



Dorchester Town Council

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12th March 2025

Agenda for the meeting of the **Management Committee** which will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER** at **THE MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, HIGH EAST STREET, DORCHESTER** on **MONDAY 17th MARCH 2025** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Steve Newman
Town Clerk

Public Speaking and Attendance at the Meeting

The Chair has discretion to allow members of the public to speak at the meeting. If you wish to speak please **contact the Clerk by 9.00am on the morning of the meeting**. We ask speakers to confine their comments to the matter in hand and to be as brief as possible.

Member Code of Conduct: Declaration of Interests

Members are reminded that it is their responsibility to disclose interests where appropriate. A Member who declares any interest must leave the room. A Member who declares a registerable interest as a Council nominee to a partner organisation may first address the meeting as a member of the public.

Membership of the Committee

Councillors A. Canning, P. Farmer, L. Fry, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger (Vice-Chair), D. Leaper (Chair), R. Major, M. Rennie and The Mayor ex-officio.

Agenda

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Declaration of Interests**
- 3. Minutes**

To read, confirm and sign the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th January 2025 (adopted by Council on 27th January 2025). A copy of the Minutes can be found at <https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk/Committees/Management+Committee/Minutes>

- 4. Louds Mill allotments**

To receive the enclosed report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate).

5. Outdoor Services – Update Report – Late Winter

To receive the enclosed report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services).

6. Location of VE & VJ Day 80th commemorative bench

To receive the enclosed report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services).

7. Tennis Coach Fee Proposals

To receive the enclosed report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate).

8. Adoption of public art

To receive the enclosed report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate).

9. Appointment of operator for Borough Gardens’ refreshment kiosk

To receive the enclosed report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate).

10. Grant Applications

To consider the following applications for financial assistance:

- (a) A request from Weymouth & Dorchester Parkinsons Group for a grant of £500 towards the cost of an outing.
- (b) A request from Visible Women UK for a grant of up to £1,000 towards the cost of a statue in South Street, Dorchester.
- (c) A request from Dorchester Cricket Club for a grant of £1,000 towards the cost of new cricket nets and surfacing.
- (d) A request from Kushti Bok for a grant of £500 towards the cost of the annual Roma History Day event in Borough Gardens.
- (e) A request from Bean on the Green Café for a grant of £500 towards the cost of a new community noticeboard in Fordington.
- (f) A request from the South West Dorset Multi-Cultural Network for a grant of £500 towards the One World Festival.
- (g) A request from Katharine Jones / Dorchester Arts for a grant of £500 towards the cost of the *Hardy Har!* comedy festival.
- (h) A request from the Vinyl Van Ltd for a grant of £500 towards the Pride Picnic event in Borough Gardens

11. Notes of Twinning & Cultural Activities Panel meeting

To receive the enclosed minutes of the Panel meeting 13th January 2025.

12. Minutes of Dorchester Arts annual general meeting

To receive the minutes of the AGM on 19th January 2025 (enclosed).

13. Minutes of the Dorchester Arts board meeting

To receive the minutes of the board meeting on 20th February 2025 (enclosed).

14. Cemetery Matters

(a) Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes

To note the grants of Exclusive Rights of Burial issued and the number of interments, burials of ashes and uses of the South Chapel at Dorchester Cemetery since the last meeting of the Committee (enclosed).

(b) Headstones and Inscriptions

To confirm the action taken by the Town Clerk in approving applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions received since the last meeting of the Committee. The Register of Memorials will be available to view at the meeting.

15. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

To resolve "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. Draft Heads of Terms for leasing of The Duke of Edinburgh Gardens and associated greenspace

To receive the enclosed report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate).

ITEM 4.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 17th MARCH 2025 LOUDS MILLS ALLOTMENTS

1. As part of its portfolio of allotment sites, the Town Council owns a small allotment site to the rear of its Louds Mill depot on St George's Road – between the depot and the railway line.
2. The Louds Mill allotment site currently has the capacity for 12 plots. One of these plots is used by the council as its tree nursery. Of the remaining 11 plots, only 5 are rented to tenants and the remainder are vacant.
3. The annual rent in 2025 for a plot at Louds Mill is £38.50. For new tenants there is a one-off, up-front payment of £50 to cover administrative costs.
4. In recent years the council has not sought any new tenants for the Louds Mill site given that the council has freehold ownership of the site and is considering options for building affordable housing somewhere on its land subject to statutory permissions.
5. The remaining 5 tenants on the site are concerned that the council is not doing enough to prevent the vacant plots from being overgrown and a nuisance to cultivated plots. It should be noted that the council's Outdoor Services team council has limited capacity to manage (e.g. trim) vacant plots for most of the year.
6. It is proposed that Policy Committee be requested to review the Town Council's position with regard to the future of the Louds Mill allotment site as soon as possible and that the outcome of this review will inform Management Committee's approach to managing the vacant plots.
7. It should be noted that at present the council has several vacant plots across all its allotment sites and no waiting list.
8. **Recommendation:** It is recommended that the committee requests that Policy Committee reviews the future use of the Louds Mill allotment site with regard to the provision of affordable housing.

Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 5.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 17th MARCH 2025 OUTDOOR SERVICES REPORT – LATE WINTER

1. The late winter period saw ongoing maintenance work being heavily influenced by the mild and very wet weather, resulting in patchy continued growth of grass areas, soils saturated again during this period resulting in the continued suspension of grass cutting works.

2. Borough Gardens

2.1 Main work has revolved around the maintenance of annual bedding plants and bulbs for spring flowering. Due to staff absence and departures, coupled with difficulty in recruitment, the pressure continued to be high to deliver to normal standard. Due to periods of rain and warmer than usual temperatures annual weed growth has been quite rapid in the gardens keeping the staff busy.

2.2 Members are reminded that Bedding schemes this winter will feature more bulbs this year as previous winters have proved very wet and mild causing losses of bedding plants due to rotting off. A similar weather trend is evident so far this year.

2.3 Significant works have been carried out to the shrub beds adjacent to the Gym area where older specimen Spotted Laurel plants had died due to infection leaving a large hole in the shrub bed. The opportunity was taken to replace these with three Viburnum plants, these will in time grow to produce a very bright feature as they display flat tables of white flowers in the early summer which will lift the area in terms of variation in colour. A common problem throughout the established borders in the gardens is an absence of colour, hence replanting will wherever possible feature flowering species to lift the impact. The shrubs were planted using the onsite generated compost, a weed membrane will be placed over the soil in the area and wood chippings from the council's own operations used as a decorative mulch. In this way staff hours spent weeding are reduced and the use of herbicide negated.

2.4 A similar replanting scheme is being carried out in the old Mediterranean border between the two sets of tennis courts. Thanks to generous donations the area will be planted with strong coloured plants to create a "hot border" around the commemorative seat which will again add further colour and interest to the gardens.

2.5 A new replacement floor was installed in the clock tower, the metal supporting frame was fabricated locally and the structure provides a replacement safe footing over the deep pendulum pit below.

3. Outdoor Services team

3.1 The Outdoor Services team have been carrying out maintenance works to ensure facilities are of a good standard. Staff have carried out routine maintenance and repairs in several

play areas. One area of special attention has been the play area in Borough Gardens where all the equipment has been reconditioned and decorated. Somewhat hindered by the weather at times, the team have produced some excellent work leaving the play area in a much brighter condition and ready for the coming spring. The margins of safety surface areas requiring attention in two areas will be repaired in the coming weeks, the surface used is very temperature and weather dependent so may be delayed.



- 3.2 Several allotment areas have been cleared and cut to enable letting as part of a wider initiative to both reduce waiting lists and increase awareness of available plots and uptake. This has resulted in a large amount of waste being removed from some plots which has had an impact on the waste budget for the service area.
- 3.3 The team undertook cleaning and moss removal on all surfaces in all play area sites across the town. Particular attention was paid to the plastic grass type safety surfaces, many have been in place for over 12 years and are approaching end of useful life. A survey was carried out on 6/3/25 to establish the extent of wear and if replacement is needed. The results will be reported to the next management committee meeting.
- 3.4 A new accessible picnic table, generously donated by Porter Doseon via the Encompass Care project to increase accessible picnic seating in public open spaces was installed at Sandringham sports field. This was supported by the team also installing a paved surface to allow easy access for wheelchair and other users who may find moving over grass difficult.
- 3.5 The fence adjacent to the boundary wall at Frome Terrace was removed along with all vegetation. A survey by a structural engineer has been commissioned. As part of that work a short report will be issued giving an indication of any works required.



3.6 The team commenced removal of the fencing at Holmead Close play area on 17th March. The fencing was not galvanized prior to painting and has deteriorated very quickly. The paint has been blistered by rust leaving a potentially hazardous surface. In addition, the self-closing gate has slowly deteriorated and ensuring it closed in the appropriate time was becoming increasingly difficult. The fence once removed will be replaced with galvanized then painted fencing of a similar design to the existing and will be compliant for use in a play area. Contractors will carry out the installation works in the week commencing 24th March. Members who attended the summer site visits in 2024 will recall visiting Poundbury Crescent play area and looking at the fencing there, this site will be the next in line for replacement.

