

# Dorchester Town Council

## Meeting of the Dorchester Town Council held in the Council Chamber

31 March 2025

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

Apologies: Councillors L. Fry, J. Hewitt, G. Jones, R. Major and R. Ricardo.

In Attendance:

Police Sergeant Ian Schofield

58. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

59. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 27 January 2025 and 9 February 2025, were confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

60. **Police Matters**

The Council welcomed Dorchester's Neighbourhood Police Sergeant, Ian Schofield, to the meeting. Sergeant Schofield updated Members on the crime statistics and initiatives for Dorchester over the past two months. He also responded to Members detailed questions.

Members felt that it would be helpful for the Town Clerk to write to Dorchester BID expressing the Council's support to the proposed initiative by the Police for shops to share the expense or use staff members in regard to plain clothes 'store detectives' to help reduce shop lifting.

61. **Presentations, Communications and Motions**

The Council received a presentation from Matilda Manley, the Council's Tourism Development Officer, on her work and the Tourism Partnerships plans for the future. The Tourism Officer responded to Members detailed questions.

The Mayor reported that this was his last meeting as Mayor and he thanked Councillors for their help and support throughout the year.

No motions had been submitted.

62. **Planning and Environment Committee – 3 February 2025**

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 3 February 2025 be adopted.

63. **Planning and Environment Committee – 3 March 2025**

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 3 March 2025 be adopted.

64. **Management Committee – 17 March 2025**

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 17 March 2025 be adopted.

65. **Mayoral Selection Committee – 24 March 2025**

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

**Resolved**

(1) That Councillor Andy Canning be invited to prepare to fill the office of Town Mayor, and Councillor Robin Potter the office of Deputy Town Mayor, of Dorchester during the 2025-26 Council Year.

(2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Mayoral Selection Committee held on 24 March 2025 be adopted.

66. **Policy Committee – 24 March 2025**

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

The Chairman of the Management Committee noted the Policy Committee's decision in respect of Louds Mill Allotment site and proposed that whilst the review into the options for the site was being undertaken with Dorset Council, the vacant Louds Mill allotment plots be made available for at least 5 years, with the usual Town Council regulations and rent agreements. This proposal was duly seconded.

**Resolved**

(1) That whilst the review into the options for the site was being undertaken with Dorset Council, the vacant Louds Mill allotment plots be made available for at least 5 years, with the usual Town Council regulations and rent agreements.

(2) That the minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee held on 24 March 2025 be adopted.

## 67. **Update from the Dorset Council**

Dorset Councillors updated the Council on the following matters:-

- The Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and Tourism.
- Two new Beryl bike locations, one at Poundbury and one at South Station.
- West Walks street lanterns were being cleaned / refurbished and would be returned.
- Dorset Council had agreed to re-work its debt obligations which would result in a cash saving of £6M in the 2025-26 financial year.
- A consultation was underway in respect of LED street lights, Dorset Council was looking to move away from the existing bright white to a warmer yellow LED light.
- A number of families in Dorset were benefitting from the Safeguarding Families Together initiative being run by Dorset Council.

Council rose at 8.10pm.

Mayor

### Public Question Time

The Mayor responded to questions from members of the public in respect of actions proposed in regard to the proposed new Local Plan consultation, the need to open up South Street urgently and how the proposals for the development north of Dorchester could affect the town's water supply and quality.

The Council asked the Town Clerk to write to the appropriate body to try and obtain information regarding the quality of the water through the Mill Stream.