

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING,**  
**CONVENED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PART II, AND HELD**  
**IN THE CLIFTON ROOM, THE GUILDHALL, DARTMOUTH**  
**AT 6.00 P.M., ON MONDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017.**

**1. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Mayor (Councillor R M Lyon) welcomed those present and read out details of the Council staff and the Town Councillors. He thanked both the staff and the Councillors for all their hard work on behalf of the Town.

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS YEAR'S MEETING**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 had been made available for perusal by members of the public.

**3. MAYOR'S REPORT ON COUNCIL BUSINESS TRANSACTED DURING THE PAST YEAR.**

The Mayor reported that the current Council had nearly completed its second year following the local elections in May 2015. He particularly wished to welcome the new Councillors, Cllrs Kelland and Pritchard-Tagg to the Council.

Before he specifically focused on the activities of the Council, the Mayor detailed a number of events in the last year where the Town Council had been involved.

As Mayor, he had been pleased to host the Mayors of the West of England Rowing towns to lunch for the third year in 2016 and everyone had had an enjoyable afternoon watching the races on the embankment during the Regatta. The Mayor had attended a Christmas Band Concert and passing out parade at the Britannia Royal Naval College, D-Day commemorations, the annual Remembrance services and was very pleased to have opened the new facilities at Dartmouth Pre-School. Together with the Mayoress the Mayor had attended Her Majesty's Queen Elizabeth II's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations with the Over 60's group at a party in the Market. The Mayor and Mayoress had also visited the National Geographic Orion, Aegean Odyssey and Sea Cloud when they had moored in the River Dart.

In July 2016, Dartmouth had hosted a ceremony to place a stone in the Royal Avenue Gardens to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award of the VC to Corporal Theodore Veale.

Through the Mayor's work with the Mayflower 400 group, the Mayoress and he had attended several meetings with the American Ambassador, charge

d'affaires, cultural attaché and also with the staff and organisers from the Mayflower 400 trail towns.

In October 2016 the Mayor reported that the Town had welcomed Captain Jolyon Woodard as the new Captain of the Britannia Royal Naval College and also welcomed a new Harbour Master, Mark Cooper in February 2017.

The Mayor told the meeting that the Town Council would be attending a D-day memorial service to place a new monument from the American Battle Monuments Commission in the Royal Avenue Gardens in June 2017.

The Mayor reported that the Town Council via its Committee structure had continued to strive and assure that the Town's assets were maintained and managed in an efficient manner including the Butterwalk, Boatfloat, Old Market, Community Orchard, Longcross Cemetery, Ivy Lane Youth Centre and the Guildhall.

**The Market** had continued to be an asset to the Town and was now being looked after by the Market Working Group of Cllrs Coles, Hawke and Thomson. This year a new light had been added in the car park area and festivals had continued to use this space for their events including the Delicious Dart Trail, Music Festival, Food Festival and the annual Fatstock Show.

**The Butterwalk** having been completely refurbished at the beginning of 2014 continued to be a real asset to Dartmouth for both visitors and locals alike.

**The Boatfloat** was a valued facility for small boat owners and the Town Council continued to consider options in respect of the removal of the excess silt and the installation of pontoons, again within the framework of scheduled maintenance.

**The Guildhall** was in the process of a complete transformation with the installation of a lift and a completely new first class catering kitchen having already been provided on the first floor adjacent to the Ballroom. This year the toilets had been completely refurbished and shortly the Council Chamber refurbishment would be complete with new lighting and Oak paneling.

New areas had been cleared in **Longcross Cemetery** and the Town Council was working to upgrade all areas of the Cemetery particularly the War Graves in the Old Section.

**The Orchard** had continued to flourish with the help of Dartmouth Green Partnerships and the Friends of the Community Orchard group, and the upgrading of the paths had taken place this year. The cadets from BRNC had again helped with scrub clearance and work to the pathways.

The Town Council had supported the Dartmouth and District Youth Partnership in their running of the Youth Club at the **Ivy Lane Youth Centre** and was pleased that the Food bank had been able to make use of the facility. Plans were in place to add a new recording studio and to make the main hall back into a basketball/badminton court.

Following the Council's financial commitment to the new **Indoor Swimming Pool** which had included a grant of £150,000 towards the capital cost and up to an additional £100,000 earmarked for revenue over 10 years, the Mayor told the meeting that he had been very pleased to attend the opening of the new indoor swimming pool; a real achievement for the Town and he praised the Trustees for their work.

The **Christmas lights** had been extended with generous donations from the "Snow Ball" organisers and it was hoped that a scheme to place permanent decorative lighting along the embankment would start in 2017.

The Town Council had continued to support local organisations through the use of Section 137 monies which had included **grants** to Dartmouth Green Partnerships, Citizens Advice Bureau, Mayflower 400 and the Dartmouth Outdoor Swimming Pool, with small grants having been made to a number of organisations including Dart Trekkers, Dartmouth Amateur Rowing Club, the Friends of the Community Orchard and Youth Genesis. The Mayor reported that the new boat for the rowing club would be delivered in the next few days.

The Mayor told the meeting that the Town Council was fully aware of the significance of the Royal Avenue Gardens in the life of the community and was most appreciative of all the hard work undertaken by South Hams District Council staff and Dartmouth Green Partnerships in the upkeep of this and other open spaces. The Town Council was intending to take over ownership and management of the Royal Avenue Gardens, Coronation Park and the Castle Estate in 2017 and looked forward to working in partnership with community organisations to bring the Towns' green spaces to the highest standard.

The Mayor reported that the Town Council were pleased to welcome Inspector Chris Tapley to the Town and continued to be grateful to the officers of Devon and Cornwall Constabulary for providing reports on a regular basis to the Council as well as attending numerous Council meetings.

Residents and visitors continued to enjoy the major Town activities each year which include the Comedy Festival, Dart Music Festival, Shakespeare week, The Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta, The Food Festival, Candlelit Dartmouth and the Children's Hospice South West Art Weekend.

Council members had continued to serve on a number of outside bodies and organisations including Dartmouth Trust, Dartmouth United Charities, Dartmouth Museum and Dartmouth Caring, St Petrox Trust and the Townstal Community Hall Association.

The Mayor placed on record the Council's thanks to its entire staff for all the work that had been undertaken throughout the year, the work load was continuing to increase and it was recognised that the amount they did grew year on year. The Town Council continued to undertake a great deal of the maintenance of their properties through their in house staff, saving the Town Council and the rate payers of Dartmouth money on these works.

The Mayor personally thanked the Clerk and the Ruth Searle and Ali McGrigor for all their work for the Town Council and he and the Mayoress thanked the Town Sergeant for looking after them so well during their 3 years of office.

#### **4. FINANCIAL REPORT.**

A copy of the draft unaudited annual accounts were presented to the meeting. The accounts would be internally audited later in June 2017; prior to submission to the external auditor.

#### **5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

There were none.

The Mayor thanked all those present for attending.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm.