

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 7TH JANUARY 2019

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

IN ATTENDANCE: The Reverend Prebendary Will Hazlewood; Town Sergeant: R Lambden; Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Administrator: R Searle; County & District Cllr: Jonathon Hawkins; District Cllr: Hilary Bastone; Sgt Iain Simons; Dartmouth Chronicle: Charley Adams; Representative from the Dartmouth Visitor Centre: Karen Perrow & 27 members of the public.

Before the meeting, Father Will Hazelwood spoke about the sad loss of the Council's caretaker who was tragically killed in a road accident in December and prayers were read out for him.

PART I - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

150. 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.

151. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: B Harriss; F Hawke; D Kelland; M Baillie.

152. Cllr Allen said that as a point of order he felt that item 15 'CLERK'S STAFFING PROPOSAL' should be moved to the Personnel committee meeting.

153. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

154. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public Andrew Love (name supplied with permission) spoke about the land north of Seymour Drive, notes attached (Appendix A)

He asked the following question:

"Is it right that a Developer has been able to get away with his actions above, without any intervention on behalf of the people of Dartmouth by the District or Town Council (ie was there nothing in the power of either council to stop this felling/clearing), and can we be assured 100% that when plans are submitted, all of the above will be retrospectively taken into account as part of the consultation process".

The Mayor said that he had visited the site, and said that Dartmouth Town Council had no statutory power and were only advisory when it came to planning.

Town Council comments would be fed back to SHDC. He invited the Chairman of Planning committee to say a few words about this.

Cllr Gent said he had been in contact with this member of the public previously and discussed what was happening at Seymour Drive.

He said that the developer chose an unfortunate time to start work but that he hadn't broken any laws as he owned the land.

He read out correspondence from SHDC with regards to the Tree Preservation Orders which had been placed on the remaining trees and that any wildlife breaches should be dealt with by the Police

Cllr Gent said that there were two possibilities that could happen.

1. The developer starts building without planning permission and the enforcement officers become involved very quickly.
2. The developer applies for planning permission. The plans will come before the Planning committee and therefore Councillors need to remain impartial.

Mr Love said that he had reported it to the Devon & Cornwall Police, Wildlife Crime Unit and he has a firm meeting set up with a representative from the forestry commission.

A resident asked what had happened following the incidents that he had reported about the Youth Centre in Ivy Lane. The Mayor said a discussion had taken place between the Police and Youth Genesis. He said that we are currently waiting on a meeting to be organised between Youth Genesis, the Police, Father Will Hazelwood and the Town Council to discuss what can be done to try to ensure there isn't a repeat of these incidents.

The member of the public went on to talk about the damage that some young people have caused to property in the immediate area to Ivy Lane.

The Mayor added that Sgt Simons had some information in his report that would be given in the next agenda item.

A member of the public said that Central Govt have just released a central Highstreet fund and asked if the Council would be applying for it.

The Mayor said that this could be moved to the General Purposes committee.

Several members of the public left the room.

155. 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 B

QUESTIONS

Cllr de Galleani asked if anything could be done about having a larger police presence in the town over weekends, as speeding cars had become a problem. Sgt Simons asked all Cllrs and residents to ring the police when this happens, as officers would be able to try to respond in real time.

The Mayor allowed a member of the public to ask a question of Sgt Simons.

The member of the public said that a car was driven very fast up and down Roseville Street; the driver later parked and it was apparent he was inebriated when he exited the car.

He said that residents didn't feel safe walking around town or in RAG at weekends and that he would rather pay more tax to ensure that there was a better police presence in town.

Sgt Simons, said that he aware of this incident and the driver was eventually arrested.

Sgt Simons also spoke about the issues with some of the members attending Youth Club and that he was trying to address this with Youth Genesis. He also spoke about a lack of numbers in the police to deal with incidents, but asked residents to report any incidents to officers on duty.

Cllr Gent said he had spoken to Youth Genesis about the drop-in situation and that they had responded that this had been the policy for years and they were not allowed to keep the members inside against their will.

Sgt Simons re-iterated that there had been a rise in low level crime on a Thursday evening and asked if it was possible to do a letter drop to the parents of the kids to inform them that their kids were not staying at Youth Club. Cllr Gent responded that all parents are already aware of this.

Cllr Smith asked if the letter in support of the Police had been sent that he had requested at the last Full Council meeting and the Mayor responded that it had been. Sgt Simons responded that it had been received and that we would probably receive a response shortly.

