

DORCHESTER MARKETS INFORMAL JOINT PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2024

Present: Cllrs Piers Brown, Simon Christopher, Jed Germodo, Janet Hewitt, Sally Holland, Rob Hughes, Stella Jones, Kate Reid, Molly Rennie and Sarah Williams

Apologies: Cllrs Dave Bolwell

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Kevin Evans (Senior Accountant (Place)), Graham Duggan (Head of Community & Public Protection), Joshua Kennedy (Democratic Services Officer), Hannah Massey (Lawyer - Regulatory), Steve Newman (Town Clerk) and Christopher Peck (Principal Transport Planner)

28. **Election of Chair**

Proposed by Cllr Sarah Williams and seconded by Cllr Janet Hewitt.

Decision: That Cllr Molly Rennie be elected as Chair.

29. **Election of Vice-Chair**

Proposed by Cllr Janet Hewitt and seconded by Cllr Stella Jones.

Decision: That Cllr Sarah Williams be elected as Vice-Chair.

30. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence was received from Cllr Dave Bolwell.

31. **Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 31 January 2024 were confirmed and signed.

32. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

33. **Public Participation**

There were no public questions or statements.

34. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items raised at the meeting.

35. **Fairfield Road Project Update**

A verbal update on the progress of the Fairfield Road project was provided by the Principal Transport Planner. A summary of the works that had been completed to date was provided and the Principal Transport Planner discussed the aims of the improvement works, which were hoping to be started once full funding had been secured for the works.

In response to questions from members, the Principal Transport Planner assured the panel that the planting would be low maintenance and that archaeological surveys would be completed, if digging was required for the works.

36. **Dorchester Artisan Market Report**

The Dorchester Town Council Town Clerk provided a brief verbal update on the status of the Dorchester Artisan Market, that had taken place on a monthly basis since April and had been successful. There was a plan in place to gradually increase the number of traders at the market due to its success.

37. **Appointments to the Car Boot Grants Panel**

Proposals were made by Cllrs Stella Jones and Sarah Williams to nominate Cllr Janet Hewitt from Dorchester Town Council and Cllr Sally Holland from Dorset Council to the Car Boot Grants Panel.

Decision: That Cllrs Molly Rennie, Sarah Williams, Janet Hewitt and Sally Holland make up the Car Boot Grants Panel.

38. **Update On Future Fairfield Market Operator**

The Head of Community and Public Protection provided a verbal update on the status of the panel regarding the future operator of the Fairfield Market. The current contract with Ensors was set to run out in 2026 and the process was underway for establishing a new operator of the market to take over after the contract ends. Members were informed of the two options available to them, the first being Dorchester Town Council taking over operation of the market and the other being to seek open market procurement for a third party to operate the market.

Following previous meetings of the Panel where this issue had been discussed and members had expressed a preference for Dorchester Town Council operating the market, officers had been exploring the necessary route for this option.

The panel established a working group made up of the Chair, Vice-Chair and one member from each respective Council, to be decided following the meeting, to work with officers during this process.

39. Budget Outturn Report 2023-24

The Senior Accountant presented the report for the budget outturn figures for 2023-24. It was explained that there was an overspend against the expenditure budget, due to higher than expected utility costs. There was also lower than expected income, due to shortfalls from the market and Sunday car boot. Income from Ensors was higher than the previous year, but still came in under budget. Members were informed that the reserve sums remained at a healthy level.

The panel approved of the budget outturn figures for 2023-24.

40. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 5.30 - 6.43 pm

Chairman

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