

## **DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Administrator: Ruth Searle;  
Town Sergeant: R Lambden; The Mayor's Chaplain: Father Will  
Hazlewood; County & District Cllr: Jonathan Hawkins; District  
Cllrs: H Bastone & R Rose; Dartmouth Chronicle: Charley  
Adams; Dartmouth Visitor Centre: Karen Perrow and eleven  
members of the public.

#### **246. 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.

#### **247. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Kelland

#### **248. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none

#### **249. TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE POLICE**

Sgt. Iain Simons had sent in a report in his absence, this was circulated to all councillors before the meeting and the Mayor read out the report.

It is also attached to these minutes.

#### **250. 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:

- Riverview / Health & Wellbeing Centre. He thanked Nik Hindmarsh for helping to organise the public meeting. A date has now been set and this date will be announced on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April in time to be published in the Dartmouth Chronicle. Cllr Hawkins also thanked Father Will Hazlewood for the use of St Saviour's Church for the meeting.
- Townstal Community Partnership this month celebrated its 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The co-ordinator has done an amazing job to re-invigorate the partnership. He asked again if DTC could help with the funding for this.

- Grants, Cllr Hawkins has a few thousand in his budget that he can use for grants, in the next financial year. He confirmed that he is giving the Dartmouth Visitor Centre £2,000 from his County fund.
- Palm trees have now been planted along the embankment, and he thanked DGP for all their hard work in this.
- Fountain in Royal Avenue Gardens, Cllr Hawkins thanked the Old Dartmothians for the excellent work they had done on this.

### Questions

Cllr Gent asked two questions:

- a) Bollards: the one outside Churchill court was knocked down, and we now have a hole where the bollard was. There was also a bollard outside the sorting office which was also knocked down but this hole was filled in rather quickly.  
Is there a policy for dealing with bollards?
- b) Seymour Drive: nothing has been done about this, there have been suggestions that something will be done, but nothing has happened. On the enforcement list it mentions the caravan but not the fencing. He asked if somebody could let him know within 24h what is going to be done.

Cllr Hawkins, replied

- a) Bollards, there is currently an order in the system to put the bollards back, these bollards will be spaced so that cars cannot park in-between. Cllr Hawkins apologised that he couldn't help any more than this, he also said that the bollard outside the sorting office belonged to them and not County.
- b) Seymour Drive, we've asked about this issue, many times and unfortunately, we cannot do anything else more than you.

Cllr Springett thanked Jonathan for dealing with the lighting problem so rapidly around the market. The Mayor and Cllr de Galleani reported that these lights had now stopped working again.

**District Councillor R Rowe** had sent in her report previously and this was circulated to all councillors before the meeting, she also then gave her report verbally  
It is also attached to these minutes.

### Questions

Cllr Harriss said this was more of an observation but on the 28<sup>th</sup> of last month he was driving to Totnes behind one of the recycling lorries which was very full, and three bags fell off and nearly caused an accident.

Cllr Rowe replied that this needs to be reported to SHDC at the time, but that she would take this back and report it.

**District Councillor Cllr Bastone** gave his report verbally which covered the following topics:

- During Storm Emma / the Beast from the East, lots of SHDC officers were able to work from home with no problems.
- Bin rounds were suspended, and the men were diverted to help out down at Beesands and Torcross and then they worked exceptionally hard to catch up on their rounds.
- The Comms team sent out 148 update messages over that period.
- The council tax videos have been viewed 5677 times.
- Statistics show that Twitter and Facebook have gone from 2,000 hits last year to 20,000 this year.
- Council Tax bills have been sent out with a reminder that SHDC no longer accept cash or cheques.
- SHDC have Launched a lottery now called Seamoor Lotto. If you are a charity, community organisation, or a good cause based in the South Hams or West Devon and you would be interested to find out how to get involved please email [lotto@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:lotto@swdevon.gov.uk) stating your cause and your contact details. We will add you to our information list and invite you to the launch event for good causes. <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/4535/Launching-the-SeaMoor-Lotto>
- Supporting our fishermen by supporting an EU Grant by supplying them with life jackets.
- There is a consultation for a special conservation area for the greater 'Horse Shoe Bats', 35% reside in this area up to Totnes.
- They have had an update/briefing on the homeless reduction act
- They have had an update on the GDPR and recommends guidance from DALC

**251. PRESENTATION ABOUT THE NEW FIRE ENGINE FROM MATT JOHNSON, SOUTH DEVON GROUP COMMANDER FROM DEVON AND SOMERSET FIRE AND RESCUE**

Mr Matt Johnson explained that he is new in post and so wanted to introduce himself but also to talk about the new fire engine that is arriving imminently as well as talking about recruitment at the fire station.

The Devon and Somerset were the first to combine services in 2007.

85 fire stations across Devon and Somerset and 90% are retained and on call.

2100 staff, and 1200 are on call fire fighters, which is the largest number in the country and the second largest number of fire stations in England.

Annual budget of £78 million but they have to try to save £17 million over the next three years.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Services is split into six groups: East & West Somerset; North Devon East Devon; West Devon; South Devon and Matt Johnson is the Group Commander for South Devon.

South Devon has 11 fire stations, from Chagford, Dawlish, Newton Abbot, Torbay, Bovey Tracey and Dartmouth is the most southerly.

Dartmouth is a two-pump station, at the moment we have two conventional fire engines, but they will be replacing the second one with a rapid intervention vehicle.

One problem they have at the station is recruitment, they struggle immensely to recruit and retain fire fighters at the station.

Matt Johnson said that he would like to ask for Cllrs and people to help promote that they are looking for more fire fighters (men or women over the age of 18) These people are paid, but they are not paid very much, and they must live and/or work within 5 mins away from the station and be able to respond within 5 mins.

Cllr Smith, can I ask you mentioned your concerns about volunteers, if you don't get an acceptable level will it put the local station at risk.

Matt Johnson said that they were not at risk at the moment, but we do need additional volunteers in the future.

Cllr Springett asked what they were doing to recruit? There is a community group at Townstal which may be able to help, maybe you could go and present with the Townstal Community Partnership.

## **252. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 5th MARCH 2018**

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

Cllr Allen questioned the wording of the minute 238, page 151

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.

Cllr Allen questioned that sourcing a vehicle is different from purchasing a vehicle.

The Mayor explained that sourcing a second-hand vehicle means that when you find a suitable vehicle within budget you must act quickly, the offer isn't available for long.

Cllr Allen said that as Chairman of Finance he wasn't consulted on this.

**Proposed:** Cllr Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr Springett

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Town Council held on 5th March 2018 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

Twelve Councillors were in favour

One Councillor was against

## **253. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (15 mins max)**

Mrs Debbie Morris spoke about Item 12 when the councillors will discuss the transfer of assets, she believes that there are a few Cllrs that are opposed to this and she would like the Mayor to ask them what the alternative was.

If the Town Council don't do it, then who else is going to doing it.

Mr Griffiths spoke about affordable houses and how it always used to be that you could borrow 4 x your income but now it's more like 12 x your income.

He would like to propose to ask developments to declare the price of affordable houses before they are built.

The Mayor replied that we are hoping to see a development toward Norton which may have quite a bit of input from the Guinness trust, their rents are considerably lower than government rents.

Cllr Springett said that he would request that this be put on the agenda for next month.

Cllr Gent said that an application was coming which involved the Guinness Trust and that he would happily put this onto the next Planning Committee Meeting and Cllr Springett is a member of Planning.

Cllr Bastone said that he'd received a leaflet called home truth 2017-2018 housing market in the South West, and it states in there that the ratio from house prices to income is 13.3 & x your income and he agreed that Mr Griffith had a very good point.

A gentleman asked if the public meeting that Dartmouth Caring and Cllr Hawkins are organising could be held in the Guildhall, as he thought it more appropriate.

The mayor responded that we haven't been asked, and Father Will Hazelwood had offered the church, which will seat 400 people, whereas the Guildhall will only seat 160.

He explained that Sarah Wollaston has agreed to attend but declined chairing it.

Ms Linda Goss asked if we knew who the panel is going to be? And who we can direct our questions to.