4. Cemeteries

4.1 Routine maintenance has continued within the cemeteries including, small tree maintenance, litter collection and gravedigging. Full burials have been slightly lower in number over this period.

4.2 The team constructed and installed a new set of wooden double gates to replace the worn-out set that allow access to and from the garage and outdoor storage area at Poundbury cemetery. A further set will be made to replace the existing gates that allow access to the grave spoil area, in the coming months.

5. Biodiversity

5.1 Further formative pruning was carried out to the trees at Kings Road, this was also out at great field.

- 5.2 One year old seedling oaks and chestnut have been transplanted in the louds mill tree nursery giving them room to grow in the coming season. Several specimens of willow grown last year were used to replace dead diseased or vandalized trees at Kings Road open space.
- 5.3 Further tree planting was carried out at Poundbury Cemetery to extend the tree avenue adjacent to the path network. Additionally, 5 new trees were planted in borough gardens to replace failed trees and also to provide partial screening of the kiosk. This in time will soften the visual impact of the building for those approaching from the Princes street entrance without obscuring the structure completely.

6. The Great Field

- 6.1 Town Council play inspection trained staff inspect equipment on a weekly basis and are feeding back any issues to the ATCOS. This winter that included the removal of gravel from around the bases of all equipment to enable it to be checked for stability and any problems with fixings. All were in good condition.
- 6.2 Maintenance of The Great Field has carried on with works to shrub beds in and around the play area, shrubs were removed from the failed shrub beds adjacent to the older play area and shelter and replanted in areas that required gapping up in the new play area. The failed shrub beds have been cultivated lightly and will be grass seeded in the coming weeks when soil conditions allow.
- 6.3 Works to create a picnic bench area in the higher section adjacent to the play area have been delayed due to waiting for delivery of the bench and are now anticipated to commence in late once the table has been received.
- 6.4 The first seat to be located opposite the doctor's surgery has now been installed and is in regular use. An article about this is included in the latest newsletter going out to the community shortly. As part of that article there is an invite for anyone wishing to donate another seat to come forward.
- 6.5 The team have again undertaken repair works to the path network in the northeastern corner where erosion, caused by heavy rainfall, had created numerous ditches and trenches in the path surface. Based on the success of the previous works, further "grips", (small channels) into the adjacent grass verge to enable water to run off before it becomes strong enough to erode the path surface, have been carried out. It is anticipated that further works will be required to manage this problem on a routine basis.
- 6.6 All of the newly planted trees of the wider great field area have received a young tree maintenance visit in February. Included in this work was the checking of stakes and ties and their replacement or removal where required. Additionally young tree pruning was carried out to allow the trees to develop in terms of structure in a way suitable for their position on the field. Works carried out included:
- Deadwood removal
 - Epicormic growth removal
 - Minor crown lifting

- Removal of diseased damaged or crossing material
- Pruning to prepare lower branches for removal in years to come.

This work is required annually to ensure the trees grow in a balanced, healthy form, by doing this there should be less need to remove larger branches or carryout more extensive formative canopy pruning in the future.

6.7 A review of works carried out by *People Need Nature* on the great field area is attached as **Appendix 1** of this report

7. Staffing

7.1 After a recent recruitment exercise a new member of staff has been appointed to join the gardens team as a Gardener. Molly Hearn will start work at the beginning of April and it is hoped she will enjoy her employment with the Town Council and be able to increase her skills base further, learning from the Head Gardener and Assistant Town Clerk.

8. Arboriculture

8.1 Members will be aware of the impending works to the riverside nature reserve trees. These works have been delayed by flooding to the area but will be carried out in the near future.

Carl Dallison
Assistant Town Clerk, Outdoor Services
Dorchester Town Council

See over for attached Appendix 1

APPENDIX 1. People Need Nature - The Great Field progress report and work programme

People Need Nature (PNN) is grateful to Dorchester Town Council for providing a grant of £4000 for work carried out in The Swale during the year 2024/25, and for other activities on The Great Field. We are also grateful for future support from the Council.

The Great Field forms part of a larger Poundbury Nature Project which commenced in the Summer of 2019, and includes a variety of different locations around Poundbury; together these areas cover 20% of the Poundbury development. This project is already recognised as an exemplar, with royal endorsement – and keen interest from the Government’s wildlife experts Natural England. Management of The Swale passed to Dorchester Town Council from the Duchy of Cornwall in January 2024.

In 2024, the Poundbury Nature Project won the Derek Beauchamp award for best environmental project in Dorchester from Dorchester Civic Society. PNN created the Poundbury Conservation Volunteers in 2023, a group of local residents who help with managing the different elements of the Poundbury Nature Project.

The overall objective for managing The Swale is to create an attractive, wildlife-rich place which local residents and visitors can enjoy. This is primarily achieved through mowing (with a brush cutter) and raking up the arisings. The arisings are then added to habitat piles in situ, which are valuable for hibernating animals including Frogs and possibly Hedgehogs. Thanks to this management, the chalk grassland is now developing well. A secondary objective is to prevent the weeds (Bindweed, Docks, Thistles, Bristly Ox-Tongue, Nettles) from spreading and gradually reduce their presence.

PNN has collaborated with Damers First School since 2021, when a series of nature walks was organised, to bring Year 1 classes into nature, post lockdown. Over the last 4 years, this project culminated in the creation of the Damers Wildflower Meadow, in the northern section of the Swale. For the last three years Damers pupils have collected wildflower seeds from Poundbury Hillfort and sown them in the Damers Meadow.

Work carried out during 2024/25

During 2024/25 the following work was carried out in that area of The Great Field known as The Swale:

- Each area of grassland in The Swale was mown several times during 2024/25. By mowing small areas each time, a mosaic was created of different height grasslands, which creates a variety of different habitats, for wildlife.
- Manual weed control took place to prevent Bindweed, Docks, Thistles and Bristly Ox-Tongue from setting seed. These weeds require cutting repeatedly, as they regrow after each mow. Mowing also focussed on areas where the grasses Yorkshire Fog and Couch had become established.
- Waste material dredged up from the soakaways by Duchy contractors in Autumn 2024, and left on site, was removed to avoid creating a hazard during mowing.

- The bottom ditch which runs through the main section of the Swale was mowed frequently to create an accessible path for visitors.
- A signboard for the Damers School Wildflower Meadow was designed and installed by the middle path. PNN had considerable input into its design and installation, as well as instigating and working with Damers School to create the meadow. The Mayor and Mayoress unveiled the sign in July 2024.



Damers wildflower meadow sign (photo Miles King)

150 hours of work in The Swale have been carried out from June 2024 to date, with an additional 32 volunteer hours by the Poundbury Conservation Volunteers.

The Swale is developing into an attractive and wildlife-rich place. Cowslips are spreading and some more unusual chalk grassland flowers have become established, including Small and Devil's-bit Scabious. These flowers in turn support a wide variety of insects, including some unusual bees and butterflies.



Devil's-Bit Scabious (photo Miles King)

Additional activities

In addition to managing The Swale, People Need Nature carried out the following associated activities during 2024/25:

- Led three walks to Poundbury Hillfort with Year 1 Damers school pupils for them to learn about flowers, collect wildflower seeds and sow them in the Damers Wildflower Meadows.
- Created (by mowing and raking) two informal footpaths through the Great Field wildflower meadows, so residents and visitors can enjoy walking through the meadows. A place in the meadows was also created by mowing a circle, for the green social prescribing project activities.
- Led two walks in Poundbury for the Dorchester Walking Festival.
- Ran the Poundbury Nature for Wellbeing project, which was also supported by Dorchester Town Council. This pilot project used the wildflower meadows to improve people's mental health and wellbeing. The project has now finished. See Appendix 1 for a summary of the project.
- Advised the Town Council on optimum timing for mowing the Great Field meadows, and located a place (Tumbledown Farm, Radipole) which can take the bales of hay from The Great Field in future, saving the Council from paying for green waste disposal.
- Promoted the project and kept residents informed via the Poundbury Magazine, Dorchester Town Council newsletter, PNN social media and the Poundbury residents Facebook page.
- Helped with management at Maumbury Rings, advising the Council on optimum times for mowing, and organising volunteers to rake up the arisings when the Council carries out mowing.

Plans for 2025/26

The objectives for The Swale are to maintain the areas of wildflower-rich grassland by:

- Mowing small areas at different times, starting with those areas which were last mown in late Summer 2024. Each area will receive at least 2 cuts between April and December.
- Regularly mow along the bottom of the main section of The Swale, to encourage access for people to enjoy the wildlife.
- Mowing areas with Bindweed just as the tendrils are appearing, to prevent their spread. These areas will need at least 3 cuts through the growing season.
- Mowing off Docks, Creeping Thistle, Bristly Ox-Tongue as needed.
- Mowing a path through the northern section of The Swale (Damers Meadow) to try and divert people from the existing desire line path.

In addition, PNN will:

- Support and advise Art in Poundbury's en plein air painting event.
- Lead/co-lead two Poundbury walks as part of the Dorchester Walking Festival.
- Lead three walks to Poundbury Hillfort with Damers School Year 1 classes, help the pupils sow the wildflower seeds they have collected.

- Maintain the informal paths and circles in the Great Field wildflower meadows.
- Organise an event with the Lord Lieutenant, Mayor and Mayoress, to install plaques on tree stakes near the Great Field Nature for Wellbeing place.

Appendix 1. Summary of the *Poundbury Nature for Wellbeing* project

The Poundbury Nature for Wellbeing Project was a pilot project which aims were to establish whether mental health and wellbeing benefits could be provided through activities taking place within the Poundbury Nature Project. Its objectives were to assess (1) what green social prescribing activities could be made available (2) will health care professionals utilise these activities and (3) will people benefit from social prescribing activities. The results of the pilot could then be used to making recommendations for other, possibly larger projects.

Funds were raised from the College of Medicine and Integrated Health, the Save our Wild Isles Crowdfunder, Dorset and Dorchester Town Councils, Dorset National Landscape's Farming in Protected Landscapes programme, Waitrose Poundbury and other generous donations.

Sixteen different kinds of social prescribing activities occurred in 100 sessions of an hour and a half each from November 2023 to September 2024. Activities ranged from a variety of different art techniques, singing and poetry, through to Tai Chi, Yoga, foraging and managing Poundbury's wildflower meadows. The activities were provided by volunteers and paid experts.

Participants were primarily local residents with a clinical diagnosis of a mild or moderate mental health condition. Referrals were made from Local GP practices, and local primary mental health organisations. A total of 25 referrals were made in total, with 19 participants attending one or more sessions.

Project evaluation used a standard mental health and wellbeing questionnaire, and after the project ended, further questionnaires were used to gain insight into the participants' experiences and those of the referral organisations.

While participant numbers were too small for statistical analysis, quantitative and qualitative information gained, showed that the activities improved mental health and wellbeing overall for many of those referred. For some participants those improvements were marked and sustained after the end of the project.

ITEM 6.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 17th MARCH 2025 LOCATION OF VE & VJ DAY 80th COMMEMORATIVE BENCH

1. Background

- 1.1 At the Management Committee of Dorchester Town Council meeting of 13th January 2025, members requested that the Assistant Town Clerk, Outdoor Services prepare a report showing some options for the location of a commemorative bench to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE /VJ days.

2. Options

- 2.1 There are four proposed location options for the seat offered for consideration.

2.1.1 **Borough Gardens** – to recondition an existing seat currently without a plaque and place a plaque to mark the occasion on the seat. Numerous seats currently have no plaque. The most notable is the only seat in the area of the Tirah memorial which could be an appropriate location for a commemorative seat with this theme.

2.1.2 **Frome Terrace** – To supply and install a new seat complete with plaque to replace the seat shown below. The current seat, as can be seen, is of poor design and whilst safe is approaching end of life.



2.1.3 **Salisbury Field** - To construct a base and supply and install a seat complete with plaque, this would be an entirely new seat position on the site. There are two locations available. One of which is shown below. The other is adjacent to the entrance from Gallows Hill corner.



2.1.4 **Poundbury Cemetery** - To supply and install a new seat complete with plaque, this would be an entirely new seat on the site and be the first of several located adjacent to the most recent roadway.

3. **Decision**

3.1 Members are requested to decide on a location for the seat and wording for the plaque.

Carl Dallison
Assistant Town Clerk, Outdoor Services
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 7.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 17th MARCH 2025 TENNIS COACHING FEES

1. Following the recent refurbishment of two of the tennis courts in Borough Gardens, with funding from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), the council is now offering high quality sporting facilities for the local community.
2. Residents of Dorchester can use the courts for a £35 per annum membership fee (per household) or £50 for households outside of the DT1 area. Courts can only be booked up to 7 days in advance and a maximum of three two-hour bookings are allowed within any 7-day period. Bookings are taken via the LTA's *Clubspark* online booking system. The council's membership scheme is, therefore, very affordable.
3. At present the council does not have any formal coaching scheme, whereby professional tennis coaches are allowed to operate (and charge customers) on the council's courts in exchange for a fee paid to the council. However, following an expression of interest from a local coach, it would now seem appropriate for the council to create a formal coaching scheme which could both generate a modest income for the council and allow residents access to qualified tennis coaches.
4. Based on research with other councils and the LTA, the following fees and requirements for coaches operating on council courts are proposed:
 - Annual membership fee – coaches will pay an annual membership fee of £35 p.a.
 - Coaches will pay the council a fee of £6.00 per hour for any coaching sessions.
 - A maximum of ten 2-hour bookings for coaching in any 7-day period.
 - Anyone being coached by the coach must have annual membership.
5. The council will also ask any coaches to provide evidence of their coaching qualifications and LTA accreditation.
6. **Recommendation:** It is recommended that the fees and conditions for allowing coaching to take place on council courts, as set out in paragraph 4 above, are agreed and then reviewed annually as part of the committee's consideration of fees and charges.

Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)
Dorchester Town Council

ITEM 8.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 17TH MARCH 2025 ADOPTION OF PUBLIC ART

1. Over the last year, an initiative has been established in order to celebrate a significant local woman via a statue in Dorchester and thereby address the imbalance in women's representation in public art.
2. The initiative has been developed into a fully-fledged project backed by Visible Women UK – an organisation involved in the creation of the Mary Anning statue in Lyme Regis.
3. Following a public consultation the project (which is supported by the Thomas Hardy Society and the Dorchester Civic Society) has identified the author Sylvia Townsend Warner as the person to be celebrated through public art in the centre of Dorchester. The draft planning statement (to be used to support the planning application for the statue), states the following about Townsend Warner:

Sylvia Townsend Warner was a prolific writer and poet whose career spanned six decades, producing some of the most varied, witty, and revolutionary work of her time. Yet, despite her remarkable contributions, her name is rarely mentioned and remains absent from Dorset's literary landscape. Sylvia was a highly individual writer of novels, short stories and poems, and a contemporary of writers such as Virginia Woolf and Djuna Barnes.

Townsend Warner's personal life was just as remarkable as her literary achievements. She spent most of her adult life in West Dorset with poet Valentine Ackland, her long-term partner. At a time when same-sex relationships were heavily stigmatised, their partnership defied societal expectations, positioning both Townsend Warner and Ackland as pioneers for LGBTQ+ visibility and acceptance.

4. The statue, to be sculpted by the artist Denise Dutton, who created the Mary Anning statue in Lyme Regis, will be located on a new bench outside Gould's Fashion Store in South Street. The statue will be anchored to the ground and separate from the bench that it will appear to be sitting on – thereby enabling the bench to be maintained or replaced in future without disturbing the statue. **Appendix A** contains images of the design and the proposed location.
5. The statue will be life-size, measuring 1.28 metres in height and mounted on a square 8mm-thick bronze plate measuring 800x800mm attached to a 50mm stainless steel box section of the same size. This will be anchored to the ground by a concrete sub-base measuring approximately 900x900mm and sunk into the ground to a depth of 500mm. The sculpture will be fixed to the concrete sub-base by stainless steel studding.
6. The project will soon be the subject of a planning application, given its location in the heart of the Conservation Area, and it is close to its funding target of £60,000. The project is

seeking a financial contribution from the Town Council and a grant application is set out in **agenda item 11 (b)** below.

7. Visible Women UK are proposing that it will maintain the statue and bench for an initial period of up to two years until the installation has 'settled in', with a view to gifting the statue to the community via a transfer of ownership to Dorchester Town Council. Visible Women UK will also offer the Council a suitable financial contribution for ongoing maintenance.
8. The Committee is invited to consider, therefore, whether to agree in principle to accept the ownership of the Sylvia Townsend Warner statue and take on responsibility for its maintenance subject to an appropriate agreement and funding.
9. **Recommendation:**
 - a) That the Committee agrees in principle to accepting both ownership and responsibility for maintenance of the proposed Sylvia Townsend Warner statue subject to the project securing all necessary consents and following a two-year initial period when the statue would remain the responsibility of Visible Women UK. That the transfer of ownership of the statue to the Town Council will be accompanied by a suitable financial contribution to assist with long-term maintenance costs.
 - b) That the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to agree the terms of the transfer of the statue from Visible Women UK.

Item 8 – Appendix A



ITEM 9.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 17TH MARCH 2025 APPOINTMENT OF OPERATOR FOR BOROUGH GARDENS REFRESHMENT KIOSK

1. At its meeting in November 2024, the committee agreed the process for securing a new operator for the Borough Gardens catering kiosk. The committee agreed that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to procure a new tenant for the kiosk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.
2. Following the advertising of the trading opportunity, several applications were received and three were short-listed for interview by the Chair and Vice Chair. Following this process the one-year operating agreement was awarded to the company TICP Ltd, who have, for some years, operated the kiosk at the National Trust's Stourhead property.
3. TICP Ltd are now equipping the kiosk and developing branding ahead of opening at the beginning of April. The contract runs for 12 months from 1st February 2025 and is reviewed annually with the aim of renewing subject to mutual agreement.

**Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)
Dorchester Town Council**

ITEM 10.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 17TH MARCH 2024 GRANT APPLICATIONS

1. In the current financial year, the Council's small grants budget is £10,000 and a similar amount will be available in 2025-26. The grant scheme is used to support discrete projects which directly benefit the Dorchester community. Grants are typically between £50 and £500.
2. Since April 2024, the Committee has considered the following applications:

Organisation	Project	Requested	Awarded
Kushti Bok	G&T History Event in Gardens	£500	£250
Dorchester Transport Action Group	Meeting venue hire cost	£69	£69
Talk About Trust	Summer events at PiP	£500	£500
Mid Dorset Mencap	ADAN training courses	£500	£500
Dorchester Town Chaplaincy	On-going activities in town	£250	£250
Mosaic	Bereavement cafes for young people	£500	£500
Dorset Food & Drink	Cooking workshops	£500	£0
Dorford Baptist Church	Ukrainian Independence Day celebratory event	£500	£500
People Need Nature	Swale management at The Great Field.	£4,000	£4,000
ParkRun	Storage unit at The Great Field	£250	£250
Dorchester Sheroes Project	Schools' engagement	£500	£0
Lions Club of Dorchester & District	Summerfest event costs	£500	£0
Victim Support Dorset	Personal alarms	£500	£0
Read Easy South Dorset	Coach training	£500	£500
Dorchester Child Contact Centre	Equipment - £250 awarded but returned when DCCC closed.	£500	£0
Durnovaria Silver Band	Printer and laminator	£320	£320

Poundbury Residents Association	Youth photography competition	£500	£0
Dorset Museum & Art Gallery	Dorchester Family Science Festival	£500	£300
Dorchester Arts	Scriptwriting festival	£500	£500
Dorchester Chamber of Commerce	Christmas Cracker – public liability insurance.	£480	£480*
Dorchester Chamber of Commerce	Christmas Cracker – hire of Corn Exchange.	£350	£350*
Dorchester Opportunity Group	Repairs to playhouse.	£500	£256*
Total awarded			£9,750
2024-25 budget remaining			£250

* These grants were awarded by the Town Clerk under delegated authority in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Management Committee.

3. A full list of all the grants awarded by Management Committee from April 2023 until March 2024 can be viewed here: <https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk/docs/downloads/Grants-awarded-2023-24.pdf>
4. The grant application form sets out all the essential criteria that applicants must meet (<https://www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk/docs/downloads/Grant-application-form-2024.pdf>), however it is worth noting the following key requirements:
 - The Council will usually only consider requests for specific projects, not on-going or revenue costs.
 - Grant applications for events/activities that have already taken place will not normally be considered.
 - Grant applications for events aimed at raising money for distribution to a wide range of other charities and organisations will not normally be considered.
 - The Town Council as a body does not affiliate to any political party or religion therefore will not provide grant aid to support any religious group or activity in the town. By law the Town Council cannot offer financial assistance to any political party.
 - The size of the grant should be commensurate with the benefit delivered.
5. There is currently £250 remaining in the 2024-25 grants budget but committee could now allocate grant from the 2025-26 budget (£10,000) for projects taking place from 1st April onwards. The Committee is requested, therefore, to consider the application below which has been received since its last meeting.

Tony Hurley
Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate)

ITEM 10 (a) – Grant application from Weymouth & Dorchester Parkinsons Group

1.	Name of organisation. (If your application is successful the grant cheque will be made payable to the name used here.)	Weymouth & Dorchester Parkinson's Group
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name Pamela Glover Address (provided)
3.	Address where activities are based.	Upwey and Broadwey Memorial Hall Victoria Avenue Weymouth DT3 5NG
4.	What area (community) is served?	Dorchester and Weymouth areas
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	No
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	We support people with Parkinson's and their Carers We have monthly meetings and also arrange activities and outings to support their wellbeing and provide information that will assist them. We are told that by the medical team at head office these meetings and events are a good therapy for them. We support 44 members from the Dorchester area and their carers giving a total of 88 people.
	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	None
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees? If so please advise effective dates.	No
9.	Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	All activities and events that are organised are done through fundraising by the committee. We are arranging a trip to Beaulieu Motor Museum in May this year for which we need to hire a wheelchair accessible coach. This helps make the trip more accessible to more of our members. We like to arrange as many additional events as

		funding will allow as it means our members can enjoy time with people in similar circumstances.
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	We will continue to arrange future events through fundraising and donations.
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.	May 2025
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	The coach hire will be £750 Entrance for approx. 40 people at £19.50 = £780 Total £1530
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	Application to Weymouth Town Council on the same basis as we support people from the Weymouth area also.
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500 – However, any amount considered would be greatly appreciated
15.	Any other relevant information.	
16.	<p>Declaration</p> <p>I declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>I understand that the information provided on this application form will be used by the Council to judge whether or not to award a grant and that the information will be available in the public domain. If you have provided any information which you do not wish to be made publicly available, please make this known when submitting the application.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant(s)...Pamela Glover.....</p> <p>Position Held...Treasurer</p> <p>For and on behalf of...Weymouth & Dorchester Parkinson's Group.....</p> <p>Date...16/01/2025.....</p>	

Weymouth & Dorchester Parkinsons Group – financial statement

	Unrestricted	Total
Balance per Cashbook Brought Forward 1 Jan 2024	£12,519	£ 12,519
Add Total Receipts	£8,537	£ 8,537
Deduct Total Payments	£6,352	£ 6,352
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	£2,184	£ 2,184
Balance per Cashbook Carried Forward 31 Dec 2024	£14,703	£ 14,703

ITEM 10 (b) – Grant application from Visible Women UK

1.	Name of organisation.	VISIBLE WOMEN UK
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name ANYA PERASON Address (provided)
3.	Address where activities are based.	The statue of Sylvia Townsend Warner will be in a central spot outside Goulds fashion store in the centre of town (see images)
4.	What area (community) is served?	This is a project for all demographics across Dorchester and Dorset, ensuring widespread community engagement and representation.
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	NO
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	<p>Visible Women UK's mission to install Dorchester's first non-royal female statue will help create a more inclusive and representative public space, particularly in a rural area where LGBTQ+ visibility and acceptance are less established than in larger towns and cities. Currently, Dorchester's public art honours six men, one dog, a queen, and a horse—but no non-royal women.</p> <p>This project will celebrate Sylvia Townsend Warner—an extraordinary writer, poet, and LGBTQ+ trailblazer—in a town that has long centred its literary heritage around male figures like Thomas Hardy and William Barnes. We have built a community-driven campaign that has actively involved schools and the wider public, ensuring this initiative fosters meaningful engagement and lasting representation.</p>
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees. Please attach schedule if available.	NONE
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees? If so please advise effective dates.	NOT APPLICABLE
9.	Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	The Sylvia Townsend Warner statue project will provide a permanent, interactive public artwork in the heart of Dorchester, celebrating an important but overlooked writer, poet, and LGBTQ+ trailblazer. The life-size statue, seated on a

		<p>bench, will invite public engagement, offering a space for reflection and learning.</p> <p>In addition to the statue, we are working with the Dorset History Centre on a stretch target to preserve and digitise Warner’s extensive archive, ensuring her literary legacy is accessible to future generations.</p> <p>This project will benefit the community by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing cultural representation – Addressing the gender imbalance in public art and acknowledging Dorchester’s LGBTQ+ history. • Promoting education – Engaging local schools and the wider public in discussions on literature, diversity, and inclusion. • Boosting tourism and local pride – Creating a landmark that adds to Dorchester’s cultural and historical attractions. • Encouraging inclusivity – Providing visibility for marginalised figures, fostering a more welcoming environment for all demographics. • Significant Press – which will be ongoing and generating a buzz around the town for businesses, locals and tourist alike (see PDF attached) <p>By bringing this project to life, we aim to create a lasting tribute that enriches the town’s heritage, attracts tourists and inspires future generations.</p>
10.	<p>How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.</p>	<p>The Sylvia Townsend Warner statue will be cast in bronze, a durable material that requires minimal maintenance and is designed to last for decades to come, ensuring the artwork remains a fixture in the community. This long-term sustainability is central to our vision, as the statue will not only endure physically but will also continue to be an integral part of Dorchester’s cultural landscape.</p>
11.	<p>a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.</p> <p>b) Estimated completion date.</p>	<p>The project officially started in February 2024 and has been ongoing since then. With 90% of the necessary funding already secured, the wheels are in motion, and we are working closely with the sculptor and foundry. If planning permission, which will be submitted this month (Feb 2025), is approved in a timely manner, we are scheduled to unveil the statue in December 2025.</p>

