

# Dorchester Town Council

## Management Committee

16 September 2024

**Present:** Councillors A. Canning, P. Farmer, L. Fry, W. Gibbons, J. Hewitt, F. Hogwood, S. Jones, F. Kent-Ledger, D. Leaper (Chairman), R. Major and M. Rennie.

**Apologies:** The Mayor (Councillor R. Potter)

In attendance:

Councillors J. Germodo and R. Biggs.

Officers: Tony Hurley (Assistant Town Clerk – Corporate), Carl Dallison (Assistant Town Clerk – Outdoor Services).

13. **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr L. Fry declared a personal interest with regard to minute 20 (c) below. Cllr Major declared a personal interest with regard to minutes 18 and 20 (b) below. Cllr S. Jones declared a personal interest with regard to minute 20 (e) below.

14. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 15 July 2024, adopted by Council on 29 July 2024, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15. **Outdoor Services – Update Report**

The committee received the update report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Outdoor Services) and noted very positive public comments on the floral bedding in the Gardens. The Assistant Town Clerk also reported on plans to refurbish the drinking fountain and water feature in the play area at The Great Field. The Chairman thanked the Outdoor Services staff for all their hard work over the summer. Cllr Rennie noted that the Kings Road tree planting scheme was looking very impressive. Cllr Rennie also suggested that the council should thank the public for treating Borough Gardens with respect during the many events over the summer. Cllr Canning enquired about the feasibility of installing Christmas lights in the new trees on Five Ways Junction (next to Coffee No.1). The Assistant Town Clerk considered this a good idea although the trees were not ready to bear the weight of lights but that a free-standing festive lighting feature could be installed.

**Resolved:**

That the Outdoor Services update report be noted.

16. **Location of park benches on The Great Field**

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Open Spaces) on a

proposal to locate two benches on The Great Field, close to St John's Way, such to sponsorship. Cllr Gibbons welcomed the proposal as it would be of benefit to those attending the doctors' surgery. Cllr Hogwood suggested that in future perhaps a bench could be located close to the bus stops at the southern edge of The Great Field. Cllr Jones asked that any benches should not include dividing armrests. The Assistant Town Clerk explained that although permission was being sought for two benches, the second bench would need to wait until a suitable donor/sponsor came forward.

**Resolved:**

That two park benches be installed, subject to donations, on The Great Field close to St John's Way.

**17. Developing a policy on the hire of council land**

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on the council's current approach to accepting requests to use council land for events, markets and festivals. Cllr Kent-Ledger suggested that there should be greater member involvement in deciding which events to allow to take place. Cllr Jones stated that it was important that any event should not inhibit free public access to council sites. Cllr Gibbons highlighted parking problems at doctors' surgery that were created by weekday events on The Great Field and suggested that event organisers should be required to provide marshals to redirect traffic away from this road. Cllr Canning suggested that there should be a sign on The Great Field to provide information as to how council land could be hired for events.

**Resolved:**

That the committee agreed that a brief policy on allowing the use of council land for events be developed for member consideration.

**18. Allotment fees for 2025 and service update**

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on current management of the council's allotments and waiting lists. Members requested a future report on how the council can best engage with the allotment representatives and tenants.

**Resolved:**

- a) That the report on the management of the council's allotments were noted.
- b) That allotment be increased by £1 per plot from January 2025.
- c) That the water fees be increased by £1 per plot from January 2025.
- d) That the practice of charging double fees for non-Dorchester residents should continue.

**19. Adoption of The Duke of Edinburgh Gardens and The Queen Mother Statue**

The committee received a report from the Assistant Town Clerk (Corporate) on a proposal for the town council to take responsibility via long leases for both The Duke of Edinburgh Gardens and The Queen Mother statue in Poundbury. Members expressed concern about the size of any financial contribution by the Duchy of Cornwall and also the likely requirements for street furniture around the base of the statue should that area of road be adopted as highway. Cllr Rennie proposed an amendment to the recommendation which was agreed.

**Resolved:**

That a decision on the adoption of The Duke of Edinburgh Gardens and The Queen Mother Statue by the town council be deferred until the Chairman and Vice-Chairman have discussed the details of the arrangements with the Town Clerk.

**20. Grant Applications**

The Committee considered various requests for financial assistance and the following was decided:

- (a) That the request from the Dorchester Sheroes Project for a grant of £500 towards community engagement be deferred until after the subject of the statue had been announced.
- (b) That the request from the Lions Club of Dorchester & District for a grant of £500 towards the cost of the Summerfest family fun day be declined and the group be invited to reapply but provide itemised details as to how any grant would be spent.
- (c) That a grant of £250 be awarded to Parkrun towards the cost of a storage container to be located on The Great Field.
- (d) That a grant of £500 be awarded to Easy Read South Dorset towards the cost of recruiting and training three coaches.
- (e) That a grant of £250 be awarded to the Dorchester Child Contact Centre towards the cost of a football/air hockey table.
- (f) That the request from Victim Support Dorset for a grant of up to £500 towards the cost of personal alarms be declined.

The Committee was informed that the Dorchester Lubbecke Society had friends from Lubbecke and the Kantorei choir visiting Dorchester between the 17 – 20 October. Mr Klaus Hermann would be attending the visit. Mr Hermann had been a huge supporter of the twinning and had co-ordinated events with the Council and its Mayor's for many years. Mr Hermann had made it known that this would be his last visit to Dorchester.

The Committee agreed that it would be appropriate, and in accordance with Council policy, to hold a brief reception for Mr Hermann in the Council Chamber prior to the Twinning Society lunch on Sunday 20 October between 11.30am and 12.30pm with some light refreshment. This would offer the opportunity to The Mayor to thank Mr Hermann and present him with a small token of appreciation. The reception to be funded from within the existing 2024-25 twinning budget.

21. **Minutes of Dorchester Arts board meeting**

The minutes of the Dorchester Arts board meeting were considered by members.

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Dorchester Arts board meeting minutes be noted.

22. **Cemetery Matters**

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

The report which detailed the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial for grave spaces and the number of interments and burials of ashes, and the use of the South Chapel, at Dorchester Cemetery since the last meeting of the Committee had been circulated with the agenda.

**Resolved:**

That the report on the Grants of Exclusive Right of Burial and Interments and Burial of Ashes since the last meeting of the Committee be noted.

**(b) Headstones and Inscriptions**

The Committee received and noted applications for the design of headstones and inscriptions.

**Resolved:**

That the action of the Town Clerk in approving designs numbered 5433 to 5437 be confirmed and the Register of Memorials be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Chairman.....