

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL

DORCHESTER JOINT HERITAGE COMMITTEE

16 OCTOBER 2017

At the Meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee held on 16 October 2017:

PRESENT:

Dorchester Town Council	Councillor:	C. Biggs
	Officer:	S. Newman
West Dorset District Council	Councillors:	A. Canning (Chairman)
		J. Dunseith
Blue Badge Tourist Guides		T. Loasby
Dorchester Association		J. Smith
Dorchester Civic Society		P. Mann

17. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from S. Jones (West Dorset District Council), G. Jones (Dorchester Town Council) and R. Biggs (Dorset County Council), A. Chisholm (Dorchester Chamber for Business), C. Hebditch (Dorchester Local Nature Reserve), J. Murden (Dorset Natural history and Archaeological Society), A. Bright (Shire Hall) and C. Copson (The Keep Military Museum).

18. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2017, a copy of which had been circulated, were confirmed and signed.

19. **DECLARATIONS OF PRE-DETERMINATION**

There were no declarations of pre-determination.

20. **ROMAN TOWN HOUSE**

The Committee welcomed Steve Wallis and Ken Buchan from Dorset County Council who gave a presentation on a proposed project to improve the setting of the Roman Town House. The County Council was seeking to submit a lottery application to help address a number of issues which had been identified in respect of the covering structure, drainage, interpretation, promotion, access etc. Members were supportive of the application and the ideas for improvement that were proposed. The County Council was drawing up a consultation form which would be forwarded to the Committee when it was available.

Members felt that it was important for all of the town's heritage assets to be shown at their best and that the new wayfinding signage should help identify the location so as to help visitors find the attraction, a new access to the site from Colliton Walk would also help visitors locate the Town House. With regard to interpretation it was felt that a link with other Roman sites would help link Dorchester's Roman story together.

In supporting the proposed application the Committee agreed that it would be willing to make a small financial contribution to the project.

RESOLVED

That the grant application and proposals for improvement to the Roman Town House be supported.

21. **THE REAL TOWN TOURS – DORCHESTER APP**

The Committee welcomed Phil Gordon from Dorchester BID to the meeting who updated Members on the Town Tours App and discussed how the Committee could work with the BID and the developer to develop the App further. The Cost of adding another trail to the App was likely to be in the region of £1,000. It was noted that there was potential to add a number of trails which could include the existing town trails, the proposed new WW1 trail, a Roman trail and a public art trail to name but a few.

Members felt that the success of the App should be monitored and that it would be helpful to publicise it as much as possible.

RESOLVED

That the possibility of adding other trails to the App be considered again at some stage in the future.

22. **PEDESTRIAN WAYFINDING SIGNS**

The Committee was advised that the contract for the Pedestrian Wayfinding scheme had now been let to Wood and Wood signs. An initial meeting and walkabout had been planned for 27 October. From this meeting a strategy report would be drafted for consideration by the Committee. All Members were invited to attend this important meeting.

In considering this matter Members also had before them a report which detailed how Chichester District Council had dealt with the issue of A Board proliferation in the town. The Committee noted that Chichester had used Planning legislation to deal with the issue and hoped that a similar approach could be taken in Dorchester.

RESOLVED

That the various authorities be requested to give further consideration to the proliferation of A Boards in the town using the Chichester model as a basis for progress.

23. **NAPPERS MITE CLOCK**

The Committee was informed that horologists Graham and Debbie Bebington from Clox on Time had repaired the internal motor of Nappers Mite clock, free of charge, and had volunteered to help restore the clock fully. To this end Officers had met with them and a project plan was agreed as follows:-

Clock Dials to be re-painted – to be undertaken by local sign writer – cost £550
New clock hands – to be made by specialist contractor – approximate maximum cost £600
Fettle the drum repaint and new clock face retaining braces - £200
Remove and re-erect clock – Clox on Time – free of charge
Cherry Picker Hire - £450

The Committee supported the project and agreed to make a grant of £200 to cover some of the costs. It was noted that Dorchester BID had also offered a contribution of £200.

RESOLVED

That the clock restoration project be supported and that a contribution of £200 be made to the project.

24. **HERITAGE TOURISM**

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on the Town Council's proposal to bring the heritage and tourism sectors together to start a dialogue on how the town could maximise the benefits from all the individual initiatives that were happening in the town such as the development of Shire Hall, Dorset County Museum, The Keep Military Museum etc. Two short meetings would be called involving key representatives of the heritage and business sector together with Officers from West Dorset District Council and the Town Council. Ideas from the meetings would be fed back through the Chamber for Business, Dorchester BID, the Councils and the Heritage Tourism formed last year. An update report would be presented to the January 2018 meeting of the Heritage Committee.

RESOLVED

That the proposals set out in the report be supported.

25. **INFORMATION SIGNS - UPDATE**

Frink Sculpture

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Frink information board was presently being updated following the comments made by the Committee at its last meeting. Once updated the new information board would be installed on the existing posts.

26. **QUESTIONS**

No formal questions had been submitted.

27. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Dorchester Association representative reported that there was to be an unveiling of a plaque in memory of the founder of the Mill Street Mission at Edwards Court on Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 2.30pm, all welcome.

28. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 22 January 2018 commencing at 7.00pm.

Chairman:

Dated: