engage an Architect, who would revise the plans, obtain planning approval, develop a contract specification and tender for phase 2 infrastructure works

11. **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.

12. **Dorchester TIC- consultation on options presented by West Dorset District Council**

The Committee considered options proposed for the future delivery of the TIC service.

While expressing dissatisfaction with elements of the consultation process and some of the options that had been rejected by the District Council the Committee recognised the District Council's need to reduce its costs.

Recommended to Council

That the Town Council supports the proposal of the District Council to transfer the TIC to Dorchester Library

The Committee discussed the long term delivery of tourism information services.

Resolved

That the Town Council consider its role in facilitating the longer term delivery of a TIC when it next reviewed its Corporate Plan

Chairman