

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting

5<sup>th</sup> January 2015

At the Guildhall, Dartmouth

Present

\*The Town Mayor (Councillor R M Lyon) - Chairman

\*The Deputy Mayor (Councillor R W I Cooke) - Vice-Chairman

\*Cllr P F Allen

\*Cllr A C Carter

\*Cllr D J Cawley

\*Cllr R E Chilcott

\*Cllr A J C Fyson

\*Cllr T de Galleani

#Cllr D M Gent

\*Cllr F J Hawke

\*Cllr C B Smith

#Cllr S Smith

\*Cllr R Springett

#Cllr O B Suarez

#County Cllr J Hawkins

\*District Cllr H Bastone

District Cllr B S Cooper

\*District Cllr M Stone

\*Denotes attendance

#Denotes apology for absence

Also in attendance 5 members of the public.

**158. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Fyson declared a personal interest in agenda item 16 – Dartmouth Trust.

**159. REPORTS.**

Police Report.

In his absence Inspector Tomlinson's report on the crime figures for Dartmouth for the month of December 2014 was laid round the table.

District and County Councillors' Reports.

Cllr Stone reported that renovation works had been completed at Quayside Leisure Centre and Dartmouth Leisure Centre and this had resulted in a better use of the facility to reflect changing Leisure use.

Cllr Bastone reported that on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014, the District Council had approved a revised T18 Business Case, which identified additional savings and opportunities which had emerged during further detailed work on the future organisational design.

Both South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council had agreed to appoint Mr Steve Jorden to the position of Executive Director (Strategy and Commissioning) and Head of Paid Service. Mr Jorden was currently the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services and would be starting his new role soon.

At its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014, the District Council Executive had agreed to open up the 2015/16 Budget Setting Process for consultation. The process would culminate with a set of Budget proposals being presented to the Full Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

The District Council had agreed to make changes to its governance structure, with effect from the 2015/16, as follows:-

- That the Executive membership be reduced to 6
- That the membership of the Development Management Committee be retained at 12

- That the Corporate Performance and Resources; Community Life and Housing; and Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panels be formally disbanded and replaced by one Overview and Scrutiny Panel, which would have a membership of 13 with each of the 31 Members of Council being appointed to serve on one of these 3 Member Bodies.

The District Council had been notified that its central government grant funding for 2015/16 was anticipated to be £3.156 million (a reduction of £550,000 (14.8%) in comparison to 2014/15).

The District Council had agreed that the existing Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2014/15 be extended until the next review was concluded early in the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

Cllr Bastone also reported that Townstal Post Office was changing from the Partner outreach service to one of the new-style local branches. This meant that customers would have more products and services overall and Post Office services would continue to be offered from a till on the retail counter. Opening hours would be Monday to Sunday 06.00 – 22.00.

Cllr Hawke asked the District Councillors why the passenger ferry had not operated on New Year's Day. Cllr Bastone explained that this was allowed under the current lease agreement between the operator and the District Council.

Cllr Allen asked Cllr Bastone if the changes to governance would water-down Dartmouth's representation on the District Council's committees. Cllr Bastone stated that this would not be known until the District Council elections had taken place in May 2015.

Cllr de Galleani informed the meeting that she had failed in attempts to contact the District Council concerning the recycling of Christmas trees but had since learned that these should be put out with recycling materials.

Cllr Chilcott asked Cllr Bastone if South Hams District Council would be taking up joint working arrangements with Teignbridge District

Council; Cllr Bastone explained that Teignbridge were now working with Exeter and East Devon.

## **160. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.**

Mr Norton asked the Mayor if arrangements were in hand for the Mayor to chair the Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta Annual Public Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Through the Mayor the Clerk confirmed that the Mayor had been asked to chair the Regatta Annual Public Meeting.

Mr Boughton referred to a question he had asked in December 2014 and asked the Mayor if he had seen proof of the closure of St Saviour's Churchyard.

Through the Mayor the Deputy Mayor replied that he had contacted the Ministry of Justice and Exeter cathedral and had evidence of the closure by Queen Victoria on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1854, therefore the Town Council was liable for the maintenance. The Deputy Mayor also confirmed that Local Government regulations allowed for the interment of ashes only in a closed churchyard.

Mr Boughton asked if following the Town Council's decision to budget £10,000 for devolved services and Cllr Hawke's statement that the Town Council would be cutting grass verges, filling potholes and gritting roads and that it was the statutory duty of Devon Highways to fill potholes, would the Mayor give his views on this.

The Mayor replied that as a prudent Council, Dartmouth would have to budget for services which the public required and were not provided by another authority.

