

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
**OCTOBER 2017**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs.: R W I Cooke (Mayor); A J C Fyson (Deputy Mayor);  
Cllrs.: P F Allen; 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;

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Administrator: R Searle; Town  
Sergeant: R Lambden; Devon County Cllr.: J Hawkins; R Rowe; &  
14 members of the public.

**102 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced the standard emergency evacuation procedures. He requested that mobile phones and other devices be set on silent or turned off. Anyone intending to record any part of the meeting was asked to declare this.

**103 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: F J Hawke; R Springett; S Thomson; District Cllr. H Bastone; Sgt. Iain Simons, Community Police Officer

**104 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were none

**105 REPORT FROM POLICE**

The report from **Sgt. Iain Simons**, Community Police Officer was circulated and read out by the Mayor. (attached)  
Cllr Harriss commended the Police on their swift action for both of these cases.

**106 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

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

Cllr Hawkins reported the following:

- The Riverview development is going according to plan for the health facility. The planning application should be submitted in Nov, contractors should start work in Dec/Jan and the facility should be opened in May/June 2018.
- Devon County Council (DCC) has received a request for £60-70,000 for bus shelters and traffic calming in Victory Road and Britannia Avenue. Chris Rook from DCC is ensuring this takes place.
- Dates have been set for the next three Dartmouth & District Transport Group meetings; dates will be advertised on bus shelters. There is a campaign to get a bus service back to Torbay Hospital from both Dartmouth and Kingswear, if you are interested then please contact Stagecoach, The Dartmouth Chronicle or Dartmouth Town Council (DTC).
- The recent refurbishments for Bayard's Cove have been discussed by a group consisting of Dartmouth Green Partnerships, Cllr Lyons, residents from Bayard's Cove and Peter Conisbee from Mayflower 400. The benches were painted black to match the canon, the lampposts and the newly purchased black and gold rubbish

bins that will replace the existing ones. The group considered black to be the best option.

- Cllr Hawkins encouraged everyone to give their view on the One Council consultation.
- Tina Graham from Dartmouth Academy and her team have done excellent work in the last couple of years.
- Cllr Hawkins and Honey Foskett from SHDC, looked at the grass growing on the speed bumps in Townstal, along the Embankment and Bayard's Cove. SHDC may be able to increase the number of sprays from two to three per year, Honey Foskett offered to cost that.
- When SHDC purchased the mechanical sweepers they didn't buy the tank that sits on the vehicle that can spray the weeds. If DTC want a tank, then Cllr Hawkins would purchase one out of his budget for next year specifically for Dartmouth.
- Cllr Hawkins congratulated Dartmouth Town Council for the embankment lights, and hoped they would go all the way along the embankment in the future.
- SHDC have been asked whether the Old Dartmothians can have permission to start work on the fishpond, and Cllr Hawkins said that Cllr Rowe, Cllr Bastone and himself would give support for this proposal.
- There are still problems with the Victory Road play area. It is not clean and Cllr Hawkins has asked Emma Widdicombe to ask the cleaners to go up there as soon as possible.
- The Amenity Hut tables and chairs look rather shabby and unpleasant. If DTC want Cllr Hawkins to renovate them next year, then he would be willing to do this.
- Townstal Community Partnership (TCP) have been doing a sterling job for Townstal for many years with assistance from Cllr Smith, Cllr Baillie and Cllr Pritchard but about six months ago they lost an able volunteer who did a lot of work on their behalf. As Townstal is half of Dartmouth, Cllr Hawkins asked whether the Town Council could offer any help to TCP. The next meeting is in November.

Questions asked:

Cllr. R Rowe was asked whether the three District Councillors supported Woolstock and she reported that they did all support it, as do Dartmouth Town Council.

Cllr de Galleani commented that the One Council consultation questionnaire assumes that you are in favour of the merger so it's pointless.

Cllr Smith spoke about the inadequate student per head funding at Dartmouth Academy. He would like to invite Tina Graham to come to a council meeting to update the Councillors.

Cllr Hawkins reported that he had met with Sarah Woolaston and Tina Graham, and that Sarah Woolaston had given assurance that she would do all she could to make pupil funding better.

Cllr Hawkins reported that Victory Road playpark has been an area of concern in Townstal and a decision should be made whether money is to be invested in this playpark or not.

**District Cllr. Bastone had sent in his report and it was circulated.** (attached)

**District Cllr. Rowe gave her report** (attached)

Questions asked:

Cllr de Galleani reported that officers are already signing off their emails with One Council, Rowe said she would take that up with the leader tomorrow morning.

Cllr S Smith spoke about rubbish collection. He followed the dustcart down Britannia avenue and saw them throwing both blue bags and clear bags in the back of the dustcart to be crushed. Cllr R Rowe replied that they are then separated at Tor Quarry, but they shouldn't be being crushed.

