

Dorchester Town Council

Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

25 November 2024

Present: The Mayor (Councillor R. Potter) and Councillors R. Biggs, S. Biles, P. Farmer, L. Fry, J. Germodo, W. Gibbons, F. Hogwood, G. Jones, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper, V. Lloyd-Jones, R. Major, K. Reid, M. Rennie, R. Ricardo and D. Taylor.

Apologies: Councillor J. Hewitt.

In Attendance:

T. Harries and D. Holmes in respect of Minute No. 39.

C. Dixon, Executive Director, Dorset Museum in respect of Minute No. 41.

38. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

39. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 30 September 2024 and 28 October 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

The Mayor reported that the recipients of Honorary Citizenship were Tim Harries, for his long service as a Town Councillor, Alistair Chisholm for his service as Town Crier and Dennis Holmes for his long service as Dorchester Town Clerk. It was noted that a joint ceremony would be arranged in the New Year.

Tim Harries and Dennis Holmes both addressed the meeting and thanked the Council for the honour.

40. **Police Matters**

The Council had before it a report from Sgt Anneka Stone on policing in the town over the past two months.

Members felt that it was important for a Police representative to be in attendance at the meeting.

41. **Presentations, Communications and Motions**

The Committee received a presentation from Claire Dixon, Executive Director, Dorset Museum. She reported that visitor numbers had improved significantly, the Victorian Hall required roofing repairs, there was still insufficient storage space and the existing accommodation was not suitable and the funded national exhibitions that would be coming to the museum over the next few years starting with a gladiator exhibition early in 2025.

The Director responded to Members detailed questions.

Councillor M. Rennie reported that today was “White Ribbon Day” which denoted and reminded everyone that 35 years ago men in Canada marched to campaign to raise awareness to keep campaigning to end the abuse of women and girls.

This was now a Global campaign with 16 days of action against this abuse and awareness raising of the wide range of services available to support all genders and all ages.

Nobody should live in fear and all should be safe in their own homes. Everyone should be treated with respect, not be threatened or hurt. Members were encouraged to wear the white ribbon to show their support and raise awareness.

It was noted that the Town Council was flying the white ribbon flag as an expression of support for the campaign and to show the Council’s desire to help all who lived in fear.

The Mayor reported on the many events that he had attended over the past two months.

No motions had been submitted.

42. **Planning and Environment Committee – 7 October 2024**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 7 October 2024 be adopted.

43. **Planning and Environment Committee – 4 November 2024**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee held on 4 November 2024 be adopted.

44. **Management Committee – 11 November 2024**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Management Committee held on 11 November 2024 be adopted.

45. **Policy Committee – 18 November 2024**

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting be adopted.

Resolved

(1) That the assessed high level Strategic and Operational risks included in the Risk Register be approved and that the Risk Registers, as a whole, be approved.

(2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 18 November 2024 be adopted.

46. Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee – 15 October 2024

The minutes of the meeting of the Dorchester Joint Heritage Committee be noted.

47. Update from the Dorset Council

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- Dorset Council were looking at improving WiFi at Fairfield car park after the original equipment had been disconnected.
- Local Plan Advisory Board had started to meet.
- Further investment in Dorset Innovation Park.
- Transformation was looking at working more closely with Town and Parish Councils.
- People should be encouraged to apply for pension credit, take up was low.
- Additional Foster Carers were still needed.
- Dorset Council was facing significant funding challenges.

Council rose at 7.58pm.

Public Question Time

The Chairman of the Dorchester Area CLT thanked the Council for the £9,500 funding and reported that she had been trying, without success, to establish what was going to happen to 50 South Street.

Mayor