

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER
2017

PRESENT: Cllrs.: R W I Cooke (Mayor); A J C Fyson (Dept Mayor);
Cllrs.: M Baillie; G B F Coles; T de Galleani; D M Gent; B T Harriss;
D R Kelland; R M Lyon; I A Pritchard; F R Pritchard-Tagg; S Smith;
R Springett; S Thomson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Administrator: R Seale; Town Sergeant: R
Lambden; Devon County Cllr.: J Hawkins;
District Cllr.: H Bastone; District Cllr. R Rowe; Sgt. Iain Simons, Community
Police Officer & 27 members of the public.

81 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: F J Hawke, P F Allen.

82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were none.

83 REPORTS.

Sgt. Iain Simons, Community Police Officer gave his report on recent anti-social behaviour which included:

Two drink driving incidents and a property that was broken into in Sugary Cove; both incidents were being dealt with.

The new helicopter is a great asset and has helped with recent incidents in Townstal.

During the Regatta three young men were stabbed on Sat evening, a 14 year old boy was arrested quickly.

Cllr. Jonathan Hawkins, County Cllr. & District Cllr. gave his report.

Stagecoach bus company is proposing to withdraw the no3 bus from Kingsbridge to Dartmouth and negotiations are continuing. This could affect 80 pupils who use this service.

Victoria Road – there was a meeting about traffic calming and options were discussed including chicanes and no decent visibility, it is an ongoing issue.

The traffic regulation order for Dartmouth was put in, in July, some extensions to the yellow lines are taking longer.

The Regatta raised the issue of Nelson Road and adding yellow lines and he has asked for suggestions for this which will now go into next year's order.

Cllr. Hawkins has allocated a small grant of £1,700 to the Dartmouth Green Partnerships.

He also mentioned the S.106 funds that are available and that £17,000 was available which could benefit both Townstal (play area) and Bayards Cove improvements.

Cllr. Fyson asked about the absence of yellow lines on the junction of Above Town and Crowthers Hill. On one occasion an ambulance could not get through due to parked cars.

Yellow lines are hopefully being put in very soon but an obstruction is a police issue.

Cllr. Smith spoke of his awareness that the fair and the Regatta were separate entities but perhaps

next year they might be together again, could a request be put in to the fair operators that, because there is no restriction on Nelson Road that they do not park their lorries along there. Also applies to the bus operators using the park and ride.

Cllr. Hawkins declared an interest as a Regatta committee member, however he is meeting with the Regatta committee and he will raise the issue of a traffic regulation order for next year.

Cllr. Rowe reported that most people should have received a 'One Council' flyer through the post and urged everyone to go onto the website and give their options, or to go along to one of the two consultations being held at The Flavel on Wed 20th and Tues 26th Sept from 4-7pm. She reported a comment on Facebook about how clean and tidy the town was on Sunday morning after the Regatta.

Cllr. Bastone started off by thanking the Mayor and Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress as well as Sgt. Iain Simons for all their support during the Regatta.

The joint local plan had been submitted in the summer, and the secretary of state had appointed two people to conduct the examination. There would be a neighbourhood plan meeting on Tues 5th Sept which would be followed by a presentation on the West Dartmouth application.

The Noss development management committee meeting has made their plans available in the Visitor Centre.

He asked for members of the public to help with any suggestions for the Council Tax 2018-19, also with regards to pay and display charges and asked people to go to the website.

84 QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

A member of the public asked if the Cllrs. were prepared to have a vote tonight on whether Woofstock was to go ahead next year or not.

The Mayor replied that Woofstock was coming up on the agenda within Communications to the Mayor.

A member of the public mentioned that the old Dartmothians would like to repair the goldfish pond in the Royal Avenue Gardens.

The Mayor confirmed that he would be delighted for the Old Dartmothians to take over this fishpond, if and when Dartmouth Town Council take over Royal Avenue Gardens but in conjunction with the other volunteers we have, and with the paid staff who will be working in the parks and gardens.

The Old Dartmothians were prepared to do it now and the Mayor stated that it did not belong to Dartmouth Town Council.

Cllr. Pritchard talked about how this issue should have been brought before the whole council and that it was a fantastic offer and could not see why we could not make a decision. She also spoke about how the town is falling apart and the gardens are a mess, people would then be able to see that people are prepared to give up their time to do a sterling job.

The Mayor agreed that this was why they wanted to take control of the gardens, but DTC could not give permission because it does not own the gardens.

He suggested Cllr. Bastone could reply on behalf of South Hams.

Cllr. Bastone replied that if it was down to him he would willingly let the Old Dartmothians get on with it tomorrow.

He suggested they should write to South Hams District Council.

A member of the public said that the footfall camera recently installed during Dartmouth Regatta showed a reduction of footfall in the town. The camera is positioned on Foss Street.

He reported that businesses in the back street suffer during Regatta week and he asked the council to raise this issue with the Regatta committee to alleviate this situation.

The Mayor replied that this needs to be brought up with the future planning committee for the Regatta.

The Regatta committee is run by a separate company, although the Dartmouth Town Council does have an interest in it because it is a town event.

Cllr. Bastone replied that it is down to the entertainment provided which is on the river and that a lot of businesses do make quite a lot out of the Regatta.

The Mayor commented that it could be brought up at the 'wash up' meeting.

A member of the public asked if the Council could help the community shop to open.

The Mayor replied that the market units were too small, but we could offer them a space at the rear of the market in the car park on market days.

Applications can be submitted to the Town Clerk.

Another member of the public talked about rumours of Councillors who were opposed to the community shop and preventing empty shops in town being offered.

She would like more support to get the community shop up and running again.

The Mayor replied that the community shop has never been discussed at a council meeting, and that Councillors have no control over empty properties in town.

