

Dorchester Town Council

Management Committee

11 September 2018

Present: The Mayor (Councillor D. Taylor) and Councillors A. Canning, J. Hewitt, F. Kent-Ledger, T. Loakes, R. Potter, M. Rennie and K. Rice (Vice-Chairman in the Chair).

In Attendance

Councillor T. Harries.

D. Kippin, Activate Performing Arts.

Apologies: Councillors C. Biggs, G. Duke, and S. Jones.

13. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 10 July 2018, adopted by Council on 24 July 2018, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14. **Site Visits to Council Owned Properties and Sites**

The Committee considered the notes of the site visit, to which all Members of the Council had been invited, held on 21 August 2018 (Appendix 1 to these minutes).

Resolved

That the notes of the site visit be received.

15. **Management Arrangements – Outdoor Services**

The Committee considered a report from the Outdoor Services Manager updating it on the work undertaken and the achievements made by the Outdoor Services Team since the last meeting of the Committee. The Outdoor Services Manager responded to Members detailed questions.

Members noted that the work to build the boundary wall and internal pathways at Poundbury Cemetery had commenced and requested that some additional signage be erected to explain to users what was happening.

The Committee wished to thank the outdoor services staff for all their hard work over the summer period.

Resolved

That the Outdoor Services Team update be noted.

16. **Biodiversity Statement and Action Plan 2018-2023**

In pursuance of Council Minute No. 10(i)/2018 the Committee gave further consideration to the draft Biodiversity Statement and Action Plan 2018-2023 following the consultation period on the initial draft Plan. Members considered the revised Plan together with a covering report from the Outdoor Services Manager which set out the consultations and revisions made to the initial draft Plan.

Members agreed to recommend the Statement to Full Council for adoption and requested that an article about it be put into a future Town Council newsletter and that the consultees be thanked for their helpful input.

Recommended

That the revised Biodiversity Statement and Action Plan 2018-2023 be adopted.

17. **Inside Out Dorset 2018**

The Committee considered a request for funding towards the Dorchester based element of the 2018 Inside Out Dorset Festival which was being presented by Activate Performing Arts. A representative from Activate gave a presentation in support of the request and responded to Members detailed questions regarding the event.

Resolved

That a contribution of £1,000 be made to the Dorchester based element of the 2018 Inside Out Dorset Festival.

18. **Grant Application**

The Committee considered a request for financial assistance from the Dorchester Area Family Partnership Zone.

Resolved

That the grant application from Dorchester Area Family Partnership Zone in the sum of £500 be not agreed.

19. **Cemetery Matters**

(a) **Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes**

The Committee had before it a report with details of the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces and the number of interments and burials of ashes together with South Chapel usage at Dorchester Cemetery, since the last meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

That the report on the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

(b) Headstones and Inscriptions

The Committee received and noted applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions.

Resolved

That the action of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 5020 to 5035 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

20. **Buildings Monitoring Reports**

The Committee received the monitoring reports for the Municipal Buildings and Borough Gardens House. The work to paint the internal Corn Exchange lobby and replace the static notice board was noted.

Resolved

That the Buildings Monitoring Reports be noted.

21. **Dorchester Arts**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Dorchester Arts Board meeting held on 7 August 2018.

Chairman

Notes of a Site Visit held on 21 August 2018 at 5.00pm.

Sites visited – Fordington Cemetery, Open space at Red Cow Farm, St George’s Road allotments and Louds Mill Depot.

Attending: Councillors T Harries, J. Hewitt, S. Jones and T. Jones.

Steve Newman, Deputy Town Clerk.

Carl Dallison, Outdoor Services Manager.

1. Fordington Cemetery

The Outdoor Services Manager explained to Members the proposals within the emerging Biodiversity Plan for creating additional wildflower and habitat spaces within the cemetery. Members were shown a number of wildflowers already within the cemetery and the areas most likely to be identified for progressing this matter. A full report identifying areas and plans to inform the public would be presented to Management Committee in due course. It was noted that creating this type of habitat would mean that the grasses in those areas would only be cut once or twice a year.

The Group supported the idea of creating some more natural and diverse wildflower habitats in the cemetery subject to full details being presented to a future Committee meeting.

2. Open Space at Red Cow Farm and St George’s Road Allotments

The Group visited the new allotment site and open space at Red Cow Farm. It was noted that the area had not been transferred to the Town Council as yet. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the community group which had come forward to operate the new allotment site in the area seemed to have lost interest. At present the Council had a number of vacant allotment plots around the town. Members were also informed of the idea of possibly creating a wildlife walk from King’s Road Playing Fields all along Lubbecke Way. Members were disappointed that the woodland area that had been planted as a part of the development had largely died.

Members felt that the Duchy of Cornwall should be encouraged to transfer the land to the Town Council as soon as possible so as to enable it to be managed in an appropriate way.

The Group noted that the notice board at the St George’s Road allotment site would be moved to a more appropriate position and the gated entrance closest to St George’s Road would have the slope reduced enabling better access to that end of the allotments.

3. Louds Mill Depot

Members visited the Louds Mill Depot and noted its facilities. The Group felt that the depot was a very useful facility and was still in good condition.

Meeting closed 6.50pm.