The Mayor said that Paul Johnston would be there from the CCG.

Cllr Hawkins said that he agreed St Saviours as it would hold a lot more, and one meeting many years ago about parking meant that the meeting had to move from the Guildhall to the Church to house everyone.

Cllr Hawkins added that if there was anyone who should be on the panel who hasn't been invited then let us know.

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

The Mayor explained there was one piece of correspondence in your green folder from the Harbour Authority to replace the fishermen's pontoon and want our agreement in principle. Cllr Lyon the nominated representative said we had received a letter from the Harbour Master asking for our support to replace the pontoons with a new one as they are now past their sell by date. They want to replace it with a new one, slightly wider and not longer and money is available from the Coastal Communities Fund.

Cllr Gent asked how much Kingswear are being consulted on this, and it was confirmed that Kingswear were supporting it.

**Proposal:** Cllr Lyon, I propose that we write a letter in support.

**Proposed:** Cllr Lyon

**Seconded:** Cllr Allen

All Cllrs in favour.

Cllr Allen asked why the Mayflower 400 correspondence asking for support from the Town Council that was emailed around to all Cllrs wasn't under correspondence, The Mayor explained that we gave them a letter last year confirming that they have the support of the town to enable them to apply for grants.

The grant didn't materialise, and a year has passed and they were simply asking for an updated letter to apply for another grant.

Cllr Lyon said he would talk about it under item 13 of the agenda.

**255. TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS OF THE UNDER MENTIONED COMMITTEES:-**

**Corporate Property – 13th March 2018**

Members reviewed the minutes.

Cllr Allen asked why Horticultural Silverware was on the agenda, Cllr de Galleani explained that it was on there by accident.

Cllr Baillie commented that the carpark she had spoken about previously was in Roseville Street. Cllr Springett responded that we had previously looked into this one and it cost £1500 a year which was unnecessary when we owned a carpark.

Cllr Allen said that flat 6a should be discussed and considered. Cllr Springett replied that this would be discussed at the next Corporate Property meeting.

**Proposed:** Cllr Springett

**Seconded:** Cllr Lyon

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 be approved.

All Cllrs agreed

**Personnel Committee – 14th March 2018**

**Proposed:** Cllr Hawke

**Seconded:** Cllr de Galleani

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 be approved.

All Cllrs agreed

**Planning Committee – 28th March 2018**

**Proposed:** Cllr Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr Harriss

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 be approved.

All Cllrs agreed

**256. CCG / RIVERVIEW: REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

The Mayor spoke about his abbreviated report from his meeting with Dr Paul Johnson who is the chair of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) The report was previously circulated with Cllrs and posted on Facebook. (report attached)

The Mayor also read out an email from Dr Johnson which covered the same topics.

“The CCG’s plan for changing health provision at the intermediate care stage in this area had been agreed at public consultation and it was to consist of an intermediate care team of NHS staff who would provide care for people leaving hospital (who cannot look after themselves at home) either in their own home or in a care home place. The

idea had been that the care home places would be provided by Riverview with the idea that other health services such as GP or cottage hospital would move up to Riverview with the pharmacy. In the end Riverview fell through but the rest of the model is still functioning and in fact since it began over 66 residents from Dartmouth have been supported mostly at home but some at Riverview. Riverview was intended like other health and wellbeing centres to feed into a hub which is Totnes hospital for us. Those people I know who have used Totnes Hospital for minor injury, x-rays, physiotherapy etc... have felt it is very good, the big issue is transport of course for many of the older, less able people in this area.”

The Mayor said that Dartmouth is not alone with this as Bovey Tracy’s health care centre fell through too. The Mayor said that he had received an email from the Torbay Health Authority / Trust who will look to the council as a partner to help identify a suitable site for Dartmouth Health and Wellbeing Centre.

The Mayor said that it is the Torbay Health Authorities responsibility, the CCG has the money and it’s up to Torbay to come up with a better option.

Cllr Smith said that whatever date is set for this meeting, they have to try to regain the trust of The Trust. All our support was thrown at Riverview, The Trust said that the doors would not shut until the other doors opened but this never happened and now both doors are shut.