Cllr Springett said we could give Youth Genesis a formal warning and suggested that perhaps the youth club would be better situated at the top of the town where he suggested the majority of the young people live.

A member of the public spoke again about Seymour Drive and the damage to the wildlife, and asked when they might hear something about it.

Sgt Simons said that this was dealt with by the Wildlife Officer who is based in Totnes. Sgt Simons said he would chase this up.

Several members of the public left the room.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hawkins gave a verbal report that covered....

- Youth club – he had been involved in youth club since Devon County Council cut the services four years ago. Youth Genesis run youth centres all over Devon.
He said he felt part of the problem was that the youth know the system now, and that youth club is currently closed. He asked if Sgt Simons could perhaps pop in on a Thursday night to talk to the kids etc...

Cllr Gent responded that the youth club is currently closed for their Christmas break, and would open again on the 17th January.

- He reported that he went to the trust meeting of Torbay Hospital and that he will be attending again in early Feb, where they should be reporting back on hospital beds in Dartmouth.
- There is a meeting set in Feb to discuss bus shelters in Dartmouth, there is an option for an outside company to take them off DTC and privatise them, advertising would be placed on the shelters. He commented that this was happening in Torbay & Totnes.

QUESTIONS

- Cllr Allen spoke about police presence in Dartmouth and asked that given we may increase our precept; what percentage should be given to the Devon and Cornwall Police?

There was a discussion and Cllr Hawkins said that he felt most people would be prepared to pay more for a better Police presence in town.

The Mayor said that DTC had written to the Police & Crime Commissioner to ask for more Police presence in Dartmouth.

Cllr Pritchard asked Cllr Hawkins to confirm where the bus shelters would go in Townstal, and that most people stay in the store if it's raining whilst waiting for the bus.

Cllr Hawkins said he was looking at Collingwood Rd, near the Football Club (concerns about who owns pavement), and outside Sainsburys and that this was ultimately the Town Council's decision.

The Mayor suggested that this would go to the General Purposes committee.

Cllr Springett answered Cllr Allen and said looking on the Police and Crime Commissioners website, it says that the next Police and Crime Panel meeting is scheduled for the 8th February and this meeting will focus on the precept.

Cllr Cole said that she remembered a discussion about advertising on bus shelters previously and the Council voted against them.

It was agreed to move this to Purposes committee.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Bastone gave a verbal report which is Appendix C

QUESTIONS

- Cllr Allen asked several months ago about the possibility of a large recycling bank for plastic bottles in the Mayor's Avenue car park, and that the two weekly collections is not enough, especially over Christmas, Town Councillors agreed.

Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Bastone both thought this was a good idea and Cllr Bastone said he would make enquiries.

- Cllr de Galleani spoke about air pollution and asked about the possibility of the idling signs for coaches that she had mentioned previously?
Cllr Bastone said that 5 years ago, a test was done in Duke Street but the results showed that there was not an issue with air pollution.
Cllr de Galleani said an idling coach with air-con, produces 2 litres of dirt per hour.
Cllr Hawkins said that he had actioned this, but DCC had declined and said they don't put these signs up, but perhaps from the 1st April this could be looked into.
- Cllr Hawkins also said that he would look into Cllr Allen's issue about plastic recycling.
- Sgt Simons said he had asked the coaches to stay up at the park and ride until they were ready to pick up their passengers, and not to run the engine down in town.

Sgt Simons and Cllr Hawkins left the meeting.

156. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 3rd DECEMBER 2018.

Members reviewed the minutes of the previous Town Council meeting.

Cllr Allen spoke about page 5 - sponsorship of the Regatta, the Mayor said this grant application would be discussed at the Finance committee on the 9th January 2019

Proposed: Cllr Gent

Seconded: Cllr Springett

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Town Council held on 3rd December 2018, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

157. CCTV

Cllr Springett said that this was all in progress, the firm were tasked with giving us a report with costs but they have not delivered. He hoped that this would be discussed at the Finance committee meeting on the 9th January 2019.

158. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Mayor spoke about this issue and how this Council voted not to continue with the NP at the November 2018 meeting. He said he had received a number of requests that the Neighbourhood Plan would be re-instated.

The Mayor said he felt that the town does need guidance and leadership in this area.

Cllr Allen said he had also had members of the public tell him of their concerns and he said if we budget for the NP can the money be used by a group that is led by an outside person? The Mayor thought that as long as members were happy with this he didn't see a reason why the money couldn't be used by a working group.

Cllr Gent spoke about revisiting this vote and that we would need to go through a particular process as per our Standing Orders, which is that at least half of the

Councillors would need to sign a document that states they would like this vote rescinded.

Cllr Fyson reminded Councillors that he had spoken at the November meeting and had mentioned a mechanism for control that could be introduced from this council and that some finance from the existing budget could be made available to an outside organisation. Cllr Fyson added that it was important that the Council should be able to keep some control of the project. He said he would support another look at the NP.

Cllr de Galleani said she was not against the NP being re-visited but that she would be nervous about handing over council money to an outside organisation. The Mayor said this would be a working group rather than an outside organisation. Cllr Springett said he was not happy about this as his proposal was accepted and the Council voted not to continue with the NP.

The Clerk said that this can be revisited in May (6 months after the proposal) or if at least half of the Councillors sign a document as Cllr Gent stated earlier.

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

The Clerk said that correspondence had been circulated to all Cllrs via email about an event request from the RNLI, and that further information had been circulated.

Proposed: Cllr Springett

Seconded: Cllr Gent

Resolved: To allow this event to take place, but that the details would be discussed by Parks and Open Spaces committee.

Cllr Fyson said that he approved it, but he felt it needs to be discussed further at the Parks and Open Spaces committee.

Cllr Springett said that his proposal didn't stop the Parks and Open Spaces committee putting conditions on it, but that he was content that the RNLI go ahead and plan.

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

- **Planning Committee – 5th December 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.

- **Planning Committee – 12th December 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.

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

Cllr Gent reminded members about the NHS working group will be having it's final meeting this month, and he would let the Mayor know the date.

162. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT OF FINANCIAL MATTERS FOR NOVEMBER 2018

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

Cllr Allen spoke about the monthly WorldPay charge for credit card use, although it's fairly low at the moment, if the credit card usage is increased then the charges may go up more. There may be a possible need to add a % on for card payments to cover the fees.

The Chairman of Finance, Cllr Pritchard-Tagg said he would speak to the Finance Officer about this.

Proposed: Cllr Gent

Seconded: Cllr Springett

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

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

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

Cllr Springett reminded members that it's the 75th anniversary this year for D Day and that money has been put in the budget for this, he asked that General Purposes committee be asked to look at sending out invitations.

Cllr Allen mentioned the tatty sign hanging on the boatfloat railings, can it be taken down and changed.

Cllr Allen also mentioned attracting people to become a Councillor and said that perhaps boards and posters in the Market might reach people. Cllr Springett said perhaps a coffee morning /afternoon in the Flavel Church might work.

164. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT

None

165. CLERK'S STAFFING PROPOSAL

This item was moved to the next Personnel committee meeting.

The meeting ended at 20.20

Appendix A

From Andrew Love – member of the public

Mr David Holloway (Developer) acquires land at north end of Seymour Drive under circumstances which are not yet fully understood

Developer moved in on 8th/9th December (a weekend) at 8am on both days

Machinery was moved in/out of Seymour Drive which is a winding cul-de-sac, over a pavement and through a narrow gate (children play on scooters, skateboards etc in this area)

Trees were originally planted by MIDAS Homes as part of the planning condition ref Seymour Drive Phase 2, for visual amenity of local residents, and to provide screening of the development from the open countryside. The intention was that the trees would remain "in perpetuity")

Area is an SHDC Environmental Improvement Area, and part of a 20yr old wildlife corridor

Area was rich in wildlife (bats, slow worm, hedgehogs, foxes, badgers, many birds) - yet the Developer's surveys apparently didn't find any of this wildlife

Area is outside Dartmouth Development Boundary

Area lies within South Devon AONB

Any contamination from this very steep sided area is very quickly likely to enter Old Mill Creek, and the River Dart thus affecting marine wildlife, shellfish etc

Area was not one of 20 potential development areas considered by SHDC in their document attached

Area is designated as woodland on OS mapping

Trees were up to 18" diameter

SHDC Tree Officer arrived on site before Christmas and put a TPO on what trees were left at that time (around the perimeter). The Developer has since claimed that he doesn't need to remove those trees anyway

Matter has been reported to various agencies - Town Councillors have visited (inc Cllrs Lyon, Gent, Hawkins, Bastone, Smith), also Robert Brooke of D&K Society

Clearing of felled trees was carried out daily between 27th December-5th January, by local contractors, ruining the Christmas holiday for most of us

In the clearing period, multiple visits were made by tractors, lorries, trailers etc to move a huge amount of material before any agencies had a chance to get here

On the final day of the 4 week process to fell/clear trees, a wider gate was installed and the track covered with hardcore, clearly for future activity

Ignoring for now any future plans, our biggest concern to date has been the total disregard shown to this part of Dartmouth (highest point in town at 147m above sea level, on the brow of a hill which can be seen from miles around) and the residents of Seymour Drive & Raleigh Close. The Developer has operated at days/times when he knows very few people would be interested in coming to address any local concerns - he's effectively been able to do exactly what he wants without any worry that he will be challenged.

