

Dorchester Area Community Area Land Trust

Minutes of the Board meeting held via Zoom Call on Tuesday 15th September 2020 at 5.30pm

Present: Alistair Chisholm (AC), John Christmas (JC), Felicity McLaren (FM), Tricia Mitchell (Chair) (TM) and Barry Thompson (BT)

Also present: Steve Watson (SW)

Administration: Paula Harding – Minute Clerk

For Action

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from Ian Gosling (IG).

2) Declarations of Interest

JC declared that he is now on the board of the Dorchester Municipal Charities which includes the Whetstones Almshouse nearest to the potential development site at the Old Tennis Courts.

3) Minutes of the meetings held on 19th February 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2020 were agreed with no amendments and signed by the Chairman.

4) Matters arising from the last minutes

It was agreed that the matters arising from the last meeting had all been superseded during the lockdown period so no updates were required.

5) Director Changes

Andy Stillman has resigned from the board as he is moving abroad.

6) Statement from the Conservation Officer, James Weir and the DACLT response.

The report from the Conservation officer has been circulated to the board. It focussed on the conservation of the site and not the overall scheme so had omitted to mention some of the design changes that had been incorporated to try and alleviate the concerns previously raised.

AC felt that the DACLT didn't focus enough, in the planning application, on the way in which the proposed scheme could enhance the visibility of the ramparts. He felt that with a planting scheme and interpretation board the feature would become a focal point and not hidden as it is now.

TM added that the DACLT still hadn't received the waiting list figures from Paul Derrien to show that there was a proven need for affordable housing in Dorchester.

SW is to respond to the James Weir, copying in TM, reiterating the need for affordable housing and including the figures from PD once they are made available. He will include the fact that even with this and other windfall sites in Dorset the Council will not be close to meeting their affordable housing targets. JC suggested that the letter confirms the support of Dorchester Town Council for this project. BT asked that it be stated that no affordable housing has been created in Dorchester Town Centre in the last 10 years.

**Steve
Watson**

It was suggested that the surplus £21,000 could be put towards the legal costs of claiming a piece of land if no owner was established, providing this was allowed as part of the initial grant conditions. This was to be checked with Paul Derrien as the surplus is from the initial Council grant.

12) Any other business

i) Planning date

BT asked if there was a date for the planning permission to be decided. TM said not yet, but ideally, she would like the response letter to have been sent to James Weir before a planning decision is made, in case the evidence submitted within the letter changes his opinion to any degree.

ii) Newsletter

BT and AC would like to put together a newsletter to update members on the proposed development. It was agreed to do this once the outcome of the planning permission is known. BT and AC are to begin drafting the newsletter and finalise the text once the permission outcome is known.

13) Next meeting

The next meeting will be held virtually via a Zoom Call at 5.30pm on Wednesday 21st October 2020. The link to the call will be sent out with the Agenda.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.15pm