

# **Dorchester Town Council**

## **Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council**

**29 September 2015**

**Present:** Mayor R. Potter and Councillors C. Biggs, R. Biggs, A. Canning, A. Chisholm, G. Duke, T. Harries, J. Hewitt, G. Jones, S. Jones, T. Jones, T. Loakes, K. Rice and D. Taylor.

**Apologies:** Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, S. Hosford, F. Kent-Ledger, A. Lyall, M. Rennie and P. Stein

### **21. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Meeting of Council held on 21 July 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### **22. Communications & Questions**

The Chairman of the Youth Council indicated their support for the Borough Gardens project and asked that further consideration be given to crazy golf and a climbing boulder. The Youth Council also expressed support for the retention of bollards in the town centre to ensure public safety.

A questions was been received in accordance with Standing Order 12(3). Councillor G. Duke explained the background to his question, including his personal experience of the sometimes dreadful consequences for some refugees migrating to Europe. He then asked the following question

“Could some thought be given as to what practical steps Dorchester Town Council can undertake to help the organisations in our community who are working to ease the suffering of those affected by the Refugee crisis and also to prepare to welcome any refugees who eventually settle in the town?”

Several Councillors spoke in support of the question. The Mayor invited the Town Clerk to prepare a report to a future meeting in response to the question.

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors of arrangements for Remembrance Day on 8 November and confirmed his intention to arrange Theme Groups to facilitate discussions regarding the Corporate Plan on Tuesday 13 and a date the following week.

23. **Planning and Environment Committee – 3 August 2015**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 3 August 2015 be adopted.

24. **Planning and Environment Committee – 7 September 2015**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7 September 2015 be adopted.

25. **Management Committee – 15 September 2015**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 15 September 2015 be adopted.

26. **Special Planning and Environment Committee – 21 September 2015**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

A Councillor asked about the likelihood of a Household Recycling Centre being funded. The Town Clerk confirmed his understanding that a new site was a low priority for the Dorset Waste Partnership at the present time and that it was unlikely that any new site would be delivered in the short-medium term.

A Councillor asked for and received clarification of a minute in regard to site WD05 Stinsford Hill.

**Resolved**

- a) That Dorset County Council is advised that Dorchester Town Council:
  - i) Supports development of a Household Recycling Centre outside of the town;
  - ii) Considers that site WD05 – Stinsford Hill – is their first option for a Household Recycling Centre and Waste

Transfer Facility with suitable mitigation to protect impact on the landscape environment. Second option would be WD02 – Old Radio Station and third option would be WD01 – Monkeys Jump with mitigation measures to protect the AONB;

- iii) Supports WD04 – Charminster Depot as the Vehicle Depot;
- iv) Does not support the use of WD07 – Louds Mill – for any use as a future waste site.

- b) That, subject to an amendment for clarification, the minutes of the meeting of the Special Planning and Environment Committee held on 29 June 2015 be adopted.

## 27. **Policy Committee – 22 September 2015**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

### **Resolved**

- a) That, at Minute 9, the Annual Return for 2014/15 is approved and accepted
- b) That, at Minute 15, when the current funding arrangement from West Dorset District Council comes to an end, Dorchester Town Council should focus on encouraging community development with key partners within the town, rather than becoming directly involved in a Partnership covering a much wider area
- c) That, also at Minute 15, the Town Clerk should continue discussions with West Dorset District Council about how this new arrangement might fit within an overall framework for Community Enabling within the district
- d) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 22 September 2015 be adopted

## 28. **Report of the Police Inspector**

Inspector Marsh provided recent crime data for the Dorchester and Sherborne area. Noting a significant increase in recorded crime figures he identified that the crime recording process had recently been revised to a new national model, one feature of which was that crime volumes appeared to increase. This pattern had been reflected across rural Dorset.

He identified increases in commercial, non-commercial and domestic burglary, theft and criminal damage, while noting reductions in assaults and domestic violence. Key areas of concern included commercial burglaries in the town, theft and shoplifting. He also noted action taken against drug dealing within the addict community.

Finally Inspector Marsh identified concerns regarding a future announcement of central government funding and the implications for local policing.

Questions were then asked regarding the relationship between drugs and theft crimes, alcohol sales to minors, the use of CCTV in detecting crime and the attitude of national supermarkets to shoplifting.

## 29. **Council Governance Review**

Council gave consideration to the report of the Town Clerk, which provided feedback received from Members and Committees during the Governance review.

Council discussed the findings, in particular relating to creating opportunities for all Councillors to play an active role in the work of the Council by limiting the period of time any one Member would be appointed to a specific role. Members also considered the merits of holding public question time at the beginning or end of the Council meeting.

### **Resolved**

- a) That the Town Clerk produce new Standing Orders encompassing the changes discussed in the report
- b) That a Public Speaking Time be introduced at the beginning of each Council meeting to allow the public to comment on matters on the agenda
- c) That Committees make appropriate arrangements for discharging the duties of any discontinued Panels and Management Committee appoints the membership of the Committee Activities Panel
- d) That, as a general principle, when making appointments to Chairmanships, Joint Committees and Outside Bodies, an appointment should not extend beyond four consecutive years without a clearly stated justification being given

The Council rose at 8.20pm.

Mayor