Hence, our question tonight is:

"Is it right that a Developer has been able to get away with his actions above, without any intervention on behalf of the people of Dartmouth by the District or Town Council (ie was there nothing in the power of either council to stop this felling/clearing), and can we be assured 100% that when plans are submitted, all of the above will be retrospectively taken into account as part of the consultation process".

Appendix B

Police report

3rd December 2018 to 7th January 2019

Stabbing in Ivatt road, Townstal

In the early hours of 6th December five young men attended Thomas Newcomen Flats to obtain drugs from an occupant. A fight ensued whereby one of the men was stabbed repeatedly by one of the male and female occupants.

All of the group have been arrested and interviewed regarding the incident and have been released on bail pending an investigation.

This was a shocking event for the community, especially those living in Thomas Newcomen Court and the residents of Britannia Avenue who helped the male who had collapsed from his stab wounds.

Anti Social Behaviour.

My original report I had prepared a week ago, read differently to this one, as I was about to praise the three boys for realising the error of their ways and their choice to divert their attention from behaving anti socially.

Unfortunately since New Year's Eve they have started again. They are responsible for smashing the remaining glass windows in the 'look out' tower at the park & Ride and smashing a window in a property belonging to an acquaintance of theirs. They have also continued to harass an employee in one of the food outlet stores in the town.

This behaviour will not be tolerated and despite their age, positive action will be taken to ensure they are proportionately dealt with, for the offences they have committed.

The police continue to work with their schools, social workers, youth workers and their parents to try and stop their misbehaviour.

Theft shoplifting

The introduction of the Shop Watch – WhatsApp group has significantly improved the communication between the shops and the police.

There have been a number of thefts from the main department stores albeit by different suspects.

Theft Castle Tea Rooms

In the afternoon of 13th December when the Tea Rooms were a closed, a number of small plant pot, table decorations were stolen. Although the value of the plants is relatively low, it indicates that any item, however low in value is at risk of being stolen unless it is secured or put away. This is obviously difficult in practice and you would not expect anyone to stoop so low, to steal some table decorations. The police do have a line of enquiry to follow to identify the culprit.

Criminal Damage to window

A window was smashed in Roseville Street on a Thursday evening, during the Youth Club night.

This raises further concern about the young people attending the youth club but spend most of the evening on the streets around the youth club. As the youth club is situated in the town, this means the young people are congregating in Victoria Road and down to Royal Avenue Gardens. On these evenings there has been a rise in the number of ASB reports and crimes of minor damage to public buildings during the youth club times.

Dartmouth police and the Town Council will be working with Youth Genesis to attempt to address the issue of the youth club members straying onto the street, rather than being actively occupied within the youth club.

My concern is that parents assume their children are spending their evening in the club and are unaware they are roaming the streets, not only placing themselves at risk but contributing to an increase of low-level offending behaviour.

Missing person

A body was recovered from the River Dart on Saturday afternoon. At this moment in time, it is believed to be that of the missing person Jay Wickenden a local 34 year old male.

**Appendix C
from Cllr Bastone**

Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2019/20

Adopted a 4 band scheme ranging from 85% to 25% for the allocation and management of the new Council Tax Reduction Strategy.

Business Rates – Section 47 Discretionary Rates Relief Policy
Introduction of a new policy.

Consider the Clean Air Strategy following public consultation
Adopted new clean air strategy with air quality action plans for Ivybridge and Dean Prior

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2018/19
Projected overspend of £60k (0.7%) on a budget of £8.983million

Capital Programme Monitoring
Update.

Budget Proposals for 2019/20 onwards update report
Update.

Release of s106 Funds for Open Space, Sport and Recreation and Ecological Projects
List amounting to £500k

Write off Report
Approved.

Commercial Development Opportunities
A variety of schemes around the South Hams.

Waste & Cleansing Procurement
This will save £5million over the next 8 years.