		<p>The cataloguing and digitisation of Sylvia Townsend Warner's archive will be an ongoing process, with no fixed timeline yet.</p> <p>a) Start date: February 2024.</p> <p>b) Estimated completion date: December 2025 for the statue unveiling, with the archive project continuing beyond that.</p>
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	The total cost of the project, including artist fees, the creation of a maquette, the life-size clay model, casting in bronze at the foundry, transport costs, legal and planning fees, groundworks, and a small contingency, is £60,000 . Of this amount, 90% has already been raised .
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	The project has received generous support from several organisations, including the Dorchester Market Car Boot Fund, Swire Trust, Camilla Peake Trust, Sylvia Townsend Warner Society, Thomas Hardy Society , and the National Education Union . In addition, we have a pending application to the Simon Digby Charitable Trust . Each of these organisations have conducted due diligence and deemed the project worthy of their support.
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	We understand that requests of £500 are typically considered, but as this project was instigated by the Joint Heritage Committee , we feel that a contribution of £1,000 would be a far more significant support for the project. However, we are happy to accept whatever amount the committee deems appropriate to contribute.
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	<p>In less than a year, we have raised over 90% of the funds needed for the project. We hope the committee now recognises that:</p> <p>A) Our initial schools outreach last year was a resounding success (please see the enclosed document chronicling this).</p> <p>B) The subject of the statue, Sylvia Townsend Warner, is a remarkable figure with a significant literary and LGBTQ+ legacy. (Please see images of the sketch, artists maquette and mock up of the proposed site)</p> <p>C) The planning application has now been submitted, and we are confident that, under the stewardship of Joe Doak, it will proceed smoothly without any issues or delays.</p>

		<p>We have carefully addressed all the concerns that led to the previous declines of our applications, including school engagement, the subject of the statue, and the lack of planning permission, which is now underway.</p> <p>With these issues addressed, we believe we have met all the necessary criteria and would greatly appreciate your support in bringing this important project to fruition.</p> <p>Thank you Anya Pearson – Chair & Trustee Tabitha Scofield – Secretary & Trustee Mark Chutter – Treasurer Nicole Brugger – Fund manager & Trustee</p>
16.	Declaration	<p>We declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>We understand that the information provided on this application form will be used by the Council to judge whether to award a grant and that the information will be available in the public domain. If you have provided any information which you do not wish to be made publicly available, please make this known when submitting the application.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant</p> <p>Position Held: Chair and Trustee of Visible Women UK</p> <p>For and on behalf of Visible Women UK Date: 20th February 2025</p>

Visible Women UK – supporting information:

From a sketch by sculptor Denise Dutton who created the beautiful Mary Anning statue for Lyme Regis



To a fifth scale artist maquette showcasing all the detail the final bronze sculpture will depict, including Dorchester's own Susie the cat.



Visible Women UK – supporting information:

A Snapshot of Last Year's School Engagement and the Significant Press Coverage and Buzz Generated Around the Sylvia Townsend Warner Statue Campaign.



ITEM 10 (c) – Grant application from Dorchester Cricket Club

1.	Name of organisation.	Dorchester Cricket Club
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Simon Joslin Address: The Cricket Pavilion Weymouth Avenue Recreation Ground Dorchester, DT1 2RY
3.	Address where activities are based.	As above
4.	What area (community) is served?	Dorchester
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	Other cricket clubs in surrounding villages, none have outdoor nets like the Dorchester one.
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	We have five junior teams, a disabled team and five adult teams, all of which use the nets. We also run one of the largest All Stars cricket sessions, with up to 100 5–8-year-olds enjoying cricket on Saturday mornings. We open up the clubhouse for the All Stars sessions to parents and carers for refreshments whilst the youngsters enjoy playing cricket. We are an open club, anyone is welcome to come and play cricket and we have open, supervised, net sessions for those who don't want to join a team.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	£100 a year for adult team players. All Stars are £2 a Session, sessions are one hour.
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	No
9.	Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	The outdoor nets were installed in 2007. The surface and shock pads now need replacing. The nets are very well used by all of our teams. We are currently in talks with Sport in Mind to make free net sessions available.

10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	Part of the cost may need to be covered by an ECB Interest free loan. Once this has been repaid (using the income from the boxing club) a sinking fund will be setup for the next time they need replacing, making it financially sustainable.
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.	May 2025 3-4 weeks from start.
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	Quotes have come in at £35,000
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	ECB grant: £10,000 (applied for) Awards for All: £19,500 (applied for) Jumble Sale raised: £250 ECB interest free loan £4,250
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£1,000, to be held by DTC until all funding is in place.
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	It will help our application to the ECB if there are funds coming from non-cricket sources, bringing funds into the sport. The ECB will be very happy if we can get grant support from DTC and Awards for All.
16.	<p>Declaration</p> <p>I/We declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>I/We understand that the information provided on this application form will be used by the Council to judge whether or not to award a grant and that the information will be available in the public domain. If you have provided any information which you do not wish to be made publicly available please make this known when submitting the application.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant(s): Simon Joslin</p> <p>Position Held: Chair</p> <p>For and on behalf of: Dorchester Cricket Club Date: 25/02/2025</p>	

Dorchester Cricket Club – additional information

(Bank statement also provided)

Summary of Accounts 2024		
Income	£	£
Club/VP/Subs	£4,829.71	
Bar	£29,059.42	
Rent/Bookings	£15,920.00	
Misc - Hall Fees, Sponsorship, Kit.	£7,385.17	57,194.30
Expenditures		
Club	£1,800.00	
Bar	£20,865.18	
Groundsman	£14,165.00	
Utilities	£8,688.65	
Misc - Hall Fees, Coaching, Fees, BT	£18,726.74	£64,245.57
Operating Profit/Loss		-£7,051.27

ITEM 10 (d) – Grant application from Kushti Bok

1.	Name of organisation.	Kushti Bok
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name Elizabeth Billington
3.	Address where activities are based.	Borough Gardens Dorchester
4.	What area (community) is served?	Gypsies and Travellers and the general Public
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	No
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	<p>Every year hundreds of Dorchester residents look forward to and attend the Roma History Day.</p> <p>Many who are from the communities, are looking for information on their heritage and family history, and to see how their communities lived in the past and present.</p> <p>The feedback from local Dorchester and surrounding areas is always positive. The amount of people attending each year speaks for itself. It is an event that has become embedded in Dorchester residents.</p>
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees. Please attach schedule if available.	<p>Wagon and cart hire £600. Music £600-700, facilitator expenses and materials, paper and wooden flowers, bacon pudding samples, pottery and tile painting £250, peg making and basket making £250, roundabout £300. Pay car marshals expenses. Volunteer Travel expenses £400-500.</p> <p>These costs are estimated and will be more when we book more stall. Full details will be available by 21st June 2025.</p>
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees? If so please advise effective dates.	No. Its always been a free event as Borough Gardens is a public area.

9.	Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	There will be Gypsy wagons, a bender tent, a basket makers, peg maker, book stalls, a family researcher, flower , Gypsy music. All carried out by Romany Traveller facilitators
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	Donations and funding grants. It is difficult to gain annual funding promises, so we rely on funding applications and then we make up any difference from Kushti Boks core costs.
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.	28 th June 2025 (booking of Borough Gardens confirmed with DTC).
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	Approx £2,000-£2,500
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	None yet. We will be asking SWDMN. Moving 4 Change who fund one of our projects and usually offer offer some help with funding nearer the time, £500 was received last year.
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500 (five hundred pounds)
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	
16.	<p>Declaration</p> <p>I/We declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>I/We understand that the information provided on this application form will be used by the Council to judge whether or not to award a grant and that the information will be available in the public domain. If you have provided any information which you do not wish to be made publicly available please make this known when submitting the application.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant(s).....E K Billington.....</p> <p>Position Held...Chair/CEO.....</p> <p>For and on behalf of.....Kushti Bok..... Date.....25th February 2025.....</p>	

ITEM 10 (e) – Grant application from Bean on the Green Cafe

1.	Name of organisation.	Bean on the Green Café, Fordington
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Georgina Willis (café owner) Address: supplied
3.	Address where activities are based.	Bean on the Green Café, adjacent to Fordington Green.
4.	What area (community) is served?	Fordington / Dorchester
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	No
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	The noticeboard on the side of the Bean on the Green Café provides information for the community and can be used by local groups to advertise events. The notice board is approximately 90cms x 60cms. However, despite frequent maintenance, the noticeboard is deteriorating.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	Free to use.
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	No
9.	Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	See question 6 above. A grant is requested in order to help contribute to the cost of a replacement noticeboard to be located on the side of the Bean on the Green Café, Fordington. The noticeboard is maintained by the café. The replacement would be like-for-like as it is located in a Conservation Area.
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	N/A

11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.	As soon as possible.
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	The cost is estimated to be in the region of £500. If a grant is awarded then a noticeboard will be chosen on the basis of design and robustness.
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	None. In the long-term the notice board will be maintained by the café staff.
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	Dorchester Town Council has offered to purchase the noticeboard if a grant is awarded in order that VAT can be reclaimed and thereby reduce the grant award amount.
16.	<p>Declaration</p> <p>I/We declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>I/We understand that the information provided on this application form will be used by the Council to judge whether or not to award a grant and that the information will be available in the public domain. If you have provided any information which you do not wish to be made publicly available please make this known when submitting the application.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant(s): Georgina Willis</p> <p>Position Held: Café owner</p> <p>For and on behalf of..... Date: 5/3/25.</p>	

ITEM 10 (f) – Grant application from South West Dorset Multi-Cultural Network

1.	Name of organisation.	South West Dorset Multicultural Network (SWDMN)
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Lorraine Wong (Treasurer) Address: Provided
3.	Address where activities are based.	One World Festival to be held in the Borough Gardens, Dorchester.
4.	What area (community) is served?	Dorchester and surrounding villages
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	No
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	The SWDMN aims to end the isolation felt by people from Black and Ethnic Minority backgrounds in SW Dorset. The Network does this by promoting positive relationships between people from a diverse range of cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds, living or working in SW Dorset and taking steps to proactively address any incidents of racism or harassment reported to us.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees.	Zero
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	No
9.	Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	<p>Our request is for funding to support the One World event which aims to celebrate the diversity of cultures in SW Dorset through world food, music and cultural activities.</p> <p>The One World Festival was previously (prior to 2024) a partnership event, lead by the Dorset Race Equality Council to celebrate the diversity of cultures in SW Dorset. It was the brainchild of local resident Kahalique Miah and his friends, the 'Speak Easy' group, who sought to encourage networking and socialising with ethnic minority groups and the community.</p> <p>This is a free event open to all and showcases world food, music, art and culture that reflect the various ethnic communities in and around SW Dorset.</p> <p>The SWDMN took on responsibility for organising the event in 2024 with the support of Dorchester Town</p>

		<p>Council, and was supported by various grants including from Dorset Council.</p> <p>The event in 2024 was the first post COVID and was very well received and supported in the community particularly as it took place very shortly after the riots across the UK following the Southport stabbings.</p> <p>The atmosphere at the event was hugely positive and served to demonstrate what unites, rather than divides our community.</p> <p>Feedback from attenders, performers, and stall holders unanimously supported running the event again in 2025.</p>
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	<p>In 2024, the event was run as a partnership event by the SWDMN and Dorchester Town Council.</p> <p>The Network is a voluntary organisation without subscription and wishes to continue the legacy of previous One World events by making this event free to attend, so continues to seek grants to cover the costs.</p>
11.	<p>a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.</p> <p>b) Estimated completion date.</p>	<p>Planning for the event has already commenced.</p> <p>Event date: Saturday 9th August 2025</p>
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	£5,700
13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	<p>Application submitted to National Lottery Community Fund to support the cost of musical entertainment and some infrastructure: £4000</p> <p>The SWDMN will also be contributing £1,200 of its own funds to pay for the event.</p>
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	<p>Contribution towards following costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security £160 • First Aid Provision £250 • Contribution to volunteer expenses £90 <p>Total £500</p>
15.	Any other relevant information.	

16. Declaration

I/We declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.

I/We understand that the information provided on this application form will be used by the Council to judge whether or not to award a grant and that **the information will be available in the public domain. If you have provided any information which you do not wish to be made publicly available please make this known when submitting the application.**

Signature of Applicant(s)

Position Held: Treasurer

For and on behalf of South West Dorset Multicultural Network

Date: 4 March 2025

ITEM 10 (g) – Grant application from Katy Jones & Dorchester Arts

1.	Name of organisation.	Katharine Jones The Hardy Har comedy festival
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name Katharine Jones Address : Provided
3.	Address where activities are based.	The Hardy Har is a town wide event in the following venues: - Tom Browns - Dorchester Arts Centre - Brewery Square - The Kings Arms - Convivial Rabbit
4.	What area (community) is served?	Dorchester Town Centre with shows available for all ages and budgets
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	There are currently no comedy specific festivals in the West Dorset area.
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	This uplifting event was well received in 2024 bringing laughter to the High Street. We use independent venues to bring additional trade at no cost to the business. We want to put Dorchester on the map by bringing high quality acts to the County Town. This festival provides the opportunity to bring people together and share an enjoyable weekend of laughter and fun whilst showcasing venues that they might not have visited before.
7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees. Please attach schedule if available.	Our ticket breakdown is as follows: Headline show £15 Stand-up/ mixed bill show £7.50 Childs ticket £5.00 (second child £2.50 plus discount for local schools) Dorset Comedian of the year- Free Brewery Square out door show- Free
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees?	N/A

9.	<p>Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)</p>	<p>The Hardy Har, Dorchester’s first comedy festival, started in 2024. The aim of the festival was to bring laughter to Dorchester whilst supporting independent business in the High East/ West Street area. Going into 2025 we have added an extra day to the festival and are extending to the shows to Brewery Square and The Convivial Rabbit. We originally chose July for the festival to increase trade for independent businesses and for the town on a weekend when people would normally go to the seaside!</p> <p>The festival hosts top comedians showcasing their ‘Work in Progress’ shows before they take them to Edinburgh or on UK tours. With this in mind, tickets are half the price making it an affordable day out. We support local comics by hosting Dorset Comedian of the year with the winner performing at the Dorchester Arts centre.</p> <p>The Hardy Har is an inclusive event and this year The Blue Badge Bunch make their Dorchester debut with their disabled led game show for all ages.</p> <p>We secured funding last year for PA equipment for venues to use. To minimise the cost of the individual venues we require funding for a sound technician to be on site at the venues to ensure the PA’s are set up and any technical requirements for the comedians is looked after. The cost of a the engineer would be £300</p> <p>We are also looking for funding for a videographer to create promotional material for the festival and the town moving forward. The cost of the videographer is £200.</p>
10.	<p>How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.</p>	<p>Entry to the majority of comedy shows is ticketed, due to the shows being Work in progress shows the ticket price is at low.</p> <p>To ensure the Hardy Har continues and is able sustain itself into 2026 we have an increased ticket price from £5 to £7.50.</p> <p>The more well known the festival becomes, then the more negotiating power we will have with regard to ticket split and costing. Last year with the help of the Art Development Grant we were able to purchase essential sound equipment and hire designer to create our logo. We would still like to provide some free shows for the general public to make the festival accessible for all.</p>

11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment.	The Hardy Har planning started early in 2025 and will continue until the event on the 11 th and 12 th of July 2025.																								
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	<p>Hardy Har - Budget</p> <p>Costs:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="703 465 1193 815"> <tr><td>Evening Music</td><td>£450</td></tr> <tr><td>Dorset Comedian of the Year</td><td>£300</td></tr> <tr><td>Blue Badge Club Workshop</td><td>£100</td></tr> <tr><td>Videographer</td><td>£200</td></tr> <tr><td>Sound Technician</td><td>£300</td></tr> <tr><td>Flyers</td><td>£58.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Meta Marketing</td><td>£50</td></tr> <tr><td>Total Costs</td><td>£1,458</td></tr> </table> <p>Funding:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="703 896 1193 1055"> <tr><td>DBID Grant</td><td>500</td></tr> <tr><td>Grant Funding</td><td>500</td></tr> <tr><td>Oak Taverns</td><td>450</td></tr> <tr><td>Total Funding</td><td>1450</td></tr> </table>	Evening Music	£450	Dorset Comedian of the Year	£300	Blue Badge Club Workshop	£100	Videographer	£200	Sound Technician	£300	Flyers	£58.00	Meta Marketing	£50	Total Costs	£1,458	DBID Grant	500	Grant Funding	500	Oak Taverns	450	Total Funding	1450
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13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	Applying for DBID funding £500 Funding from Oak taverns (Tom Browns Pub) £450																								
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500																								
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	Dorchester Arts has agreed to act as the accountable body for any grant awarded by the town council.																								
16.	<p>Declaration</p> <p>I/We declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>I/We understand that the information provided on this application form will be used by the Council to judge whether or not to award a grant and that the information will be available in the public domain. If you have provided any information which you do not wish to be made publicly available please make this known when submitting the application.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant(s) Katharine Jones Position Held: Festival Director For and on behalf of: The Hardy Har! Date 07/03/2025</p>																									

ITEM 10 (h) – Grant application from Vinyl Van

1.	Name of organisation. (If your application is successful the grant cheque will be made payable to the name used here.)	Vinyl Van
2.	Name and address of responsible officer who should be contacted regarding this application.	Name: Marcia Smith Address: Brewery Square
3.	Address where activities are based.	Dorchester.
4.	What area (community) is served?	<p>We run a record shop which is popular with people of all ages and backgrounds and our aim to make our space as inclusive and welcoming as possible.</p> <p>Within the shop space we support young people by providing them with work experience placements and we also host workshops for young people (to name a few, a DJ skills workshop, craft sessions, clothes upcycling). We have also hosted the Space Project for a couple of meetings and live music events such as a Love Music, Hate Racism night and a Youth Open Mic Night (in collaboration with Dorchester Town Council).</p> <p>We also take part in a wide range of community activities and events including Anonymous, Street in the Park, the Encompass Care Summer Fair, Chesil Youth Pride, Sherborne Pride and most recently supporting Dorset County Hospital with their Pride celebrations.</p>
5.	Are there any other similar facilities or services provided in the area/district?	No, we are unique in that we are able to provide a community music venue and also have our Vinyl Van which we are able to take to lots of outdoor events.
6.	How does your organisation / activity benefit the residents of Dorchester	<p>We provide a friendly and accessible space in our shop and offer lots of community activities which are free to attend. We also provide lots of opportunities for up and coming performers, for instance through our Joy of Decks evenings and Record Store day, and really love to champion and support local artists.</p> <p>We also work closely with lots of partners in town and locally to help support their activities and events, for instance loaning our equipment and performing ourselves for free.</p>

