

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON**  
**MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Finance Officer: Ali  
McGrigor; Town Sergeant: R Lambden; County & District Cllr:  
Jonathan Hawkins; District Cllr: H Bastone; Dartmouth  
Chronicle: Roger Williams; Dartmouth Visitor Centre: Karen  
Perrow and six members of the public.

Before the meeting began the Mayor's Chaplain said a prayer.

**220. 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.

**221. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Baillie; Cllr Kelland; Cllr Smith; District Cllr: Rosemary Rowe.

**222. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none

**223. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.**

Members reviewed the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

**Proposed:** Cllr Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr Lyon

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Town Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

All Councillors were in favour.

**224. NEW FIRE ENGINE**

Matt Johnson had telephoned earlier to give his apologies but they were unfortunately called out to a flood emergency. This presentation will be postponed to the April meeting.

**225. REPORT FROM POLICE**

The report from Sgt. Iain Simons was circulated to all Councillors and is also attached.

Questions asked were:

Cllr Allen asked a question in regard to the damage along the coast road along Slapton Line. He asked where the signage starts to say the road is closed.

Sgt. Simons said that from the Strete end there are temporary cones in place, but a diversion hasn't been put in place yet.

Cllr Springett asked if the World War 2 ordinance device has now been made safe and Sgt. Simons confirmed that it was not active but has been made safe.

The Mayor thanked Sgt. Simons for attending to the bad behaviour that has happened over the last few weeks and the swift action of the police.

## **226. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM AND PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**District & County Councillor Jonathan Hawkins** gave his report verbally which covered the following topics:

- Following meetings at County Hall this morning which included cabinet members for highways, they said they would do everything they could to get the road in Strete back up and running asap, hopefully by the summer.
- It is believed the repairs will cost between 1-2million, and Cllr Hawkins is not sure the reserves are available from DCC, but he has had total reassurance that they will put the road back asap.
- Bus diversions are currently in place and being diverted at Strete and going inland to Kingsbridge.
- Meetings in the last month concerning the health and wellbeing centre have taken place in light of the closure of Riverview. Cllr Hawkins asked if in the next couple of months the Mayor could call a public meeting so that issues could be aired. Perhaps Sarah Woolaston, NHS, Devon County Council could also attend. This would give the residents a possibility of airing their views to the officers.
- Traffic regulation from last year will be implemented in the next few months. Cllrs can come forward with proposals to put in yellow lines, which will as a consequence remove parking spaces.
- Working with SHDC, DCC, AONB, Harbour Authority with regard to what is now called 'Plastic Clever Dart', more information in the next few months.
- Meetings with Capital to try to find some money to help with traffic calming in Victoria Road.
- County Councillors have given financial support to help with resurfacing the roads. Some of this money had gone to the following roads in Dartmouth: Mayflower Close, Anzac St, Broad St and Higher St.
- DCC has put roughly a 5% increase in council tax, but identified 6.5million of necessary investment into highways. This is on top of the 1.9million which DCC put in the budget last year.
- The community grant fund has been increased from 10k to 20k.
- Cllr Hawkins is meeting at the bowling club on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the possible green replacement.
- Seymour drive, the mobile home needs to be there for 28 days before enforcement can take place and the owner has assured SHDC that it will be removed.

Questions asked were:

Cllr Coles asked if was worth starting again with ideas for traffic orders, in particular along the embankment? Cllr Hawkins said that the traffic order in question is really concerned with yellow lines, but please do bring this forward directly.

Cllr Allen asked three questions

- I hope that on your walk around town that you are not thinking of turning the bowling club into car parking?
- Bollards along Victoria Road are a joke. There are currently two down.
- Can anything be done about signage in Strete before Easter? Cllr Hawkins said that it would take months for the signage at Strete to be put into place but they would try to do it before the summer.

A number of Cllrs mentioned a number of street lights that were currently not working and Cllr Hawkins asked for details of all of these lights to be emailed to him.

Cllr Pritchard thanked Cllr Hawkins for calling a public meeting about the issues with Riverview and the CCG. The Mayor, said he was happy to organise it but he's not sure what it would achieve. He felt the expressions of interest with regard to healthcare changes of the local people had been ignored.

Cllr Pritchard said that it would show the town that the Council does care.

The Mayor re-iterated that he was happy to organise it if there was enough demand for it.

Cllr Gent spoke about bollards and how he witnessed someone reverse into one.

Cllr de Galleani added that if we had circular globe type bollards as they do in France these would be much more effective.

**District Councillor H Bastone** gave his report verbally and covered the following topics

- Stagecoach were swift in getting out the new timetable following the damage that took place to the road in Strete.
- The recycling bags are indeed recycled and not put into landfill. The bags are transferred to Tor Quarry, tipped into a hopper and transferred to different locations. Then at that point they are emptied and the bags are indeed recycled.
- At the District Council meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February the main topic was the budget but one item was a motion put forward by Cllr Pearson of Salcombe that this council notes that the fishing industry is a dangerous industry to work in and perhaps personal flotation jackets and personal locator beacons would greatly help, but not all fishermen can afford this equipment. There is an idea that the marine management organisation could provide this equipment by obtaining funding from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Dart Harbour and Salcombe Harbour authority were in support.
- Budget has been approved with an increase of £5 per annum which is the equivalent of 10p a week for a band D Council Tax.
- At this same meeting the transfer of assets was agreed to transfer the charity land at Castle Estate to Dartmouth Town Council.

Questions asked were:

Cllr Allen asked if this was fake news. On the BBC website, South Hams was high nationally on its budget deficit. When will SHDC balance it's budget?

Cllr Bastone said that it was fake news, and there will be a balanced budget this year as there always is every year.

Cllr Springett asked if Cllr Hawkins could pass on the appreciation of this town for the refuse people who tried very hard and unfortunately the vehicle broke down but they really did try their best.

Cllr Bastone thanked Cllr Springett and said that at the end of the day it has to be a health and safety issue, and the decision was taken to stop the collections. They are hoping to collect the outstanding items this week and be back on track next week.

District Councillor R Rowe had previously given her apologies; her report had been sent in and circulated to all Cllrs. (attached)

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

Richard Rendle asked if the Cllrs were aware that this first level layer of local government has a duty to hold authorities to account, in particular on the closure of the hospital and the removal of beds etc.. Could the Mayor call a full council meeting with a single item agenda to make a resolution that this Town Council wishes to hold the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to account for the actions they have taken. Also to address the residents' concerns call a public meeting to seek the views of the public. The Mayor agreed that it is a very important issue. The Council is dismayed about this outcome. The Mayor had been to all the consultation meetings and what looked like a good deal, a one stop shop at Riverview turned out not to be.

John Mitchel said that unless we have a public meeting then nobody knows what's happening and that apparently the CCG are having monthly meetings.

The Mayor said that they had been having meetings but they seem to have stopped.

The Mayor said that our representative on patient groups would give a report later on.

Cllr Hawkins said that he thought it was important to have a public meeting.

Cllr Hawkins left the meeting at 7.52

A member of the public said that the CCG had promised that those things would be in place before they closed the hospital, and as a result they should be held to account for this.

He would like to ask them what their staffing levels are.

He asked that Sarah Woolaston should be invited to the meeting.

Cllr Fyson said that in the absence of detailed evidence it was important not to blame the CCG for everything that had gone wrong. It had been suggested, for example, that its reduced offer for the Riverview premises had been unexpectedly imposed by an external central government agency.

Cllr Rendle said that he chose his words specifically and that we could call a meeting in five days.

Sgt Simons left at 7.59

**228. TO RECEIVE SUCH CORRESPONDENCE AS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor explained that we had received a number of items of correspondence:

- City of Southampton brass band would like to hold a free concert in Royal Avenue Gardens, this was agreed to be referred back to South Hams District Council who currently still own the gardens.
- There has been a discussion on the idea of having more defibrillators in Dartmouth installed in old phone boxes and this item was agreed to be moved to the General Purposes committee.
- The Town Council received a thank you from the Regatta committee for the use of the Ballroom at their 80's night.
- The Town Council received a thank you from the 'Inn Theatre Company' who staged a production of 'Goodnight Mr Tom' in February for all the help they received from the staff at the Town Council.
- There has been a request from the Regatta committee to rent the old market on Thursday and Saturday during the Food Festival period. It was agreed that this should move to Corporate Property committee.

