

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

27 November 2018

Present: Mayor D. Taylor and Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, R. Biggs, A. Canning, A. Chisholm, G. Duke, T. Harries, J. Hewitt, S. Hosford, G. Jones, S. Jones, T. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, R. Potter, M. Rennie and K. Rice.

Apologies: Councillors C. Biggs and A. Lyall.

30. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 September 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

A Councillor asked for an update regarding the potential for charging for vehicles that use the town centre and it was confirmed that a report was in preparation for a DTEP meeting in January 2019.

Councillor T. Jones provided an update regarding the Waste and Minerals Local Plan, indicating that, in the event that new development took place north of Dorchester, this was likely to lead to a repositioning of the current Household Recycling Centre.

31. Communications & Questions

Councillor S. Jones provided feedback from a meeting with the Youth Council. The Youth Council expressed support for the Plastic Free Campaign and were continuing with fundraising for a toilet in Africa. A drop-in session for potential new members was scheduled for 13 December.

The Mayor thanked all those involved in the Remembrance events, both on the Sunday and at the preceding Homecoming event. The sentiment was echoed by a number of Members and the Poppy Trail was also commended. In response to a question it was confirmed that a plaque would be provided to explain the relevance of the new commemorative statue opposite the War Memorial.

The Mayor highlighted the forthcoming Carols in the Garden event on 20 December and a Member highlighted the timing of Gender Based Violence fortnight. He also gave details of his successful visit to the twin town of Lubbecke.

The Council considered a question from Councillor Chisholm regarding occupancy of properties on the Poundbury development, after he highlighted its relevance to the debate on future housing provision. Members invited the Town Clerk to instead pursue enquiries regarding underoccupancy on a town-wide basis.

Several Members highlighted concerns regarding Policing in the town and invited the Town Clerk to press for local contact. A Member indicated a meeting was about to

be held regarding specific recent concerns in North Ward.

32. Updates from Partner Authorities

Councillor A. Canning provided an update regarding the work of Dorset County Council. He explained that delays to the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders at Lubbecke Way and Victoria Road were related to staffing issues. He highlighted plans to apply for HLF grant for improvements at the Roman Town House. He provided an update regarding Local Government Reorganisation, including the financial pressure the new Council would face and progress on tier 2 interviews.

Councillor S. Jones highlighted issues under consideration at West Dorset District Council, reporting concerns that in its final few months the Council would progressively lose control to the new Shadow Authority, citing the recent problems associated with Asset Transfers.

She also contrasted the resources that the District Council was putting in to a masterplan for the centre of Dorchester with the lack of action by the District Council to safeguard key historic buildings on High Street. Council requested the Town Clerk to contact the District Council to invite them to consider whether two specific buildings were at risk.

33. Planning and Environment Committee – 1 October 2018

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes be adopted. Noting the comments made in the County Councillor Partner Authority update a Member emphasised an urgent need for progress on TROs at Lubbecke Way.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 1 October 2018 be adopted.

34. Planning and Environment Committee – 5 November 2018

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. The Chairman noted that, following Councillor Hewitt's appointment at Management Committee, minute 45. was now a resolved item.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 5 November 2018 be adopted.

35. Management Committee – 13 November 2018

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. Two misspellings were corrected and the Chairman noted the appointment of Councillors Kent-Ledger and Lyall to a Task and Finish Group at minute 39.

Resolved

- i) That the Council supports the journey for Dorchester to achieve Plastic Free Community status

- ii) That Councillor S. Jones be appointed to sit on the Plastic Free Status Steering Group once it is established
- iii) That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 13 November 2018 be adopted.

36. Policy Committee – 20 November 2018

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

A Member reiterated the need for information regarding partner funding contributions to the Dorchester West Station Access Ramp. Several members commended the initiative at minute 19 to use and deliver clean energy.

Resolved

- i) That the certified Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2018 is approved and accepted
- ii) That with regard to the Strategic and Operational Risk Registers
 - a. The three risk scores related to GDPR, competition at the Municipal Buildings and football at Weymouth Avenue Recreation Ground be lowered
 - b. That a new risk relating to the future management of the Market be introduced to the Risk Register and the scoring of IT security risks be reviewed
 - c. That the Risk Registers, as a whole, be approved
- iii) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 20 November 2018 be adopted.

37. Future Warding Arrangements for Dorchester

Council noted a report of the Town Clerk regarding the final outcome for new Council warding arrangements to take effect in May 2019. A Member expressed the hope that it would not lead to a situation where Poundbury was not fully integrated into the town.

The Council rose at 7.50pm.

Mayor

At public question time after the meeting a resident provided their views regarding policy DOR 15 of the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Draft Local Plan, which led to general discussion regarding the policy and the ideas being advocated.