Cllr Lyon said that he thinks the National Health should buy Riverview and all the healthcare facilities should be up there which would include the doctors, the clinic and the pharmacy. Also MP Sarah Wollaston met with Dartmouth Caring, Cllr Pritchard and himself about three years ago to discuss this idea. She had a vision for this building to include a training facility up there.

The Mayor said that Riverview is a purpose built care home, you could turn it into a luxury hotel or apartments etc... which may not sell but hopefully the owners will realise that the best option is what it was built for, a care home and then maybe when they can’t sell it for the price they want then the price will come down.

Cllr Springett reinforced what has previously been said, I honestly believe that the people who gave this promise thought they could deliver it but unfortunately this hasn’t happened.

Cllr Gent said that Riverview is still the best option as it’s a purpose built healthcare facility.

Cllr Hawke agreed with the comments before, he also wanted to mention that the doctors surgery in town were looking at making improvements and surely we want to push for it all to move up to Riverview.

20.09 A large proportion of the public left the meeting.

**257. MOTION: THIS COUNCIL WISHES TO PROCEED WITH THE PURCHASE OF LANDS FROM SHDC AS LISTED IN THE ATTACHED DRAFT TRANSFER DOCUMENT.**

Cllr Pritchard said that she had read the draft report and she noted that on page 12, item 20 it says that the buyer has the right to inspect any lands, has anyone been in to inspect all the proposed items. The Mayor, said that he had inspected some of these items, everyone is free to inspect the gardens and verges themselves. The items aren't in a very good condition now and we will need to bring them up to scratch.

Cllr Pritchard said that the Cllrs need to think very carefully about what they are voting for, the implications for the future generations of Cllrs who will take this task up after we are no longer around and what position it could put the town in.

Cllr Baillie mentioned page 19, No 2 and asked about the pipe and sewage issue, The Mayor clarified that they would belong to SW Water and we would need to grant them access to this.

Cllr Smith endorsed Cllr Pritchard's comments about being worried about the legacy that this council would leave behind, he asked that the council do not vote on this and instead we consult with the public first. He asked that the public should decide.

The Mayor said that when Follaton house ran a consultation they received one letter from a resident and ex Cllr and this was dismissed by SHDC. DTC also received one from another person but both letters said the same thing.

Cllr Pritchard-Tagg said that he understood the concerns that Cllr Pritchard and Cllr Smith have but as the potential younger generation of this town he would like to be assured that there is some formal future for these gardens rather than no future at all.

Cllr Lyon said that he felt that from the members of the public he had spoken to dozens of people in this town and around 75% were in favour of taking over this town.

Cllr de Galleani said that we are a tourist town whether we like it or not, and why would people come to a shabby little town that's crumbling at the seams, if South Hams do not have the money to do it then we need to take it over.

The Mayor said that he wanted to remind Cllrs that there is a business plan, we have for five years a descending amount of money that will come from SHDC. It starts at 150k in the first year and then goes down by 30k a year for 5 years in total.

He also explained that DTC put up the precept last year which brings in just about 100k by putting up the precept by 60%, the assets also bring in around 50k a year which means that we have approximately 300k in the first year. We are already 100k in the black, so we have a buffer for the first year.

Cllr Allen said people shouldn't forget that we did agree in council to support this but hopes that Dartmouth Town Council haven't agreed a date yet.

The Mayor said that a date had not been set yet, the date keeps moving.

Cllr Fyson said that we are trying to be realistic with a long term strategic decision, we cannot ever future proof a decision like this, all sorts of variations will impinge on

things. We would be very unwise to allow the details to obscure the reason we are doing this. Cllr Fyson said that he feels there is plenty of flexibility here in the agreement.

Cllr de Galleani said all these assets were once ours and they were taken from us in Ted Heath's government in the 70's. We should just get on with it.

Cllr Harriss said that a member of the public put it into perspective 'what's our alternative' and he agreed.

Cllr Allen said he was against the detail not the idea in principle.

Cllr de Galleani, asked if the solicitor had been through this, and the Mayor said yes they had.