**229. TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The mayor explained that Councillors should pay attention to the decisions within the committee minutes and any questions about these decisions should be brought up at this point.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018**

Members reviewed the minutes.

**Proposed:** Cllr Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr Springett

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 be approved.

All Cllrs agreed.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Members reviewed the minutes.

Cllr Allen mentioned the two grants which are within these minutes:

- To support the grant application for the Dartmouth Community Boat Shed in principle following on from the meeting with the Regatta and obtaining a second quote for solicitors fees as this seemed expensive.  
Cllr Gent added that he had asked if they could get a second opinion with regard to the Solicitors fees.
- To support the grant application for the Dartmouth Visitor Centre to start off a new group which would welcome visitors from cruise ships during the summer months. It was also asked if volunteers could try to encourage the visitors off the cruise ships to visit the Guildhall.
- To support the Proposal for the Council to have a debit card and to include its use into our financial regulations / standing orders.
- To note that the Council have appointed a company to help manage and host the emails and data in the cloud. The council will then be working towards being compliant for the new GDPR which comes into force in May 2018. Cllr Pritchard-Tagg added that the company chosen were the best option for the council.

**Proposed:** Cllr Allen

**Seconded:** Cllr Pritchard-Tagg

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018 be approved.

All Cllrs agreed.

**230. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT OF FINANCIAL MATTERS FOR JANUARY 2018**

The report on payments made for January under Standing Order No. 56(b) was presented

Cllr Gent suggested because this item was not on the agenda, that this item be approved at the next meeting, and this was agreed.

**231. REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON PUBLIC BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Cllr Gent spoke about a meeting at the TCP and that he would like to advertise that there would be a workshop on 26<sup>th</sup> March from 6-8.30pm at the Townstal Community Hall. They have a new chairman and they want to revitalise the TCP.

Cllr Pritchard added that the TCP needs to get as much publicity out to local people as it can.

Cllr Gent spoke about how the Regatta meeting was postponed due to snow and the youth club was also closed on Thursday and Friday due to snow, but it was worth noting that they are having a jumble sale at Ivy Lane on the 17<sup>th</sup> March and any donations were welcome.

Cllr Gent reported on two different meetings linked to the health service:

- Patient Participation Group (PPG) Adam Morris has now left the practice, and will be replaced. The surgery are now looking at their own plan B due to the demise of Riverview. The building they are currently in needs quite a bit of work.
- Health and Wellbeing Group was chaired by Nick Hindmarsh and they discussed proposals to try to link between care and health, looking particularly at mental health issues. The group consists of : Pierre Landoll-Mills; Jonathan Hawkins; Nick Hindmarsh; Dee Nutt and Cllr David Gent.

Cllr Lyon reported that the Mayflower 400 is going forward, engaging with people from South Devon College to build a model of the mayflower boat. Premises have been found where it can be built.

On three occasions this month tourist organisations are coming to walk around Dartmouth, much as the Kuoni people did the other month to look at the prospects for bringing people to Dartmouth.

Cllr Springett reported that Dartmouth United Charities have appointed two local families to two of their properties and Cllr Gent said that they had five in total. The Mayor said that the DUC were doing a splendid job.

Cllr de Galleani said that there is new grant money for the Coastal Communities Fund and the open green spaces section of the neighbourhood plan. Dartmouth Green Partnerships and Cllr de Galleani are looking into the possibilities of this helping us in the future.

The Mayor said this was a very good idea.

Cllr Pritchard-Tagg reported on a recent meeting that between the Market Working Group and the Dartmouth Community Chest, this had been a constructive meeting and we hope to have a good working relationship in the future.

**232. REPORT BY THE MAYOR ON THE DEVOLVED SERVICE TRANSFER**

The Mayor reported that a meeting last week was cancelled because of the snow.

The meeting has been rescheduled for this coming Thursday on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Another meeting has been scheduled for the week after which will include the solicitors.

The Mayor said that we had heard tonight from Cllr Bastone that SHDC were willing to give to DTC the charity land out at the Castle Estate.

