

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 4TH MARCH 2019

PRESENT: Cllr: R Lyon (Mayor); F Pritchard-Tagg (Deputy Mayor)
Cllrs: M Baillie; R Cooke; A Fyson; T de Galleani; D Gent; B Harriss; I Pritchard; R Springett; S Thomson.

IN ATTENDANCE: The Reverend Prebendary: W Hazelwood; Town Sergeant: R Lambden;
Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; County Cllr: J Hawkins; District Cllr: H Bastone; R Rowe;
Dartmouth Chronicle: C Adams; Dartmouth Visitor Centre: K Perrow & five members of the public.

Before the meeting, prayers were read out by Father Will Hazelwood.

PART I - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

166. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced the standard emergency evacuation procedures.

167. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs: P Allen; F Hawke; D Kelland; S Smith.

168. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Cooke declared an interest as a resident of Market Street.

169. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Member of the public raised the building works in the area of Crowther's Hill and Above Town. As a result of the work, a lot of earth and mud is running down the road making the road slippery, uneven and dangerous. The Mayor referred this matter to Cllr Hawkins who said that it was in the builder's contract to keep the roads clean and he said that he would be reporting on the roads to be resurfaced and Crowther's Hill is on the list of roads to be done.

A second member of the public spoke about minute number 169 from the February minutes and that he didn't think it reflected the Council's approval at last month's meeting of a community group being formed and moving forward with working on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

Cllr Springett said that he had no objection to a group going ahead with working on the NP as long as no Cllrs or Council money were involved with it in accordance with minute no 127 from the November minutes.

Cllr Fyson said that he felt Cllrs should be involved with an independent group.

Cllr de Galleani said that she just wanted to clarify that it was agreed at the November Full Council meeting that the Council wouldn't proceed with the NP and this decision could not be raised again for 6 months. After this period the Council if it wished, could look at it again.

The member of the public clarified that he wanted the current Council's blessing on the community group who have been set up to work on the NP, but that he understands that it would be up to the new Council in May to decide if it wanted to take this forward or not.

The Mayor said that he considered that the NP might be taken forward in the future.

**170. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM:
THE DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE**

Sgt Simons was unable to attend but had submitted a written report, which was circulated to all Cllrs in advance and is below:

Police report from 4th February 2019 to 1st March 2019

A short report this month. I have only included the information which is relevant to the council meeting:

Criminal damage:

Damage found to the toilets in Coronation Park. This was around the time young people were found to have been smashing bottles in the same area. Follow up enquiries to be made with those who recorded themselves on social media, whilst smashing bottles.

Criminal damage:

Male causing anti-social behaviour on the early hours of Friday 1st March has walked from Market Street and around into Duke Street and in his anger smashed the window of the butchers shop. Enquiries in hand to trace and identify the male.

Disqualified driver:

A young male who was recently disqualified from driving, having been found driving under the influence of drugs has been found to be driving again. His vehicle was seized on 1st March and he will be reported for summons.

Sgt Simons also reported that:

The Spar at Victoria Road has agreed to ensure any 'energy drinks' will NOT be sold to under 18's on a Thursday evening.

Sgt Iain Simons

QUESTIONS

Cllr Cooke mentioned an incident on Friday outside of the Market House Pub which resulted in an individual smashing the window in the butcher's shop and attempting to climb onto the roof. A neighbour filmed it and sent it to the police who were able to identify the individual.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr J Hawkins was in attendance and gave a verbal report which covered the below topics.

- TQ6 (Townstal Community Partnership) were unsuccessful for their grant for a community hub and staff costs, but he wanted to thank the Chairman and the team for all the work they've put into it.
- He and Cllr Bastone had visited a Bakers Estate Development in Totnes, it's a very good development that has been built on the edges of Berry Pomeroy. There will be a consultation and presentation at the leisure centre on this 30th March 2019.
- Last Mon he went with Julian Distin to Devon County Council offices, with the idea to replace one of the bridges up on the coastal path, met Steve Gardener from the footpath team and discussed the way forward.
- There will be a Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) mtg on the 5th April to talk about the traffic regulation orders.
- Attended with Mike Mills and Pierre Landell-Mills a meeting of the NHS and the CCG to discuss the health and wellbeing center.
- Attended a very constructive public meeting about the ambulance service, trying to get more first responders in Dartmouth (there are currently two).
- Had met with Lisa Edmonds from DCC with regards to roadworks in Dartmouth.