Cllr. Hawkins left the meeting.

It was noted that the 15 mins had come to an end.

The member of the public asked for assurance that if it was proposed properly in Council, they could get further help with regards to establishing suitable premises.

The Mayor commented that we do not have any suitable properties available at present.

85 URGENT BUSINESS.

There was none.

86 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.

Members reviewed the minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on 7th August 2017.

Proposed: Cllr. Springett

Seconded: Cllr. Galleani

Resolved: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7th August 2017, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

87 COMMUNICATIONS.

- Dartmouth Trust - This was noted.

- Woofstock - The Mayor mentioned that regardless of whether we take Coronation Park over or not any outstanding leases and rentals will be honoured by Dartmouth Town Council.

Cllr. Smith asked if that meant that Dartmouth Town Council was fully supportive of Woofstock 2018, because they needed to know now for planning.

The Mayor said they need to contact South Hams and that nobody had raised a reason why we should not support it.

Cllr. Smith replied that that was good news.

- Dartmouth War Memorial Listing

The Mayor asked if Cllr. Springett knew anything about the Dartmouth War Memorial being

assessed for listing as part of Historic England's First World War Commemoration project, and Cllr. Springett replied that it was noted.

- One Council Consultations - This was noted

- Beach Cleanup

Cllr. Lyons spoke about the Beach Cleanup, and asked if anyone could help and volunteer. The beaches are the two below the castle.

- RNLI

The Mayor referred this to South Hams due to Coronation Park not belonging to Dartmouth Town Council.

Cllr. Springett asked if this could go to the General Purposes committee, and the Mayor agreed.

A member of the public asked why a question asked earlier about Woofstock hadn't been addressed.

Cllr. Smith said that was why he asked for clarification if Dartmouth Town Council was fully supportive of Woofstock.

Cllr. Bastone said that if Woofstock make an application as they did last year and it is referred to the three District Cllrs. then they would make the same decision as last year, that it can take place on Coronation Park

He also pointed out that the Town Council had already said that they would honour any decisions already made.

- The Food Festival, requesting support

The Mayor referred this to General Purposes Committee.

- Suggestion for use of Section 106 monies

The Mayor asked for this to be an agenda item next month.

88 CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Planning Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30th August 2017 were reviewed.

Proposed: Cllr. D. Gent

Seconded: Cllr. R. Springett

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 30th August 2017, be received, approved and adopted.

89 FINANCIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk gave a report on payments made for July & August under Standing Order No. 56(b).

Cllr. Smith asked where the left over refurbishment money goes to from 2016 – 2017.

The Mayor explained that this money was ring-fenced, the ballroom was an ongoing project.

Any money left over would be returned into the budget.

Cllr. Thomson asked if the Cllrs. could receive the Finance report earlier next time.

Proposed: Cllr. R. Springett

Seconded: Cllr. D. Gent

Resolved: That the Clerk's actions in paying accounts for July & August 2017 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be approved.

90 DEEDS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL.

Proposed: Cllr. R. Springett

Seconded: Cllr. D. Gent

Resolved: That Deeds of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial be issued in respect of Grave No. J30 at Longcross Cemetery, Dartmouth and the Town Mayor (Cllr.. R W I Cooke) and Deputy Mayor (Cllr.. A J C Fyson) be authorized to sign the Documents in accordance with terms contained in Minute No. 225 (3) 1975/6.

91 REPORTS.

Cllr. Lyon reported that the Mayor would unveil a plaque commemorating the Newcomen Engine during the Food Festival on 21st October, he also reported that the Mayflower 400 event at the Naval College and a meeting will take place in Nottingham to discuss tourist trails etc... He also reported that Radio 2 were hosting a coastal champion, Diane Lyon has put forward Dartmouth & the Town Crier.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Fyson discussed support of the Mayflower 400. Any trail we should discuss in planning committee is to try to encourage other people to come to Dartmouth from other countries.

Cllr. Springett talked about the Newcomen Engine and suggested that the subcommittee could try to make better use of the engine.

Cllr. Gent reported that the youth club had been closed during the Regatta and that a team of youth workers had gone around observing young people who might need help and that generally the atmosphere was good.

Cllr. Smith reported back about a two and a half hour meeting he attended on policing back in July where the outcome was the importance on maintaining the PCSO's as front line police representatives.

92 DEVOLVED SERVICES.

The Mayor gave an update on Devolved Services and mentioned how we are working together. He spoke about how we need a space to store vehicles and other equipment and also a place to keep all the composting from grass cutting.

The Council's solicitor is continuing to work on this; hopefully more information may be available at the next meeting.

93 ONE COUNCIL.

The Mayor talked about how the One council website <https://www.onecouncil.org.uk/> has a lot of information on it and there is a questionnaire available.

Cllr. Fyson said he opposes this merger but not for financial reasons. He queried if it would be an enhancement to local government.

Cllr. Galleani stated that she felt we have not been served well by South Hams and spoke about whether there would be a decrease in services if we do go with the merger.

Cllr. Thomson agreed, and mentioned it would be distant planning.

Cllr. Springett talked about how Dartmouth is the rural end, and West Devon would be the end

with all the people.

Proposed by Cllr. Springett

Seconded by Cllr. Gent

Resolved: That the council rejected the move to merge South Hams with West Devon.

94 QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR

There were none.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr. Harriss

Seconded: Cllr. Springett

Resolved: That in view of the confidential nature of business about to be transacted, it was in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and that they be instructed to withdraw.

95 GUILDHALL CARPETS AND FLOORING

The council chose quote 3b

Proposed - Cllr. R Springett

Seconded - Cllr. M Bailey

96 GUILDHALL MAYOR'S PARLOUR KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT

The council chose quote 3

Proposed - Cllr. R Springett

Seconded - Cllr. I Pritchard