7.	Present charges/ subscription/fees. Please attach schedule if available.	Our community events and workshops are all free to attend. In the past, we have held fundraising nights and received donations which have supported what we do. It's very important to us that our community events are accessible to everyone.
8.	Are there any proposals to change or introduce charges, subscriptions or fees? If so please advise effective dates.	No. We see that keeping events free encourages people to attend and ensures that we reach a diverse range of people, whatever their income.
9.	Details of the project facilities or service to be provided and how they will benefit the community. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	<p>We are volunteering as part of an organising team to help curate 'Pop Up Pride Dorchester' (PUPD) where we will coordinate partners across the town who are running activities during Pride month in June.</p> <p>We aim to create a full and vibrant programme of events to showcase all the positive activities people are hosting and we will market it widely.</p> <p>Vinyl Van also plan to hold some of our own activities including a Poetry 'slam' and an open mic night as well as a pride themed Joy of Decks night.</p> <p>We will also provide music for the Pride Picnic being hosted by the organising group in Borough Gardens on Saturday 21st June.</p> <p>It is hoped that the events will appeal to a wide range of people who live in Dorchester but might also attract others to the town to attend specific events which will benefit our town / businesses too.</p>
10.	How, if the project is ongoing, will you plan for it to become financially sustainable into the future – donations, charging, grants, other etc.	This is the first time we have run PUPD and we aim to make it a very low-cost project. Going forward we would like to make this an annual event and would hope to get sponsorship from local businesses as well as some of the organisations taking part.
11.	a) Proposed starting date of project or acquisition date of equipment. b) Estimated completion date.	<p>PUPD will be running throughout June (and possibly into July depending on timing of partner events).</p> <p>The main part of PUPD we are seeking funding for is the Pride Picnic on the 21st June.</p>
12.	Please give details of the cost of the project.	Overall the project is estimated to cost £1500.

13.	Please give details of other grants awarded or applied for.	We are also applying to Dorset Council for funding and asking a local business for sponsorship.
14.	Amount of grant requested from Dorchester Town Council.	£500 – this will go towards the cost of funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing costs £200 • Volunteer expenses for the Pride Picnic £140 • Cost of Security for the Pride Picnic £160
15.	Any other relevant information. (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.)	No.
16.	<p>Declaration</p> <p>I declare that the information given on this application is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>I understand that the information provided on this application form will be used by the Council to judge whether or not to award a grant and that the information will be available in the public domain. If you have provided any information which you do not wish to be made publicly available please make this known when submitting the application.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant(s) Marcia Smith</p> <p>Position Held Business Owner</p> <p>For and on behalf of Vinyl Van / Pop Up Pride Dorchester Date 7th March 2025</p>	

ITEM 11.

TWINNING & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PANEL NOTES OF MEETING ON 13TH JANUARY 2025

Present: Cllrs M. Rennie (chair), F. Hogwood, S. Jones, R. Major and R. Potter.

Officers: Steve Newman (Town Clerk) and Tony Hurley (Assistant Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies.** Cllr J. Hewitt.
2. **Declarations of interest.** None were declared.
3. **Honorary Citizens' Service.** Steve Newman briefed the Panel on the arrangements and members expressed their thanks to Steve and Georgina Wakely for their work on the designs of the invitations and programme. Steve Newman informed the group that the invitations had been sent out, a buffet order (with vegan options), and a professional photographer booked for the event.
4. **VE Day 80th celebration.** Tony Hurley outlined the emerging ideas for celebrating the 80th anniversary of VA day on 8th May 2025, and on the following weekend. The main event would be a beacon lighting ceremony in Salisbury Field and the Decadettes had been booked to provide musical entertainment. Final details will be presented at the next meeting.

Tony Hurley explained that the national guidance asked that a proclamation be read out at 8.00am on 8th May by the Town Crier. The Panel members suggested that the Mayor should join the Town Crier for this proclamation at the Town Pump with all members invited to attend along with the Chair of Dorset Council.

With regard to commemorating the event, members suggested that could be a bench, with commemorative plaque, perhaps at Salisbury Field.

5. **Remembrance service & parade.** Tony Hurley presented to members the initial results of consultation with stakeholders / participants with regard to potential improvements to the event. The members discussed the arrangements for wreath laying and the need for better marshalling of this activity. There was also a need to improve the public address system and better distribution of Orders of Service to the crowds attending.
6. **Commemoration at German PoW memorial.** Due to problems with the cemetery wall, it was agreed to defer decisions about the future location of the Remembrance ceremony at the memorial until there was greater clarity. Members discussed whether the ceremony should be less of a religious service and perhaps just involve readings.
7. **Covid Day of Reflection.** Although not on the agenda, Tony Hurley relayed to members recently received government guidance urging local communities to commemorate the 5th anniversary of beginning of the pandemic through a day of 'reflection' on 9th March 2025.

The Mayor agreed to mark this occasion by being present in Borough Gardens at midday on 9th March and invite members of the community to join him in reflection.

8. **Date of next meeting.** It was agreed that they next meeting should have a focus on twinning activities and that both John Eldridge (Lubbecke Society) and Gareth Jones (Bayeux Society) be invited to attend – date to be agreed with the chair depending on their availability.

ITEM 12.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF DORCHESTER ARTS

19th January 2025 Corn Exchange

Welcome from Simon Veale, Chair

1) Apologies

Karin and Richard Coode

Judy and Richard Thompson

Gillian and Trevor Hedger

Minette Walters

Geoffrey Goater

Jane Burden

Colin Anderson

Jean Lang

Sue Willdridge

Mel and Terry Hooley

2) Approval of Minutes of last meeting

Approved by Helen Hutchinson, seconded by Tina Hicks

3) Matters arising

None recorded

4) Chair's Report

It has been a successful year for the organisation.

Treasurer Peter Smith had stepped down and his replacement is still sought. The post is not officially required under the organisation's Articles but good practice dictates that it should be in place. Day-to-day financial matters are currently being handled by Artistic Director, Mark Tattersall, and Finance Manager, Kathy Sweeting, both of whom have long experience, with Simon Veale as interim Treasurer and trustee Helen Hutchinson assisting. The finance committee was thanked.

Fundraising had been successful with events contributing to the success of the year.

A good relationship with the Town Council was maintained and thanks given to David Leaper for his representation and contribution, and Stella Jones representing Dorset Council.

Thanks were made to all trustees and the value of a diverse skillset acknowledged.

A new trustee, Toby Frere, has been proposed for election at this AGM.

Membership stands at 420 but more to be encouraged.

Chair gave thanks to Mark Tattersall for very successful programming and for overseeing the ongoing building improvements to the building, acknowledging the extra time and commitment required for this.

5) Artistic Director's Report

Mark Tattersall reported on the calendar year of 2024.

The performances over summer, particularly the outdoor events, had been affected by bad weather and the general economic situation. The building site had less of an effect than anticipated as contractors' planning had allowed the venue to remain open. Overall, ticket sales were up 9%. The staff had dealt very well with all the logistical difficulties involved.

He then showed a selection of clips from events of the year which highlighted the diverse nature of the programming. There had been classical music with Andreas Scholl, countertenor, and Tamar Halperin, pianist, folk music with the final visit from Show of Hands, and sell-out show from the Kanneh-Masons at the Merritt Centre in Sherborne. Circus-type performances had been enjoyed and even a play with an audience of 3 in a car in the carpark.

There has been theatre for those with Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties and strong encouragement of local and youth theatre and music. The youth theatre from the Plough in Great Torrington visited and hope to repeat. A pay-what-you-can pricing for this ended up being generously supported and will be considered in the future. Family programming remains difficult to profit from but will continue.

Some shows of quality had been poorly attended but will continue to be brought in.

A major success of the year had been Six Men of Dorset, a combined effort with the New Hardy Players, Dorchester Arts and Shire Hall. All performances, including repeats later, sold out completely.

The Script's The Thing continued with smaller events during the year and the main event will be repeated on May 3rd, this time with room for 100 scripts, many of which have already been submitted.

Dorchester Youth Theatre had performed Triggerfish, a play by Ed Viney, which went to Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Jo Simons reported more fully on this.

Another play by Ed Viney, Pot Licker is an exciting co-production between Dorchester Arts and Poole Lighthouse and will tour the South West and London beginning in March.

The Community programme now includes Art Life for those with mental difficulties and will begin Art for Memory for those with early Dementias.

New staging had been bought which is lighter and more versatile and is making performances easier to manage in different venues.

Visual Arts will become part of DA when the front of the building is complete. Mike Willdrige and Sasha Constable are helping Mark with curating the new space on the walls with the first few exhibitions already booked.