The Mayor said that the SHDC officer who is dealing with this said that there would be a slightly phased handover period.

The Mayor spoke about the tripartite licenses which involve three parties instead of two.

**Proposal:** To proceed with the purchase of lands from SHDC as listed in the attached draft transfer document.

**Proposed:** Cllr Lyon

**Seconded:** Cllr Springett

Cllr Allen made an amendment to the original motion to delay this motion until Cllrs have time to read the draft and then vote in the next mayoral year.

**Proposed:** Cllr Allen

**Seconded:** Cllr Pritchard.

**Recorded vote for the amendment**

**For the amendment:** Cllrs Allen; Pritchard.

**Against the amendment:** Cllrs: Gent; Springett; Smith; Thomson; Coles; Pritchard-Tagg; Harriss; Baillie; Lyon; de Galleani; Hawke; Fyson.

**Recorded vote for the original proposal**

**For the proposal:** Cllrs: Gent; Springett; Thomson; Coles; Pritchard-Tagg; Harriss; Baillie; Lyon; de Galleani; Hawke; Fyson.

**Against the proposal:** Cllrs: Allen; Smith; Pritchard.

**The Mayor announced that the motion was carried.**

**258. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM AND PUT QUESTIONS TO REPRESENTATIVES ON PUBLIC BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Cllr Lyon spoke about the Mayflower 400 and as you are aware the letter asking for financial assistance has gone off to the heritage fund along with a number of other

letters ie: SHDC, DCC, BRNC etc... they have asked for £43,000 to help with the trail and the sculpture and the model boat is now under construction down at Sandquay.

Cllr de Galleani reported that there are now some new palm trees along the lower embankment and a lovely bed of Chusan Palms.

Cllr Springett said that at a recent meeting at the Dartmouth United Charities of which I am a trustee, the charity has a budget for affordable housing and they are seeking a plot of land and the Town Council will be asked to look if they have any suitable properties.

**259. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT OF FINANCIAL MATTERS FOR JANUARY 2018 & FEBRUARY 2018**

The Mayor explained that these are now shown one month in arrears.

Cllr Allen, questioned the logo design cheque, and the clerk confirmed it was part payment for the new website.

**Proposed** - Cllr Gent

**Seconded** - Cllr Allen

All in favour

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

Cllr Smith said that he wanted to say that it was Cllr Springett's birthday today.

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

None

**262. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Proposed:** Cllr. Gent

**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.

**IN COMMITTEE**

**263. TOWN SERGEANT HOURS**

The Clerk explained that following a meeting with the Town Sergeant, Chair & Deputy Chair of personnel and the Town Clerk it was discussed to make a few changes to the Town Sergeants salary.

A Confidential note was distributed to all Cllrs and it was generally thought that this was an acceptable change to the Town Sergeants Salary.

It was also asked if the Town Sergeant could be allowed to claim the difference between personal car insurance and business car insurance.

Cllr Allen said that he remembers the ferry ticket being mentioned previously and that we should pay for this.

**Proposal:** To make the recommended changes to the Town Sergeants salary, to pay the difference in car insurance and to pay for the ferry ticket.

**Proposed:** Cllr Allen

**Seconded:** Cllr de Galleani

All Cllrs approved.

**264. QUOTES FOR THE HATCH IN THE NEW RECEPTION AREA**

Three quotes were circulated to councillors and a discussion took place about creating a reception in the old robing room, just off the office and putting a hatch in the wall for the public.

Cllr Harriss asked if there would also be a shutter, otherwise there would be a security issue. The Clerk said that a smaller shutter would need to be fitted over this hatch and would go to the Corporate Property committee.

**Proposal:** To accept quote one

**Proposed** – Cllr Hawke

**Seconded** – Cllr Gent

All Cllrs in favour.

**265. QUOTES FOR CATERING AT MAYOR MAKING**

Three quotes for catering at Mayor Making were circulated to all Cllrs. The Administrator talked through the three quotes and answered any questions.

**Proposal:** To go with quote two

**Proposed:** Cllr Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr Harriss

All Cllrs in favour.

The meeting closed at 21.00