Cllr P Allen said that in the Mayor's Avenue Carpark there are recycling bins for clothes, glass/bottles, paper, but nothing for plastic, and he commented that 50% of his household waste was plastic. Cllr R Rowe, replied that she didn't have an answer but that she had never seen any large recycling bins for plastic.

Cllr J Hawkins said that this could go into an upcoming review.

Cllr T Fyson, asked whether the consultation exercise was a determinant of SHDC Councillors views or just advisory background info. "If you get a majority view saying no, are you obliged to follow that view?" he asked.

Cllr R Rowe commented that she would imagine this to be the case but she couldn't speak for the leader of SHDC.

Cllr T de Galleani asked if DTC could have an officer from SHDC to talk about this review and Cllr Hawkins clarified it was Helen Dobby.

#### **107 QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

Paul Reach from Dartmouth Business News attended last month's meeting wanting a progress report from the director of the Dartmouth Visitors Centre.

He asked why the normal agenda heading 'Reports from Outside Bodies' was not on the agenda, and the Mayor replied that there hadn't been any last month, but it would go back on the agenda next time.

Dawn Shepherd of Dartmouth Community Shop asked for the proposal she had brought with her to be considered, and the Mayor stated that if it was handed in to the Clerk that it would be considered.

#### **108 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.**

Members reviewed the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017.

**Proposed: Cllr D Gent**

**Seconded: Cllr T Galleani**

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Town Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017, be received, approved and adopted.

#### **109 COMMUNICATIONS.**

A letter from the Visitor Centre had announced there would be a presentation ceremony at the Newcomen Engine on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October, when an Engineering

Heritage Award would be made to the town by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

Cllr Allen spoke about how we should support this financially.

The Mayor commented that he would be supporting it and he would be talking with the Dartmouth Visitor Centre regarding costs.

## **110 CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **General Purposes Committee**

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were reviewed.

Items arising from General Purposes and appearing on the agenda later on are Carparks, Skip days and Christmas Lights.

**Proposed:** Cllr P Allen

**Seconded:** Cllr D Gent

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017, be received, approved and adopted.

### **Corporate Property Committee**

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were reviewed.

Cllr D Gent reported that this meeting wasn't quorate due to the meeting only having three Councillors present.

Cllr P Allen asked about the boilers capacity for coping with additional radiators.

Cllr R Lyon (vice chair) explained that the boiler is at full capacity at the moment.

Cllr P Allen said that we should keep a tight rein on it, as electric heating can be expensive.

Cllr R Lyon responded that the new electric heaters are very cost efficient, as you can control them a lot more easily.

Cllr T Fyson said that the normal procedure for an inquorate committee meeting is that those minutes are brought as item one of the next committee meeting and they are either confirmed or corrected.

Cllr Allen commented that what concerned him was item 15 (re-letting of a market unit) which was held in committee, and he said he was prepared to ask the question to the mayor later on in the evening.

### **Personnel Committee**

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were reviewed.

**Proposed:** Cllr T de Galleani

**Seconded:** Cllr D Gent

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the Personnel Committee meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017, be received, approved and adopted.

### **Planning Committee**

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were reviewed.

**Proposed:** Cllr D Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr P Allen

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017, be received, approved and adopted.

Cllr I Pritchard asked to speak as she had been missed earlier. She wanted to comment on the letter from the Old Dartmothians withdrawal of their offer of work on the fish pond in the Avenue Gardens. She is saddened by this, and would like a vote of thanks about this.

A discussion then took place with regards to the Old Dartmothians officially withdrawing their offer to refurbish the fish pond.

Cllr P Allen said he hadn't seen the letter

The Mayor explained that he had received some communication about this, and that last month he had explained that he wasn't in a position to give consent but in the future he would be happy to allow them to work with DTC.

Honey Fosset from SHDC had agreed that people should hold off until the park ownership is sorted out.

#### **111 FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

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

**Proposed:** Cllr D Allen

**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.

#### **112 WOOFSTOCK – Cllr Smith**

Cllr S Smith commented on the history of Woofstock and how successful this event was in the town and how many people attended, therefore bringing money into the town.

His personal opinion of Woofstock is that it should be treated the same as Regatta and the Food Festival.

He asked the Councillors what their opinions were on Woofstock and the majority of Councillors responded.

The Mayor reported that he had received an email from Chris Brooks for a request from the Woofstock organisers for a regular slot. He had emailed around to all the Councillors and had received replies from 11 Councillors in favour. He was able to reply to Chris Brooks that a majority was in favour.

Two Councillors commented on the appalling comments on Facebook with regards to one Councillor and said that all Councillors have a right to their own opinion.

**Proposal:** Cllr S Smith proposed a motion for Woofstock for the next 3 years.

**Seconded:** Cllr I Pritchard

**Resolved:** 12 approved, 0 against, 1 abstention.

#### **113 PURCHASE OF CAR PARKS FROM SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Cllr T de Galleani suggested that if Dartmouth Town Council could take over car parks on the back of devolved services from South Hams District Council that the car parks could then fund the town properly.