Jo Simons then spoke about Dorchester Youth Theatre's year in which 100 young people had been part of the group. The trip to Edinburgh with Triggerfish had been a significant event for all concerned. There had been an audience of 160 over 5 performances, of which one was signed. The play had been very positive for the group with a boost to confidence and experience and 4 of

those involved now have places at drama schools. She showed an entertaining photo montage of the trip. The building works are on target for Easter and the decoration in the Town Hall is almost complete. Fundraising has raised £2000 over its target with good sponsorship, crowdfunder, events and seat plaques.

Mark thanked Chair and board, staff and Town Hall Keepers, members and volunteers.

5) Accounts

Simon Veale circulated the financial report for the years 23/24 prior to the meeting. He then summarised that and much of what has already been shared in the Artistic Director's Report. He acknowledged the great support from both Town Council and Dorset Council including new 3-year grant from DC for £20000 pa which is generous in current circumstances.

Room hire within the building is contributing an increasing amount which is expected to grow even more with the spaces which will be available when the building works are complete. It is expected that funds will need to be used to equip the new front of the building and will be an investment even if a deficit is a result for the next year. He and the board view the future with confidence and positivity.

7) Independent examiner

The board have proposed that CB Reid continue as independent examiners. No objections were raised.

8) Election of new Director

Toby Frere was proposed as new Trustee/Director by Simon Veale and seconded by Alex Gannon.

6) Any other business

Louise Sheaves queried the approval of the accounts. It was agreed that this would be looked into as the wording of the Agenda is unclear (the Accounts having already been approved by the Board, as in previous years, and submitted to both Companies House and the Charity Commission). Tess James thanked Dorchester Arts for the successful year.

End of meeting

Mark Tattersall gave a short tour of ongoing works at the front of the building. Board met privately and Simon Veale proposed to continue as Chair by Helen Hutchinson, seconded by Mike Willdrige. Simon Veale also to continue as Interim Treasurer, proposed by Hanna Trevorrow, seconded by Amanda Wakeman

ITEM 13.

MINUTES OF THE DORCHESTER ARTS BOARD MEETING 20TH FEBRUARY 2025

Present:

Simon Veale SV Chair

Mark Tattersall MT Artistic Director

Annabel Eigeland AE

Helen Hutchinson HH

Toby Frere TF

Mike Willdridge MW

Hanna Trevor HT

Amanda Wakeman AW

David Leaper DL rep Dorchester Town Council Stella Jones SJ rep Dorset Council

Apologies: Sasha Constable

Register of Interests and Conflict of Interests: None reported

Approval of Minutes of last meeting: HH approved, seconded by AE

Matters arising: A question had been raised about parking for those attending performances for PMLD audiences. MT reported that while carpark was being used by contractors, there was no facility. For review once work completed. HH mentioned that Alec Waters had been suggested as board member with history of accountancy. Discussion followed.

Capital Project: Good progress is being made with 2nd May as current handover date though the space may not be open fully for another 2 weeks after that. It will still be usable for The Script's the Thing (TSTT) on 3rd May.

Asbestos had been discovered in the floor of the old hallway and specialist removers will be dealing with it. Floor levels had been discovered to have been uneven and after various remedies mooted, there will be a slight gradient from the bar area to the gallery space. Also one of the piers needs reinforcing support possibly due to longterm weight of clock tower above.

The board was given a tour of the works with an explanation of the area by MT. It was very useful, and exciting, for trustees to see the space and to learn how it will operate. SV congratulated MT on the great deal of work required in leadership of the project.

Artistic Director's Report

A full report was circulated prior to the meeting and MT talked through it. It describes comprehensively the success of many shows and highlights others less popular, but the overall picture is of increasing attendances and ticket sales.

The summer season was displayed on screen and explained. Much depends on weather for the number of outdoor events, the season of which opens on 5th June at Athelhampton.

Dorchester Drama will put on another production during the summer.

HT asked about promoting future productions that may be too early for brochure inclusion. MT explained that production on-sale dates were often agent-driven and the brochure seasonal – DA needs to work on not being tied to seasons in terms of on-sale dates as this results in events being seen elsewhere by the public beforehand. It was pointed out that some were available online prior to being seen in brochure.

AW asked about handing out leaflets in town or having a stand on market days. General discussion followed.

The Visual Arts programme is inevitably delayed alongside works issues but the plan remains the same and other artists are being considered. Later this year, a Dorset Open is being revived by DVA/Dorset Museum and Art Gallery and the winner will be given a solo exhibition at Dorchester Arts during Dorset Art Weeks 2026.

The Elephant Stampede Farewell event will take place in June and on the 14th and 15th June, all elephants will be displayed throughout Corn Exchange.

Community Participation

Laura Joy (maternity cover for Jess Beale) joined the meeting to report on activities. A very successful Rise programme had just finished and the next one fully booked. The need for some continuation of support was recognised and it is thought the new cafe area may provide an informal venue for this.

Art for Memory, a class for those with memory problems and early dementias, commences soon and the Art Life group is about to start its second programme.

Parkinson's Dance classes continue and are well-attended.

Dorchester Youth Theatre continues to thrive and there is a possibility of a performance at the National Theatre should they be chosen through the Connections programme.

Pop Club is on hold as the leader is unwell.

TSTT is planned for 3rd May, good speakers have been planned and more venues added.

The *Pot licker* tour has been expanded to include a London venue at Greenwich. Trustees were asked to encourage attendance at CE and other Dorset venues.

Brenden Gabe-Fry has been appointed as Catering Manager with responsibility for the operation of the new bar and cafe in the Corn Exchange after initially being sought for advice on how it might work. He is currently working 2 days a week and go full-time a month before the space becomes operational. He has a lot of experience in food service and bar management and will be employed by Dorchester Arts Trading.

Luke Jerram's new project of Helios is planned for Easter '26, *dependent on grant*. Dorchester Arts will recruit a new caretaker for September when current temporary arrangements run out in September.

Dorchester Town Council: DL reported that the reaction to the sharing of recent DA board meeting minutes with Council has been positive and all appreciate work being done.

Dorset Council: SJ reported all well and no issues to discuss.

Finance: SV reported that the situation remains as reported at the AGM but that £10-15k needs to be spent on purchasing new bar equipment and furniture, so this will have an impact on the year-end.

MT had circulated the Quarter 3 budget alongside the draft budget for '25/'26 prior to the meeting. He went through the new budget based on the changes ahead this year. The report shows clear explanation of these projections.

Arts Council England (ACE) and National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) update.

The question is whether to apply for NPO status, applications for which are due in July '25 to commence in April '27. MT had met with Phil Gibby, Regional Director for ACE SW, who had attended a performance, and discussed the situation.

The status comes with complications and many 'strings attached'. The application is lengthy and time-consuming and it is felt there is not the capacity for it currently. DA can continue to apply for Project Grants. Phil Gibby thought the organisation was doing very well with its current stable financial model. Mark and Phil discussed the idea that if DA were to aim for an application for the round starting in 2031, ACE might be open to discussions in 2028/29 to look at how DA might contribute to the SW creative ecology and might therefore be a strong candidate for re-entering the Portfolio – though even then there is no guarantee that an application would be successful.

There was general discussion and it was agreed to not follow up at present but consider for the 2031 Round.

Board Recruitment: SV has sent details of the Treasurer opportunity to Dorset Business Mentors and MT to Artsjobs website. SV had been approached by someone who has specialty in Safeguarding and interested in joining the board. All agreed this is a good idea.

Fundraising: MW and AE reported on the successful Beer and Bites event and that plans were in place for a 'Jane Austen' evening in autumn and a wine-tasting event before Christmas.

Policies: Due for review in April. MW to work with MT.

Date of next meeting: Monday May 12th

Post-meeting.

MT left the meeting for the board to discuss pay rises for the staff. The budget has allowed for a raise and SV reinforced the need for this considering the increased cost of living and need for staff retention. The team has responded well to the pressures brought on by the building developments and the adjustments required.

It was acknowledged that several of the staff are approaching retirement age at around the same time and therefore much change is anticipated over the next few years.

It was unanimously agreed that the raise for all staff would take place from April '25.

ITEM 14.

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 17TH MARCH 2025
EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL AND INTERMENTS AND BURIAL OF ASHES**

1. To note that grants of Exclusive Right of Burial have been issued for the following grave spaces:

Cemetery	Burial/Ashes	Grant No:	Grave Number
Dorchester Cemetery	ASHES	3256A	T.B.A.
	ASHES	3257	T.B.A.
	ASHES	3258	T.B.A.
Poundbury Cemetery	ASHES	3256	C149A
	BURIAL	3259	731C
	BURIAL	3260	T.B.A.
	BURIAL	3261	T.B.A.
Fordington Cemetery	-	-	-

2. During January and February 2025, the following interments and scattering/burial of ashes have taken place in Dorchester’s cemeteries:

1/1/25 – 28/2/25	Dorchester	Fordington	Poundbury
Interments	-	1	1
Ashes	2	1	1
Garden of Remembrance	2	-	-
Poundbury Chamber			-
Children’s Plot			-