

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL**  
**CHAMBER OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

**PRESENT:** Cllr: R Lyon (Mayor);  
Cllrs: M Baillie; G Coles; R Cooke; T Fyson; T de Galleani; D Gent;  
B Harriss; S Smith R Springett; S Thomson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Reverend Prebendary Will Hazlewood; Town Sergeant: R Lambden;  
Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Dartmouth Chronicle: Charley  
Adams; County & District Cllr: Jonathon Hawkins; District Cllr: Hilary  
Bastone; Paul Reach; 18 members of the public. PC Vaughan.

Before the meeting, prayers were read out by Father Will Hazelwood and the Mayor announced that the running order of this meeting would be altered and questions to the Mayor would be moved to after item 3.

**PART I - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**133. MAYOR'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.

**134. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: P Allen; D Kelland; F Hawke; I Pritchard; F Pritchard-Tagg (Deputy Mayor)

**135. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none

**136. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A member of the public queried the layout of the agenda and asked whether the public speaking time would form part of the minutes. The Mayor responded that the section called 'questions to the Mayor' would continue to form part of these minutes.

The chair of Kingswear PC asked Dartmouth Town Council if their decision to decline continuing with its Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has taken into account other neighbouring parishes and the impact it may have. She asked if this would be revoked with a new Council in May.

The Mayor said that it was possible that when the new Town Council is elected the plan may be revisited.

A member of the public stated that we had been given inaccurate information in relation to our decision regarding the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and that Kingsbridge are still working on their NP, he asked if the Town Council would re-consider this decision with this new information.

The Mayor said that the question of the NP was quite likely to be revisited with a new Council in May.

Cllr Cooke mentioned the difficulty the Town Council had in finding local people to work on the NP.

A member of the public asked about the Joint Local Plan (JLP) that SHDC are drawing up and Cllr Bastone was asked to speak. He said it was out for discussion with the Main Modifications, the inspectors have looked at it and sent out some modifications. He also said that Kingsbridge had stopped work on it but in the last couple of weeks he has seen some work for Kingsbridge and East Allington.

A member of the public asked if a group of people could work on the NP in the background so that when it was resurrected in six months' time it would be further along.

The Mayor asked Cllrs what they thought of this and Cllr Gent said that this could be done informally.

Cllr de Galleani said that she thought this was a good idea and if people work behind the scenes then the Council could look into this again and potentially vote to re-instate it and some of the work could have been done.

*Several members of the public left the room*

#### **137. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE POLICE**

Sgt Iain Simons had previously submitted a written report that was circulated to all Cllrs at the meeting, he also read out the report to the Council meeting. Appendix A

#### **QUESTIONS**

Cllr Smith mentioned the apparent inability of the Police to follow up the CCTV footage.

Sgt Simons replied that if the CCTV footage is not of a sufficient quality to help with investigations then the police turn their attentions to other crimes linked to the suspect in order to make an arrest, so ultimately:

- 1) They are trying to cut down on the amount of time spent on crimes that can't go any further
- 2) Once evidence does come in, they will review them and start the investigation again if there is a chance of identifying somebody.

Cllr Smith said that geographically Dartmouth is remote and asked if it would help if this council sent a letter to the Police & Crime Commissioner to say that we believe the police are understaffed in this area and need more resources?

Cllr Springett said that he felt it would be better to write to the Chief Constable and copy it to the Crime Commissioner.

All Cllrs attending the meeting agreed that the office should write a letter.

*Several members of the public left the room.*

*Sgt Simons and PC Vaughan left the room.*

## **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**Cllr Hawkins** thanked the police for all the work they do manage to do and gave a verbal report which covered the following topics:

- There is a board meeting scheduled with Liz Davenport the Chief Executive of the NHS Foundation Trust about the CCG, a small group of residents will also be attending.
- There had been a meeting with John Hart the leader of Devon County Council and they had discussed the need for 6-8 hospital beds to be included in the health plans for Dartmouth.
- At a recent Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) meeting at Follaton House, he reported that work had started on the yellow lines in Dartmouth.
- The Mayor raised an issue about Stagecoach using part of the park and ride site to park their buses. Cllr Hawkins said that Cathy Aubertin from SHDC had confirmed that they would be there until 22<sup>nd</sup> March before the summer.

