

Dorchester Town Council

Adjourned Annual Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council

21 May 2024

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

Apologies: Councillors R. Biggs and F. Hogwood.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor M. Rennie declared an interest in respect of the Kushti Bok grant application..

6. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 March 2024 were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

7. **Communications and Motions**

The Mayor thanked all those involved in the Mayor Making event on the previous evening.

On behalf of the Council The Mayor presented a small gift to Councillors A. Canning and F. Kent-Ledger in recognition of them both having served the Council for twenty five continuous years.

No motions or questions had been submitted.

8. **Acceptance of Office**

The Town Clerk confirmed that all Councillors had signed their Acceptance of Office forms.

9. **Police Matters**

There was no report from the Police at this meeting.

10. **Planning and Environment Committee – 2 April 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 2 April 2024 be adopted.

11. **Planning and Environment Committee – 29 April 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 29 April 2024 be adopted.

12. **Annual Business**

Council considered appointments to Committees, Outside Bodies, its Bank Mandate, whether to adopt the General Power of Competence to the next Annual Meeting and whether to approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-24.

Members also considered whether to confirm Darkin Miller Ltd as the Council's Internal Auditor for the 2024-25 Council Year.

The Town Clerk reported that BDO LLP had been appointed as the Council's External Auditor for the forthcoming year and asked that the Council confirm that it had no conflict of interest with BDO LLP.

Resolved

- (1) That the appointments to Committees, Joint Bodies, Panels and Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 be approved.
- (2) That Councillor D. Leaper be appointed Chairman and Councillor F. Kent-Ledger be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee.
- (3) That Councillor R. Ricardo be appointed Chairman and Councillor R. Potter be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee.
- (4) That Councillor S. Biles be appointed Chairman and Councillor R. Biggs be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Policy Committee.
- (5) That the Council adopts the General Power of Competence for the period to the next Annual Meeting of Council.
- (6) That Councillors P. Farmer, L. Fry, J. Hewitt, S. Jones, M. Rennie and D. Taylor be authorised to operate the Council's bank mandates.
- (7) That the Council approves the Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24.
- (8) That the Council approves the Accounting Statement for 2023-24.
- (9) That the Council appoints confirms the appointment of Darkin Miller Ltd as the Council's Internal Auditor for the 2024-25 Council Year.
- (10) That the Council has no conflict of interest with BDO LLP.

13. **Grant Application**

The Council considered a grant application from Kushti Bok.

Resolved

That a grant of £250 be agreed and that a further grant of £250 be paid subject to receipt of information regarding the various costs and following consultation with the Mayor and Chairman of the Management Committee.

14. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- The results of the recent elections and appointments to Cabinet, Committees etc.
- That a list of actions to be undertaken during the first 100 days of the new Council had been drawn up.

The Council congratulated Councillor S. Jones on being appointed Chairman of Dorset Council and Councillor L. Fry on being appointed Vice-Chairman of Dorset Council.

15. **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 representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during their discussion.

16. **Corn Exchange Front of House Works**

The Council considered the tender analysis in respect of the proposed Corn Exchange Front of House Works. It was noted that alternative parking would be required during the works which were scheduled to last for up to 24 weeks.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to assurances being received from the potential contractor in regard to the points raised in the tender evaluation report, the tender from Greendale Construction Ltd, be accepted.
- (2) That a report on the funding package for the project be presented to the next meeting of the policy Committee.
- (3) That proposed start date for the project of August 2024, be noted.

Council rose at 7.50pm.

Mayor

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

DORCHESTER TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Management Committee (11 and 11 requests)

A. Canning	P. Farmer	L. Fry	W. Gibbons	J. Hewitt	F. Hogwood	S. Jones
F. Kent-Ledger	D. Leaper	R. Major	M. Rennie			

Policy Committee (8 and 8 requests)

R. Biggs	S. Biles	J. Germodo	G. Jones	V. Lloyd-Jones	K. Reid
R. Ricardo	D. Taylor				

Planning & Environment (no limit - 17 requests)

R. Biggs	S. Biles	A. Canning	P. Farmer	L. Fry	J. Germodo	J. Hewitt
F. Hogwood	S. Jones	F. Kent-Ledger	D. Leaper	V. Lloyd-Jones	R. Major	
K. Reid	M. Rennie	R. Ricardo	D. Taylor			

The Mayor (Councillor Robin Potter) is ex officio to the 3 Committees

JOINT BODIES

Dorchester Markets Informal Joint Panel (6 Members, 6 requests)

J. Hewitt	F. Hogwood	J. Germodo
S. Jones	K. Reid	M. Rennie

Dorchester Heritage Joint Committee (5 members, 5 requests)

S. Biles	G. Jones	S. Jones	F. Kent-Ledger	D. Taylor
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Twining / Cultural Activities Panel (5 Members plus the Mayor – 5 requests)

J. Hewitt	F. Hogwood	S. Jones	R. Major	M. Rennie
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APPENDIX 2 - APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Internal Roles	Appointed for 2024-25
DAPTC Larger Towns Rep	D. Taylor
Municipal Buildings Monitoring Group (3)	R. Biggs / F. Kent-Ledger D. Taylor
Charitable Trusteeships	
Dorchester Almshouses (2)	R. Biggs S. Biles
Ashley Churchill & Thorner Trust (2)	L. Fry M. Rennie
Other Bodies	
Dorchester Arts	D. Leaper
Dorchester Association L. History & Arch.	D. Taylor
Dorchester BID	J. Hewitt
Dorchester Bayeux Society	M. Rennie
Dorchester Lubbecke Society	F. Hogwood
Dorchester Tourism Partnership	R. Potter
Citizens Advice Central Dorset	D. Leaper
Dorchester Youth & Community Centre (2)	P. Farmer / J. Germodo
South Wessex Community Rail Partnership (previously Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership)	F. Hogwood
Thomas Hardy Society	P. Farmer
Transition Town Dorchester (2)	P. Farmer / F. Hogwood
Volunteer Centre Dorchester	J. Germodo
Sawmills Development Association (2 reps)	J. Germodo / K. Reid