

Dorchester Town Council

Policy Committee

19 July 2016

Present: Mayor T. Harries and Councillors B. Armstrong-Marshall, R. Biggs, S. Hosford, G. Jones (Chairman), T. Jones and P. Stein.

Also present: Councillor J. Hewitt, Louise Sheaves of Dorchester Arts Board

Declarations of Interest: Councillor R. Biggs declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of the new Dorchester Youth Centre (Minute 3)

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Committee of 17 May 2016, adopted by Council on 24 May 2016, were taken as read and confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. Financial Report 2016-17

The Town Clerk provided an update covering the Council's Month 3 spend in relation to the budget, a decision to invest £1.0M in the Payden and Rygel Sterling Reserve Fund and the current debt and payments position.

He responded to questions regarding the security of assets held in the Payden and Rygel Fund and there was general support for continuing with the planned investment.

Resolved

That the Payments list totalling £181,032.60 is approved

3. Corporate Plan – Key Events since last full Update in May 2016

The Committee received a report covering progress on projects included in the Corporate Plan.

The Town Clerk updated the meeting with the news that neither of the two projects submitted as Expressions of Interest as part of the national Growth Deal 3 programme would be taken further by the Dorset LEP. A report on the impact of this decision on the Heritage Tourism in Dorchester project will be made to a future meeting.

Having previously undertaken a site visit on The Walks the Committee indicated it was open to considering how, as an alternative to speeding up the delivery of further phases of The Walks programme, the savings arising from reduced cost of implementing the programme might be used to expand the works planned for South Street. The Town Clerk will report on options to the September Committee.

The Committee considered a request for a grant from Dorset County Museum, based on the information received at the presentation made by the Museum on 28 June. They also noted that there might be potential for a long term loan towards the project.

Recommended to Council

That a grant of £25,000 is made to the Dorset County Museum, with conditions to be agreed between the Town Clerk and the Museum Director.

Resolved

That the Town Clerk explores, with West Dorset District Council and other parties, how the Town Council might facilitate a loan to the County Museum, secured against future s106 payments from Poundbury Phase 3/4.

4. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Town Clerk introduced a new document, based on NALC models, noting key variances to the NALC templates on which the draft document is based.

Recommended to Council

That the draft Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, included on pages 9 – 20 of the Policy Committee Agenda (available for viewing on the Council website) be adopted

5. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Resolved

That, in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest, by reason of the confidential nature of the following matters, the public and press representatives be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

6. Dorchester Arts and The Maltings

Louise Sheaves, Chair of Dorchester Arts Board, provided an update on The Maltings project. The Committee was appreciative of the update and was generally supportive of the direction being advocated.

Resolved

That the Town Council sponsor discussions with key players involved in the project to understand the level of support for the direction that the project is taking, and subject to a positive outcome of those discussions, provides financial support to a maximum of £8,400, for a feasibility study into the delivery of the project.

Chairman