If SHDC do not want to give them to us, then it might be a sensible idea to buy them back from SHDC.

Cllr P Allen spoke about future expenditure and suggested that car parks could bring extra money into the town.

Cllr T de Galleani said that if One Council takes place, they may decide to sell it or put another layer on top to make a multi-story car park.

The Mayor reported that it would be better to keep the car parks separate from the existing devolved services.

Cllr S Smith spoke about needing some facts, finding out how much

**Proposal:** Cllr T de Galleani

**Seconded:** Cllr B Harriss

**Resolved:** To proceed with an enquiry into the possibility of taking over the car parks. 13 approved, 0 against, 1 abstention.

#### 114 **SKIP DAY**

Cllr T de Galleani reported that it has been proposed that DTC provide another skip day. She would like one at the top and one at the bottom of town, and to decide a date.

Cllr S Smith was involved in the skip day at the academy which was very poorly attended. The Townstal Community Hall was already booked so it was moved to the Academy.

Cllr P Allen, mentioned that the Townstal group could apply for S106 money for this.

**Proposal:** Cllr S Smith

**Seconded:** Cllr I Pritchard

**Resolved:** That the council arrange for two skips on the same day, one in the market place car park and one at Townstal Community Hall.

All Councillors approved.

Cllr B Harriss mentioned that it's important to advertise this and get posters out and up in the relevant places.

District Cllr R Rowe left the meeting.

#### 115 **SUGGESTIONS FOR USE OF SECTION 106 MONIES**

The Mayor reported that the Mayor and Clerk were going for a meeting at SHDC to find out more information about the rules and regulations about applying for it and how much is available.

The Mayor asked for suggestions on what to spend it on.

- Cllr B Harriss would like it spent on Coronation Park, the cricket club are in need of some money to go towards getting the pitch back into a playable state.
- Cllr P Allen would like money spent on prohibiting cars from parking on the embankment. It's not only damaging the paving slabs but also it looks unsightly.
- Cllr T de Galleani would like it spent up in Townstal outside the Community Hall, a community bbq and a raised bed for growing vegetables
- Cllr T de Galleani also spoke about a bike track which was costed at about £10,000 behind the park and ride
- Cllr T Fyson drew attention to the need to complete the pyramid greenhouse.

- Cllr M Baillie reported that the students from Dartmouth Academy had asked about upgrading the skate park. She said that she would gather some costings for this.
- Cllr Gent spoke about an outdoor gym in coronation park which he thinks would cost around £8,000

**116 DEEDS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL.**

**Proposed:** Cllr D Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr T de Galliani

**Resolved:** That Deeds of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial be issued in respect of Grave No. J31 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.

**117 DEVOLVED SERVICES.**

The Mayor gave an update on Devolved Services

We are currently held up by our solicitors. There are multiple title deeds that need to be examined.

Cllr Allen suggested that the Clerk contact the solicitors to find out how much work had gone on and how much more would need to go on.

We are currently awaiting further information.

**118 ONE COUNCIL.**

The Mayor spoke about how he went with the Clerk to a Clerks and Mayors meeting recently and the One Council consultation was discussed.

Cllr Tucker spoke about how they have to make massive savings and this was a solution. Several councils have rejected it, but a few have accepted it. He suggested that this merger would save a considerable amount and if they do not save money they will have to cut services.

**119 QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR**

Cllr P Allen asked if the Mayor would be prepared to take under urgent business item 15 from the Corporate Property committee minutes which were for the re-letting of the market unit and stressed the urgency of this.

The clerk reported that no lease has been written.

The Mayor asked if the council would like to move this into committee

**Proposed:** Cllr T de Galliani

**Seconded:** Cllr P Allen

**Resolved:** To take item 15 from the Corporate Property committee minutes into Committee.

**120 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Proposed -** Cllr. T de Galliani

**Seconded -** Cllr. D Gent

**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.

**121 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS & TREES**

The Christmas Lights

The council had a discussion about the Christmas Lights, it was suggested that an artificial tree be bought for Royal Avenue Gardens in the future.

The council chose quote no 2.

**Proposed:** Cllr. D Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr. P Allen

**Resolution:** All Councillors in favour of Quote No 2.

The Christmas trees

There was a discussion with regard to having only three Christmas trees because St Saviours church already has a tree. The possibility of moving it to another location or to remove that one completely was discussed.

**Proposed:** Cllr. P Allen

**Seconded:** Cllr. D Gent

**Resolution:** All Councillors in favour of Quote No 2.

## **122 WEBSITE QUOTES FOR DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL & TOWN COUNCIL**

After a lengthy discussion about the proposals and quotes we have received for the website provision for both the Guildhall and the Town Council it was decided to seek additional quotes and decide this within a committee.