Certain roads are in desperate need of resurfacing and in the next financial year the following will be done:

- Crowthers Hill and Jawbones, Dartmouth
- Milton Lane, Dartmouth
- Higher Street, Dartmouth
- Clarence St, Dartmouth
- Lower Street, Dartmouth
- Mount Boone to Ridge Hill, Dartmouth

The following will also be looked at:

- Fairfax place Dartmouth into Smith Street
- Lake St – o/s Doctors surgery
- Anzac Street, Dartmouth
- Lower Street, Dartmouth
- Castle Road, Dartmouth

These will all be done within 12 months from April 2019

Cllr Hawkins also wanted to say thank you to former Cllr Gina Cole.

Cllr de Galleani asked about the kerb going out to Warfleet which has disappeared and needs repairing.

Cllr de Galleani also referred back to the question about Crowthers Hill, she asked about the mess that the builders make and who was responsible for clearing up. Cllr Hawkins said it was the developer's responsibility to clean the drains. Cllr Bastone said that it would be County's responsibility to keep on top of this.

Cllr Fyson congratulated Cllr Hawkins and DCC on finally getting permanent double yellow lines on the junction of Crowthers Hill.

Cllr Springett asked to formally record the fact that the Townstal Community Partnership were unsuccessful with their grant application after they had worked very hard and that the Council were grateful for their effort.

Cllr Springett spoke about a potential planning development that may go on land belonging to the Townstal Community Hall and involve the Dartmouth United Charities.

There was a lengthy discussion between Councillors about this development. Cllr Gent said that a planning application had not been received and the Council should refrain from commenting on this due to the danger of predetermining ourselves.

Cllr Rowe echoed his comments.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Rowe was in attendance and had submitted a written report which is below.

Key messages March 2019

- Capital Programme has confirmed £190,00 for replacement play equipment for our parks. This will mean a Total of £520,000 is on target to be spent by 2020/21 budget year
- 2019/20 Budget confirmed. Council Tax for SHDC will increase by £5 per household
- There are no changes to Car Park Charges for 2019/20 except where this has been agreed as an alternative to the implementation of Pay on Entry at public toilets.
- The Council has adopted a new 4 banded Council Tax Reduction Scheme ranging from 85% to 25%.
- Confirmed the adoption of the final South Devon and Tamar Valley AONB Management Plans 2019/2024
- Totnes Town Council asked for an explanation for those phoning into SHDC in surprise for the their Precept being larger than SHDC's . The increase is from £125.98 in 2018/19 to £171.33 for 2019.20 for a band D property. The increase of £45.35 represents a 33% increase. The band D Parish precept will now be £5.91 higher than SHDC's
- Appointment of Sophie Hosking to the position of Chief Executive and agreed the interim senior management arrangements and for a report to be brought to Council recommending a new structure within 6 months.

Cllr Bastone gave a verbal report which covered the following points:

- Capital Programme of £190,000 for replacement play equipment for parks.
- Parish Precepts including Totnes at £171.33 for a Band D with District lower at £165.42!!
- Baker Estates exhibition at Dartmouth Leisure Centre on 30th March, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Summary of Executive meeting on 7th February and Council meeting on 21st February.
- Neighborhood Plan – Kingswear are currently at a crossroads.

Cllr Fyson said that as an observation about the criticism, some residents do not regard an increase in the precept as undesirable if it can be justified ie: Dartmouth Town Council raised the precept to take on the parks and gardens and it is now bearing the fruit in that the gardens are starting to look really good and we are receiving a lot of praise from the community.

Cllr Cooke said that we fought to take ownership of the parks and gardens in order to rescue them and stop them going to waste.

Cllr Hawkins left the meeting at 19.47

Cllr de Galleani asked Cllr Bastone about the homes that have been occupied by families and are now owned and run as a business or a holiday let, why is it that we don't seem to have any change of use planning applications on these?

Cllr Bastone said that SHDC are not very happy about this, holiday home owners can rent it for so many months of the year and claim it as a business, then you pay business rates and not council tax, because it's only a small amount of business rates, you can then claim business rate relief and end up paying nothing.

Cllr Bastone said that he is continuing with this battle and has been involving the MP's Gary Streeter and Sarah Wollaston who have both been very good on this.

Cllr Gent said to go back to the previous issue about homes being sold off as holiday homes etc.. he commented that the home owners should be applying for a change of use but it is not up to Dartmouth Town Council to enforce this.

Cllr de Galleani asked the Town Council to support the District Council with this issue.

171. TO DISCUSS LITTLE COTTON CARAVAN PARK REPLACEMENT

The Mayor spoke about his concern about the demise of the Little Cotton Caravan Park and that this has been reflected in the shops in town in a bad way.

South Hams have done a pre-application on behalf of us for the land up at Jawbones but they thought that it wouldn't get permission, due to it being an AONB.