## **QUESTIONS**

- Cllr de Galleani asked about what could be done to unblock the shop gutters in the town as they are full and dangerous. There was a discussion and Cllr Hawkins said he would investigate this.
- She also reported that she went to a science research event recently and spoke about pollution and would like signs (example given) to be put up to try to stop the coaches along the embankment from leaving their engines running, Cllr Hawkins said he would pass the example sign to environmental health.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**Cllr Bastone** gave a verbal report covering:

- They are continuing the budget process and currently trying to close the budget gap of about £600,000.
- Hopes that the local plan will be approved in the new year.
- The development management agreed to the 200 dwellings at the land south of Townstal Road (West Dart development), Baker Estate <https://www.bakerestatesltd.co.uk/> are the company approved to develop this which could stretch to an eight year project.
- SHDC are considering joining forces with other councils to form a South West mutual bank seeing as Salcombe and Dartmouth do not have a visible bank, this is due for consideration at the Full Council meeting on Thursday.
- SHDC have approved the annual review of health and safety policy statement, there was a big debate on public toilets, SHDC have more toilets than anywhere within the south west and this is currently in discussion.
- Waste procurement went smoothly, and this comes up again for finalisation on Thursday as to the way forward for waste collection.

## **QUESTIONS**

- The Mayor asked if everywhere in Dartmouth was two weekly collections as Ford Valley hadn't been collected for a number of weeks, Cllr Bastone said

sometimes they do have problems with vehicle access but ultimately residents should report it as a missed collection.

- Cllr Springett congratulated him on the initiate of the SW Mutual Bank, Cllr Bastone said that no decision had been made and many councils would need to be involved in it.
- Cllr Springett also said that he felt if the Health and Wellbeing Centre moves up to the park and ride site at the top of town taking away valuable car parking spaces in the summer then the footfall would go down in the town.

**138. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

Members reviewed the minutes of the previous Town Council meeting.

**Proposed:** Cllr Cooke

**Seconded:** Cllr Springett

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Town Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018, be confirmed and signed as a true record. All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

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

- **Footfall in Dartmouth**

The Council had received a letter from Mr Paul Reach with regards to support in funding the footfall camera and data that Springboard UK produce.

The Mayor asked Cllrs for any comments with regards to this letter

Cllr Cooke said he did not feel that this led to accurate figures.

**Proposal:** Cllr Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr Thomson

**Resolved:** to decline this request for support

Eight Cllrs were in favour

Two Cllr abstained

**Amendment**

**Proposed:** Cllr Springett

**Seconded:** Cllr Smith

**Amendment:** to move this correspondence to the General Purposes committee

Two Cllrs were in favour

Five Cllrs were against.

**Resolved:** to decline this request for support in funding the footfall camera.

- **Universal Credit**

The Mayor spoke about a letter from Dartmouth Caring asking for the Town Council's support to pause the roll out of Universal Credit in the South Hams, he asked for a letter to be written to Sarah Wollaston and Esther McVey.

Cllr Cooke spoke about the problems with Universal Credit and that Community Chest have helped many people who have had to wait a long time for any money to come through.

**Proposed:** Cllr Smith

**Seconded:** Cllr Cooke

**Resolved:** that the office and the Mayor write to Sarah Wollaston in support of the letter from Dartmouth Caring and to ask that they consider pausing the roll out of Universal Credits.

Nine Cllrs were in favour

One Cllr abstained.

- **Regatta**

The Mayor said that they had a letter from the Chairman of the Regatta committee to ask about the hire charges for the Parks and Gardens for next year. The Mayor explained that there had been a Regatta meeting between the Chair of Corporate Property and the Vice Chair of Finance to discuss a possible way forward.

Cllr Fyson spoke about keeping accurate cost centres for all items within our budget, this would allow us to see how much revenue our parks and gardens would bring in within a financial year. Having said that he didn't want to put the Regatta off as he valued all they did in the town during the Regatta period and thought that they could apply for a grant.

