

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

27 JUNE 2016

At the Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 27 June 2016:

PRESENT:

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| Dorchester Town Council | Councillors: C. Biggs T. Loakes |
| | Officer: S. Newman |
| West Dorset District Council | Councillor: A. Canning (Chairman) J. Dunseith S. Jones |
| Dorset County Council | Councillor: R.M. Biggs |
| Dorchester Association | J. Smith |
| Dorchester Civic Society | P. Mann |
| Dorchester Chamber for Business | A. Chisholm |
| Dorchester Local Nature Reserve | C.M. Hebditch |
| Dorchester Shire Hall | A. Bright |

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from S. Lloyd-Jacob (West Dorset District Council), Dr J. Murden (Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society) and Councillor T. Jones (Dorset County Council).

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That Councillor A. Canning be elected Chairman for the remainder of the 2016-17 Council Year.

3. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That Councillor S. Jones be elected Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the 2016-17 Council Year.

4. **NEW MEMBERS**

The Committee welcomed new Members to the Committee – Councillor Tamara Loakes, Dorchester Town Council and Anna Bright, Director of Shire Hall project.

5. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2016, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

6. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

7. **A BOARDS**

Members received the notes of the meeting, held on 20 May 2016, to discuss the proliferation of A Boards in the town. The Committee was disappointed that, as there had been no consensus and that the County Council did not have the resources available for enforcement, it would be extremely difficult to introduce a new regime at the present time. It was noted that the County Council would continue to investigate action on boards which were reported to them and/or caused an obstruction. The County Council would also write to all businesses reminding them of their obligation for not obstructing the highway and that the businesses must have appropriate public liability insurance.

Some Members felt that well designed, easy to change, ladder boards could be a solution and the representative from the Civic Society reported that the Civic Society was investigating good practice in other towns which could provide a solution.

It was reluctantly agreed that no further action would be taken at present but that the County Council should follow up the consultation with a press release with regard to the outcome.

RESOLVED

(1) That the notes of the A Board meeting held on 20 May 2016 be received.

(2) That Dorset County Council be requested to issue a press release in regard to the outcome of the consultation.

8. **DORSET COUNTY MUSEUM**

Conservation Management Plan

The Committee noted the response of the working group to the draft Conservation Management Plan for Dorset County Museum. Members thanked the group for an excellent response.

Tomorrow's Museum for Dorset

Members were informed that Dorset County Museum would be holding a briefing for Town Councillors on Tuesday 28 June between 6.00pm and 7.00pm at the Museum. The briefing would include discussion on the transformation of the Museum and 'Tomorrow's Museum' for the Hardy Collection and Archaeology Collection. Members were invited to attend should they wish.

9. **2015-16 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Members considered the Committee's Statement of Accounts for 2015-16.

RESOLVED

That the 2015-16 Statement of Accounts be received.

10. **INFORMATION SIGNS**

Dorchester South and West Railway Stations

The Committee was reminded that at the last meeting it was agreed that investigations be made into the possibility of having signage at the railway stations based on the signs used in the town's car parks. The signs would be suitable and an approach had been made to West Dorset District Council to see if they could be amended. The anticipated cost for the two amended signs would be in the region of £500. Members agreed that this should be pursued.

Maumbury Rings

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that Historic England had approved the revised wording of the boards and their location – formal approval was expected shortly and the boards could then be installed.

Kings Road Steam Roller

Members were informed that the information Board had been produced and would be installed this summer.

White Hart Development High East Street

The Committee welcomed that the developer had agreed and funded an information board at the White Hart. The board had been written by Kate Hebditch on behalf of the Committee.

RESOLVED

That the progress with the various information boards be welcomed.

11. **DORCHESTER TIC**

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on the future of Dorchester's TIC.

It was noted that Dorchester's TIC was now unlikely to be moved to Shire Hall from Antelope Walk as was the original plan dating back to 2015. It was reported that the reason for this move potentially not happening was because of the lack of funding available from WDDC to support that service both short and long term with Shire Hall, quite rightly, wishing to focus its resources on its core business offer rather than subsidising a town wide facility.

The option being considered at present was to house the TIC within South Walks House offices. The Committee felt strongly that this option was not the best way forward due to its poor location and risk that the identity of the TIC, and long term funding, might be lost. Before any decision was made it was felt that WDDC should consider other options including a more suitable location, alternative ways of providing the service, maybe with volunteers, having a more commercial model or seeking financial support from the business community who all benefited from the TIC. There was also concern regarding the lack of consultation about the TIC's future – rumour and concern was rife around the town and some confirmation of WDDC's intentions on a proposed way forward would be welcomed.

It was noted that the Town Council had also recently discussed this matter and noted that as a precursor to any decision being made on the long term delivery of a TIC in the town, clarity was required over future funding and the Town Council had requested clarification of WDDC's intentions in this regard.

RESOLVED

That a letter be sent to West Dorset District Council and copied to the Dorchester BID, Dorchester Chamber for Business, Heritage Tourism Forum Members and the Chairman of the West Dorset Overview and Scrutiny Committee setting out the Committee's concerns as described above.

12. **A NEW NATIONAL PARK FOR DORSET AND EAST DEVON**

Following a request from a Member the Committee considered information regarding a proposal for a new National Park for Dorset and East Devon. It was noted that the proposal presently did not include Dorchester but did about its southern side. This could be detrimental to how the town might have to expand. The Committee felt that it was likely to be beneficial for the town to be included within the park but felt that it should consider the matter further prior to any decision.

RESOLVED

That representatives from the Dorset and East Devon National Park Team be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to explain the proposal further.

13. **QUESTIONS**

No formal questions had been submitted.

14. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 19 September 2016 commencing at 7.00pm.