Cllr Cooke said that AONB regulations were linked to it being too visible and too near to the sea.

Cllr de Galleani said she would be in favour of the town taking it forward as the Caravan Park generated 50,000 people days in the last 12 months that it was open.

Cllr Gent, Harriss and Springett were all in favour of taking this forward

Proposed: Cllr Cooke

Seconded: Cllr Springett

Resolved: To establish a working group to take this forward.

172. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 4TH FEBRUARY 2019.

Members reviewed the minutes of the previous Town Council meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Gent

Seconded: Cllr Springett

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Town Council held on 4TH February 2019, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

One abstention

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

None of note

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

- **Corporate Property Committee meeting at 5.30pm on Tuesday 12th February 2019**

Cllr Springett reviewed the minutes.

Proposed: Cllr Springett

Seconded: Cllr Gent

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

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

- **Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting at 6pm on Tuesday 12th February 2019**

Cllr Cooke reviewed the minutes and encouraged the Cllrs to read the Groundsman's report to see what they have been doing.

Proposed: Cllr Cooke

Seconded: Cllr Springett

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

One abstention

Cllr Rowe left the room

- **Personnel Committee meeting at 11am on Monday 18th February 2019**

Cllr Thomson reviewed the minutes.

Cllr de Galleani said that she had a query about item number 42 and asked that this be discussed within the confidential section of the meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Cooke

Seconded: Cllr Springett

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the above meeting be approved, once item no 42 had been discussed and resolved within the confidential section.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour

- **Planning Committee meeting at 6pm on Wednesday 27th February 2019**

Cllr Gent reviewed the minutes and spoke about the item at the bottom of the agenda titled Delegated Responsibilities. He explained that because we will have a new Council after May there could be a hiatus between that period and the next Planning Committee meeting which is usually towards the end of the month. The Planning Committee had discussed the proposal for the Town Clerk, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Planning

Committee being able to meet with delegated powers to deal with any urgent cases.

All Councillors thought this was a good idea

Proposed: Cllr Cooke

Seconded: Cllr Springett

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the above meeting be approved and that delegated responsibilities be given to the Town Clerk, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee to enable them to meet and make recommendations to SHDC in the absence of a Planning Committee meeting during the month of May.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

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

There were none.

176. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT OF FINANCIAL MATTERS FOR JANUARY 2019

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

Cllr Baillie asked what the miscellaneous expenses were for this month, and the Clerk said she would get back to Cllr Baillie about these miscellaneous expenses.

Cllr Cooke said there had been some correspondence about the grounds team adding another portacabin to the depot to store more equipment and he wanted to clarify that this cost should come to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee for clarification for anything over £1,000.

Proposed: Cllr Springett

Seconded: Cllr Harriss

Resolved: That the Clerk's report of financial matters for January 2019 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be approved.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour

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

Cllr de Galleani asked about the progress for the CCTV and the Clerk said that this was underway and that the contract had been signed with First Stop the company fitting the CCTV cameras and the grant application had been signed for to receive 1/3 of the costs back.

First Stop had been back in to relook at the locations and would do us a survey to review the locations and to let us know electrical demands.

178. 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

179. THE APPOINTMENT OF MAINTENANCE/CARETAKER

Cllr Thomson said that Cllr Thomson, David Walker and herself had interviewed for the post and appointed Alan Duffy as the new Maintenance / Caretaker who will be starting on the Monday 18th March 2019.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour

180. APPLICATIONS FOR THE AVAILABLE UNIT IN THE MARKET

Cllrs discussed the three applications for the small unit in the market, after a discussion the Council voted to appoint applicant no 1.

Proposed: Cllr Thomson

Seconded: Cllr Harriss

Resolved: To appoint applicant no 1 to take up the available small unit in the market. There were three abstentions

181. PERSONNEL MINUTE 42 - Staff Shortage Caretaking Policy

Cllr de Galleani spoke about the Staff Shortage Caretaking Policy which was agreed at the Personnel Committee meeting on the 18th February 2019. She said that she felt that staff having to cover caretaking due to staff shortage out of their usual office hours of 37.5 hours Monday to Friday should be paid time and a half as they would be if they were covering a Saturday.

Cllr Thomson and Cllr Springett felt that standard time for working out of hours on a Monday – Friday was normal practice, but time and a half for Saturday and double time for Sunday.

Proposed: Cllr Springett

Seconded: Cllr Thomson

Resolved: To agree this policy as it was approved at the Personnel meeting on the 18th February 2019.

One Cllr was against

Cllrs voted to come out of the confidential section.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.