

Dorchester Town Council

Policy Committee

22 July 2024

Present: The Mayor (Councillor R. Potter) and Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles (Chairman), V. Lloyd-Jones, K. Reid and R. Ricardo.

In Attendance

Councillors W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, S. Jones and D. Leaper.

Apologies: Councillors J. Germodo and D. Taylor.

1. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 March 2024, adopted by Council on 25 March 2024, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Finance Update**

Members considered a report by the Finance Officer which updated them on the financial position of the Council as at end of June 2024, the level of debt over 30 days and gave details of the payments list from 1 March 2024 to 30 June 2024.

The report also included details of the Council's third and final internal audit held in April 2024. The recommendations of the internal auditor and officers responses to them were noted.

The Committee was pleased to note that the Municipal Buildings Business Rates had been refunded as a result of the revised lease with Dorchester Arts.

Resolved

- (1) That the payments list, totalling £782,463.93 be approved.
- (2) That the report of the internal auditor and officer responses to them be noted.

4. **Sustainable Lifestyles Project**

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on a sustainable lifestyles project being run by the Duchy of Cornwall using Giki a Social Enterprise company.

The proposed plan included launching the project at Anonymous festival on Bank Holiday Monday and involving as many community groups as possible.

Members noted that the data collection was via an App and felt that it would be helpful if non IT users could be involved somehow, maybe via the library service.

Resolved

That the project be supported.

5. Municipal Buildings Front of House Project

The Committee considered a joint report by the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer which set out proposals for funding the Municipal Buildings Front of House project.

Members expressed their disappointment that the application to the Shared Prosperity Fund had been unsuccessful. It was noted that Dorchester Arts may be able to apply for some grant funding towards the project.

Resolved

- (1) That £209,000 be allocated to the project from the Corporate Projects reserve.
- (2) That a £30,000 opportunity wins budget be allocated from the Corporate Projects reserve with any payments from that reserve being first approved by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

6. Corporate Plan Update

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk which enclosed an updated version of the Council's approved high level Corporate Plan.

The Town Clerk responded to Members detailed questions.

Resolved

That the updated high level Corporate Plan be approved.

7. Corporate Plan 2025-29

Members considered a report by the Town Clerk which set out a process for developing a new Corporate Plan for the period 2025-29. The Committee felt that consideration should be given as to where the Affordable Housing priority should sit within the new Plan.

Resolved

- (1) That the process and timeline for developing a new Corporate Plan for the Council, as set out in the report of the Town Clerk, be agreed.
- (2) That a Task and Finish group be established to include the Mayor plus four or five Members to be chosen at the next Full Council meeting.

8. Corporate Gifts / Tokens

Members had before them a report by the Town Clerk setting out proposals for a three tier system of corporate gifts as follows:-

- Level 1 – The existing Town Seal pin badge.
- Level 2 – A metal token / coin with the Town Seal on the front with the words 'The Seal of the Bailiffs of Dorchester' 'Dorchester Town Council' on the reverse. Approximately 40mm in diameter.
- Level 3 – Reintroduce the aluminium cast medallion of the Town Seal. This can be standalone but could also be used mounted in a frame. Approximately 78mm in diameter.

The Committee agreed that 200 of the level 2 gifts and 100 of the level 3 gifts should be purchased.

Resolved

That 200 of the level 2 gifts and 100 of the level 3 gifts be purchased.

9. War Memorial – Additional inscription

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk on a request from a member of the public for Captain L.E. Queripel's name to be added to the town's War Memorial. Captain Queripel had been killed in action at the Battle of Arnhem in 1944 and was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. He had been born in the manor house at Winterborne Monkton on 13 July 1920 and spent the first six years growing up in Dorchester.

Resolved

That a plaque be erected on the War Memorial in respect of Captain L.E. Queripel VC.

10. Town Pump Project

The Committee had before it a report by the Town Clerk on a proposal from the Civic Society to restore a water supply to the Town Pump.

Members supported the proposal for a water supply, tap and basin being attached to the Town Pump (subject to the necessary permissions) and for the Town Council being responsible for its ongoing maintenance and testing.

Resolved

- (1) That the project for a water supply, tap and basin being attached to the Town Pump be supported with the Town Council being responsible for its ongoing maintenance and testing.
- (2) That a further report be presented to the Committee in due course with design proposals and funding arrangements.

11. Community Implementation Plan

Members considered a report by the Community Development Officer which gave a six month review of progress against the priorities set out in the Plan.

The Committee felt that there was a juxtaposition within the Housing section of the plan in regard to providing local housing and supporting the STAND campaign. Members felt that some further explanation would be helpful.

Resolved

That the review be noted.

12. 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.

13. Dorchester Ballet and Dance

The Committee considered a report by the Town Clerk.

Resolved

That the proposal set out in paragraph 4 of the report be agreed.

Chairman.....