**Proposed:** Cllr Springett

**Seconded** Cllr Cooke

**Resolved:** to thank the chairman of the Regatta committee, explain that we need to keep our cost centres accurate which would allow for an accurate revenue record for the parks and gardens, and invite him to apply for a major grant due to the value they bring to the town. To also explain that we recognise the importance of the Regatta to this town and in this way, the Town Council would be acting as a sponsor.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

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

- **Planning Committee – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Cllr Gent reviewed the minutes.

**Proposed:** Cllr Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr Springett

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the above meeting be approved.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

- **General Purposes Committee 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Cllr de Galleani reviewed the minutes.

**Proposed:** Cllr de Galleani

**Seconded:** Cllr Gent

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the above meeting once updated be approved.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

- Finance Committee 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
 Cllr Fyson reviewed the minutes.  
**Proposed:** Cllr Fyson  
**Seconded:** Cllr Gent  
**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the above meeting be approved.  
 All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.
- Corporate Property Committee 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018**  
 Cllr Springett reviewed the minutes.  
 Cllr Cooke said he agreed with the proposed corporate colours but to ensure we only painted our own property.  
**Proposed:** Cllr Springett  
**Seconded:** Cllr Harriss  
**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the above meeting be approved.  
 All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

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

Cllr Springett reported that he went to another meeting at the Police headquarters at Middlemore. The Police and Crime Commissioner is trialling in Cornwall a tripartite system where the retained Firemen are also first aiders and special constables.

Cllr Springett also reported that CCTV is still being investigated and the Police and still very supportive of this in Dartmouth. He does also have the annual report 2017-18 which he will leave in the council office in case any Cllr wants to look at it.

Cllr Smith said that he felt it was a cop out for the retained Firemen to also act as first aiders and special constables, and they were just passing it on to another group of uniformed bodies who have enough to do.

**142. TO APPROVE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ALL WORKING GROUPS**

- Approve the terms of reference for all Working Groups
- Approve the terms of reference for the Christmas Lights working group
- Approve the terms of reference for the Ivy Lane working group

**Proposal:** Cllr Springett

**Seconded:** Cllr de Galleani

**Resolved:** to approve all these working group terms of reference

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

**143. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT OF FINANCIAL MATTERS FOR AUGUST 2018**

The Clerk and Finance Officer had circulated copies of the financial report to all Cllrs prior to this meeting.

Cllr Cooke asked if it was clear to Cllrs how much money is put aside for parks and gardens? Although we have a sum from SHDC which is decreasing year on year, we did also increase our precept to help cover this.

The Mayor suggested he speak to the Finance Officer, but he was sure that the money for Parks and Gardens was kept for exactly that purpose.  
Cllr Springett said hypothecation is not permitted but the sums can be monitored.

**Proposed:** Cllr Springett

**Seconded:** Cllr Gent

**Resolved:** That the Clerk's report of financial matters for October 2018 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be approved.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

**144. TO AUTHORISE THE ISSUE OF DEEDS OF GRANTS FOR EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL: J40 & J41**

**Proposed:** Cllr Springett

**Seconded:** Cllr Cooke

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

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

Cllr Smith said that as Chairman of the Townstal Community Hall could he thank the Council for the generous donation of the tree to Townstal Community Hall.

**146. CHRISTMAS CLOSING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES**

The Mayor reported that the offices would be closed from Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 inclusive.

Cllr de Galleani asked if a list of who to call in an emergency could be circulated to all Cllrs and the Clerk said a list of numbers would be circulated to Cllrs and tenants.

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

The Mayor spoke about the Candlelit event and asked permission to write to the Candlelit committee to congratulate them on an excellent event. All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour of this.

Cllr Springett said that we were considering closing the public toilets in Royal Avenue Gardens on the following days (Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day) as we believe the footfall will be down.

He added that the toilets would remain open in Coronation Park and a notice could be put up to explain where the nearest toilets were.

It should also be noted that the toilets would remain open at the Castle Estate.

**Proposal:** Cllr Smith

**Seconded:** Cllr Cole

**Resolved:** to keep the toilets open over these three days.

Two Cllrs approved this proposal

Eight Cllrs objected this proposal

The proposal did not go ahead, and the Royal Avenue Gardens toilets would be closed on Christmas day, Boxing day and New Year's day.