He added that he was hoping to bring a fully worked out proposal to the April meeting which solicitors on both sides confirm is acceptable.

There was some money in our budget as a buffer from last year's precept.

Cllr Allen spoke about the solicitors fees, we'd originally estimated £20,000 and asked how much it had cost to date, the Mayor replied that it had cost around £12,000 to date.

Cllr Allen also asked when will we include the public and the Mayor said that SHDC had advertised and asked for any comments, and so far we have had one letter from a local resident but SHDC have not sent us any.

The maps/plans have been up for over a month in the council offices, the library and Follaton House.

The Mayor went on to say that one thing to consider is the public toilets, other towns have closed their toilets due to lack of funds and so we need to take control of them otherwise ours will be closed as well.

**233. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ASKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO 29**

Cllr Allen spoke about an open letter that had gone to our member of parliament Sarah Woolaston, criticising this council and the Dartmouth Visitor Centre concerning our attitude toward economic regeneration or visitors in the town. Would it be your intention to write to our member of parliament to counter this criticism which is unfounded?

The Mayor responded that he hadn't seen this letter but when he did he could do something on our behalf.

**234. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**

Cllr Gent was given a report from Dart Harbour & Navigation Authority and he read out some sections.

One key theme identified was the lack of 'walk ashore' pontoon facilities, they currently have 266 customers on their waiting list for walk ashore berths on this side of the river.

DHNA claims that walk ashore berths help local businesses and that the majority of those consulted agree.

Cllr Gent suggested that this is going to be a bad move for the town, is to raise money for the DHNA and he suggested we should write to the chairman to ask why we weren't consulted. This is definitely not a facility for local people.

Cllr Lyon said that he sits on the non-beneficiary group and at the last meeting two weeks ago this was not mentioned. He suspected that this might be from minutes of the Harbour Board meeting and it might be something they are thinking about.

The Mayor suggested that we would write to ask for further clarification.

**235. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Proposed:** Cllr. Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr. Hawke

**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.

**IN COMMITTEE**

**236. CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW RECEPTIONIST**

The Mayor explained that Dartmouth Town Council had hired a new receptionist who would start on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March, Ms Katie Brown has been appointed as receptionist to work 20 hours a week in the office.

**Proposal:** To accept the appointment of the new receptionist.

**Proposed:** Cllr Springett

**Seconded:** Cllr Hawke

**237. CONFORMATION IN POST OF THE TOWN CLERK**

The Clerk and the Finance Officer left the room whilst the Councillors discussed the Clerk's six month probationary period and appraisal.

Cllr Thomson spoke about how the Clerk fits in well and how the office team work well together under her leadership.

There were no negative comments and Cllr Thomson said she was very happy with the appraisal meeting.

The Mayor had questioned the further training which was a condition of the appointment, and confirmed that this was starting this week.

**Proposal:** To confirm the Town Clerk in post.

**Proposed:** Cllr Cooke (The Mayor)

**Seconded:** Cllr Springett

**238. VEHICLE PURCHASE**

Cllr Springett explained the current situation. It was becoming increasingly hard for Dartmouth Town Council to transport large bulky equipment around Dartmouth without the use of a vehicle. The idea of hiring a man with a van is not suitable as they are not always available at short notice and the council cannot always plan in advance due to the weather.

Cllrs Hawke and Lyon spoke about how the vehicle should have a low mileage and would need to be big enough to transport bulky equipment for maintenance jobs around Dartmouth, and would also need to have a tow bar and a set of roof bars fitted. The vehicle would also need to be fully ply lined.

An amber flashing roof bar was also mentioned

**Proposal:** For the Council to source a suitable vehicle for purchase, to be used by the Council staff, with a value of up to £8,000.

**Proposed:** Cllr Springet

**Seconded:** Cllr Gent

**239. BALLOT FOR MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR 2018-19**

Following a ballot Dartmouth Town Councillors voted for the following results:

Cllr Rob Lyon was voted in as Mayor for 2018-19 by a majority vote.

Cllr Fred Pritchard-Tagg was voted in as Deputy Mayor 2018-19 by a majority vote.

Meeting ended at 21.12