

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 COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE GUILDHALL, DARTMOUTH
AT 6.00 PM, ON MONDAY, 16th APRIL 2018.

PRESENT: Cllrs: R W I Cooke (Mayor); A J C Fyson (Deputy Mayor);
Cllrs: D Gent; R Springett; G Coles; F Hawke; R Lyon, Jonathan
Oliverio on behalf of Youth Genesis and Mrs Springett.

The Mayor, Councillor R Cooke welcomed those present and spoke about how this was an annual parish meeting and not a Council meeting.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS YEAR'S MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 11th April 2017 had been circulated to Cllrs and members of the public.

There were no comments

2. COUNCIL STAFF

A list of the current Council staff was circulated to all Cllrs and members of the public and is also attached to these minutes.

The Mayor said that this year has been an interesting year for changes in the office, and the market. He said that the new Town Clerk was doing very well since she started in September 2017 and has made a few changes in the office.

There is also a new receptionist who started in April 2018 who is currently part time at the moment which may change in the future.

The Mayor expressed his gratitude to the other staff members who have been here for longer than a year who are also doing a marvelous job, especially Ali who manages the finance and Ruth who keeps both him and the office in check.

He also wanted to thank Dave Walker (Whisky) who is our in house manager and much of the excellent renovation work that has been done on the Guildhall in the last 18 months has been down to him.

He also wanted to thank Tim and Denis who are both very nice chaps who can turn their hands to anything.

The Mayor said that there were also some changes in the market with the Market Supervisor leaving and the Market Assistant taking over this role with help from the Council office staff.

The Mayor also mentioned a sad piece of news in that Laurence Berry who used to be the Guildhall caretaker many years ago unfortunately died recently, his funeral is next week.

The Mayor said he was a thoroughley nice chap who was well known and well liked in Dartmouth.

3. COUNCILLORS

A list of the Councillors names and addresses was circulated to all Cllrs and members of the public and is also attached to these minutes.

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

The Mayor gave a report on this year's council business.

The Mayor said that he would like to remind the general public that the town council are not responsible for many things: health services; social services; roads, pavements; traffic signs; gutters; blocked drains; street lighting, parking, rubbish collection etc... the Town Council often gets complaints about these things but unfortunately can't do anything more than the public and report them to South Hams District Council or Devon County Council.

These things are the responsibility of either South Hams District Council or Devon County Council.

Dartmouth Town Council has quite a property portfolio unlike a lot of other Parish Councils and DTC is responsible for the custody of the Butterwalk, the Old Market, the Boatfloat and the Guildhall and these buildings require a lot of maintenance and attention under the care of the Corporate Property committee.

The Town Council manages the rentals of the market units, the boat float and the allotments.

The Mayor went on to say that the Corporate Property committee have produced a Market Working Group who are now making improvements to the market.

The Mayor said that the Guildhall has been a source of controversy for both the town and some of the previous Cllrs, many wanted it to be bulldozed or turned into apartments, but a few decided against it and three years ago Dartmouth Town Council started work on renovation.

The Council Chamber, Clifton Room, Ball Room and the Mayors Parlour have all been renovated to a high standard and are now taking bookings for clubs and societies; parties; weddings and even this week a funeral.

The transfer of assets has been a big thing this year, the parks and gardens for many years have been looked after very well, but because of budget cuts SHDC have not been able to keep them up to the previous standard. Dartmouth is a tourist town so we need them to look good and we are now proposing to take these over.

The small working group who have been working towards getting this through are now at a stage where we have a draft final transfer document which will allow us to take it over fully.

The areas involved are Royal Avenue Gardens, Coronation Park, Castle Estate and additional verges in Townstal as well as some of the toilets in the town.

At the last full council meeting in April the council voted with a majority to go ahead with this transfer of assets, and we have now taken on a new Groundsman who used to do this exact job for SHDC and will be working on bringing the gardens back up to the quality they deserve.

The Mayor and Mayoress have attended many events throughout the year, at the beginning of their mayoral year they opened a new shelter up at the orchard, 'the friends of the orchard' group had been working on this and it is now used for educational purposes. He added that they had also been up there for apple picking, cider pressing and cider drinking.

They were also invited to attend the school on a couple of occasions, firstly to look at the GCSE Art Work and secondly to watch the school's dramatic performance, they have a huge amount of talent up at Dartmouth Academy.

The Mayor and Mayoress attended lots of festivals: Food; Music; Regatta; Fishing; Comedy and enjoyed all of them.

One of the things at the Regatta in August that they enjoyed the most was being asked to open the bowling at the bowling club, the town sergeant gave a quick lesson on bowling before hand and it was marginally successful.

They also very much enjoyed being involved in the Rowing Club, they went to a dinner and watched the rowing and really loved the fact that there were so many young people rowing and having fun on the river.

The Mayor and Mayoress also enjoyed joining the Mayor and staff in Courcelles, France. The French Mayor first came over here in May 2017 and then the Dartmouth Mayor was invited back in the Autumn of 2018 and they were treated to a wonderful few days.

The D Day celebrations were made extra special by the unveiling of the memorial for the American service man were stationed in Briton during the second world war who lost their lives.

The last memorial was placed in the middle of the Pacific and it's a real honour to have one placed here in Dartmouth.

The Mayor and Mayoress attended several events over the Christmas period and were invited to several Christmas lunches with both Dartmouth Caring and the Over 60's group.

The Mayor wanted to mention Dartmouth Green Partnerships who have done sterling work in the town and the orchard. They have kept what little flowers we have going until we can take over and bring it back up to a better standard.

The Dartmouth Visitors Center was acquired by the council just over a year ago, it is now doing very well with it's new business manager and its directors.

One of the most special awards we received this year was from the Institute of Mechanical Engineering, they came down to award the Newcomen Engine because it's such a special piece of engineering history in this country, it was interesting to know that the previous award went to the Thames barrier.

The Mayor wanted to thank all the people that he may have forgotten to thank and thank you all for listening.

5. COMMUNITY

The Mayor introduced Jonathan Oliverio who is the lead officer for the Youth Genesis trust, who was here to speak about Youth Genesis.

(Report attached to minutes)

Jonathan Oliverio thanked everyone for allowing him to speak about Youth Genesis.

He said he works with volunteers to provide youth services on both Thursday evenings in Ivy Lane down in the town, and on Friday evenings up at St Clement's Church in Townstal. They run groups which focus on games; cooking; music; and they also do discussion groups which are based around cyber bullying and also bicycle maintenance.

Numbers seem to be growing, there are around 146 people on the books attending a youth club Dartmouth every week, which means that they like what we are offering.

We are also going to be working with Fusion leisure and expanding what we are offering and opening the youth leisure nights again.

We are a team of about seven people who work with the youth every week.

The Mayor asked Jonathan Oliverio where he see the group going forward in the next 12 months.

He replied that he will work with what they've got planned for now, and see how it goes.

The Mayor replied that he was grateful for what Youth Genesis provide to the town of Dartmouth and Cllr Gent added that it's almost 4 years to the day since Devon County Council pulled out of providing youth genesis.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT

A copy of the draft unaudited annual accounts was presented to the meeting. The Mayor commented that our Finance Officer prepared the accounts in a lovely style that was easy to understand.

The mayor explained that the council does have a buffer for when the assets transfer takes place so that we could get going quickly once the assets transfer finally goes through.

We are hoping it will happen on the 1st May but it's all in the hands of our solicitors.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

**Youth Genesis Annual Report – Dartmouth Town Council:
1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018.**

Youth Genesis has seen an increase in the numbers of young people attending the youth sessions over the past year; registered numbers have risen from 93 (2016-17) to 146 young people aged 11-17.

The youth sessions include: Decks Youth Venue, which is open on Thursday evenings from 6.30-8.30pm at the Ivy Lane Young Peoples Centre and The Point Youth Drop-In, which is based at St Clements Church Hall in Townstal on Friday nights from 7.00-9.00pm. Both sessions are aimed at 11-17 year olds, with youth volunteering opportunities for 18-25 year olds.

The youth sessions offer games, crafts, cooking, discussion groups, bicycle repair, sports activities and support for young people experiencing challenges such as bullying or social isolation. The youth sessions are staffed by a team of eight volunteers who gave their time each week to support the young people.

A Fix-n-Ride bicycle project was setup at The Point on Friday nights in January 2018 aimed to increase health and fitness and road safety for 11-19 year olds.

A team Streetbase workers have also been working with young people hanging out on the streets of Townstal each Friday night. The workers have targeted areas such as the Collingwood Road Play Park and the Skate Park at the Park & Ride. The Streetbase team have also formed an outreach to the The Point Youth Drop-In as way to encourage young people to attend.

Streetbase teams have also support the Dart Music Festival and Dartmouth Royal Regatta. The youth workers were successful in stopping a fight from breaking out between teenagers at the Music Festival in 2017.

The plan for 2018-19 is to relaunch the Youth Leisure Nights at the Dartmouth Leisure Centre and increase what is on offer to teenagers in Dartmouth on Friday nights. This venture will be done in partnership with Fusion Lifestyle and South Hams CVS.

Jonathan Oliverio – Lead Youth Officer (Youth Genesis Trust)

1st May 2018