**148. 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.

**PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL**

**149. PROVISION OF ELECTRICITY AT THE TOWN COUNCIL DEPOT**

The Clerk explained that the Town Council depot currently doesn't have any electricity and urgently needs it.

The Mayor explained that Western Power were the only company available to supply the power and they had given us a quote.

Cllr Cooke said that he asked Cllrs to approve this urgent work seeing as there is only one electricity supplier and it's a fixed price and our preferred electrician can do the other necessary work to ensure electric is fed into the lock ups.

**Proposal:** Cllr Cooke

**Seconded:** Cllr Springett

**Resolved:** that the Town Council go ahead and get electricity supplied to the depot by Western Power and our preferred electrician.

The Mayor wished all Cllrs a very merry Christmas and thanked them for their support during the year and asked them all to come next door for refreshments.

Members voted to come out of part 2 - confidential section

*The meeting ended at 20.35*

**APPENDIX A**

**Police report Dartmouth Town Council**

Police report 06/11/2018 to 03/12/2018

**Updates on previous reports.**

The prolific shoplifter in Dartmouth who stole from Boots, M& S and the CO-OP. He was detained last month by members of staff from the CO-OP whilst trying to steal vodka from the store. He is a Darren ADCOCK a 43 year old male from Torquay and has been to court and was sentenced to four months imprisonment for the Dartmouth offences and other similar offences in the South Devon area.

The person suspected to be responsible for the burglaries and damage in the market area was arrested and has been sentenced for an unrelated matter. He has admitted to committing an offence of theft in Ridge Hill and is in prison. At this time he will not admit to the other Dartmouth offences committed on the same evening.

The person who was responsible for the robbery of the elderly female in September has been identified and arrested. He was also responsible for a theft in the town and a theft and attempted burglary at the Sap in Townstal.

The Neighbourhood Team from Dartmouth with CID colleagues travelled to Thames Valley Police area to arrest the male. The investigation is ongoing and charges are anticipated.

**Current activity:**

The Dartmouth neighbourhood team and response officers have been spending their time in the last month chasing around after three young boys, aged 13 and 14 years of age. There has been 34 reported incidents relating to these boys. These are the same ones who were discussed in last month's report who were causing annoyance and being abusive when playing 'knock and run'. A huge amount of work is taking place with the boys, their families, the schools, youth workers, Anti-Social Behaviour team at SHDC and those they are intimidating.

One of boys has been interviewed tonight about his involvement in a series of offences which are detailed in this report.

The incidents and offences they are believed to be responsible for include:

Criminal damage to the toilets in Royal Avenue Gardens on three separate occasions, including setting fire to toilet rolls and damaging fittings.

Theft shoplifting from the CO-OP on two occasions

Causing Harassment alarm and distress at the Spa in Victoria Road and then following a member of staff home

Criminal damage to a sign at the Leisure Centre after being asked to leave.

Aggravated vehicle taking of a bus from the Park & Ride at Wessex Way. Two boys admit to being involved in this offence.

Theft – Shoplifting - Townstal garage

Criminal damage to the outdoor swimming pool.

Common assault – by one of youths on his father who was trying to get him up for school

Common Assault – Spat at a member of staff at Sainsbury.

There are also reports of them being on the school roof. One boys has admitted to this but states he nearly fell off, so won't be going up there again.

**Other incidents:**

Theft employee – Private members club

Common Assault between ex partners and new partners

Theft – shoplifting Spa - Victoria Road.

Theft – Shoplifting - Joules

Theft – Townstal garage – Food stuffs.

Vinos - a male under the influence of drink caused a disturbance and has made an apology and paid for the damage he caused.

Public Order - known offender threatening staff at the Spa – Victoria Road.

Arson – Fire set to a carpet in a communal hallway in Foss Street

Attempted burglary to Fat Face at 2.30 am. A female aged in her 60's Fat face attempted to gain entry to shop door using her walking stick. Window of door smashed in process. She has been identified and was staying in Dartmouth for a few days.

Indecent images sent between a boy and girl. This has been dealt with by the school.

Breach of restraining order – known male arrested taken to court.

**Ongoing initiatives;**

The Neighbourhood team have started a 'Whats app' shoplifting initiative between the shops in the town. This has also been supported with a plain clothes operation.

**Sgt Iain Simons**