Mr Boughton asked the Mayor for his views on the current discussions concerning Dartmouth's Park and Ride service.

The Mayor replied that the Town Council was trying to ensure that South Hams District Council continued to run the service as at present.

Mr Boughton asked if future plans for the Park and Ride would have a financial implication for Dartmouth.

The Mayor replied that this was not known at present.

Mr Boughton asked the Mayor why the Town Council had budgeted £20,000 for Ivy Lane as Cllr Gent had informed a previous meeting that costs would be no more than £600.

The Mayor replied that Cllr Gent had been discussing the costs of the Youth service provision but the Town Council budget included the possible maintenance and running costs of the building.

**161. URGENT BUSINESS.**

There was none.

**162. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.**

**Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke**

**Seconded: Cllr R Springett**

**Resolved: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014, be confirmed and signed as a true record.**

**163. CORRESPONDENCE.**

a) An email had been received from Nigel Way concerning the new Christmas lights in Dartmouth. Costs for their purchase and installation had exceeded £16,000; the Snowflake Ball had raised £8,500 of which £5,000 had been paid to the Town Council for the lights purchase. No costs for the installation had been available beforehand and Mr Way was now seeking assistance from the Town Council towards the cost of taking them down. Cllr Chilcott explained that without Mr Way's backing Dartmouth would not have had Christmas lights this year; all the Council agreed and thanked Mr Way for the wonderful lighting scheme that had been provided.

However, members noted that it had been resolved at Full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 "that the Town Council purchase the additional Christmas lighting on the strict understanding that the

Town Council will not pay for the insurance, installation or take down of this additional Christmas lighting”.

**Proposed:** Cllr R Springett  
**Seconded:** Cllr D J Cawley

**Resolved:** That the Town Council write to Mr Way and thank him for all his help with the Christmas lighting for Dartmouth but inform him of the Council’s earlier decision and ask for clarification of any costs for future lighting.

*Cllr Cawley requested a recorded vote.*

**For the Motion**

Cllr P F Allen  
Cllr A C Carter  
Cllr D J Cawley  
Cllr R W I Cooke  
Cllr A J C Fyson  
Cllr T De Galleani  
Cllr F J Hawke  
Cllr C B Smith  
Cllr R Springett

**Against**

Cllr R E Chilcott

**Abstentions**

Cllr R M Lyon

- b) An email had been received from the organiser of the Dartmouth Classic Channel Regatta requesting waiver of the £200 fee for the hire of the Market and £300 towards advertising costs for the event. Members felt that they could not give use of the Market free of charge but were keen to support the event.

**Proposed:** Cllr C B Smith  
**Seconded:** Cllr D J Cawley

**Resolved:** That the Town Council make a grant of £700.00 to the Classic Channel Regatta and ask to be credited as a facilitator of the event on advertising material.

- c) Details of the modernization of the Townstal Post Office had been received. From 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015 the opening hours would be extended to Monday to Sunday 06.00 -22.00.

- d) A thank you letter had been received from the Dart Gig Club for the Town Council's grant of £200 towards lifejackets for the club.
- e) A request had been received from the Vice-Chairman of the Regatta Committee seeking the Town Council's permission to place banners on the Boatfloat railings for the week of Regatta to assist in fundraising.

**Proposed:** Cllr D J Cawley  
**Seconded:** Cllr C B Smith

**Resolved:** That the Town Council allow banners on the Boatfloat railings advertising the Regatta during the event but do not allow banners advertising sponsors.

- f) Details of the Coach Drivers Information Pack had been received; members were asked to consider if the Council wished to advertise any of its properties in this way.

**Proposed:** Cllr R Springett  
**Seconded:** Cllr F J Hawke

**Resolved:** That this be referred to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

#### **164. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.**

##### a) Personnel Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were reviewed.

**Proposed:** Cllr F J Hawke  
**Seconded:** Cllr T de Galleani

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014, be received, approved and adopted.

b) Corporate Property Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were reviewed.

**Proposed:** Cllr R Springett

**Seconded:** Cllr D J Cawley

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014, be received, approved and adopted.

165. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk presented a report on payments made under Standing Order No. 56 (b).

**Proposed:** Cllr F J Hawke

**Seconded:** Cllr P F Allen

**Resolved:** That the Clerk's actions in paying accounts totaling £27,915.15 for the month of December 2014 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be endorsed.

166. DEEDS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL.

**Proposed:** Cllr R Springett

**Seconded:** Cllr R E Chilcott

**Resolved:** That Deeds of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial be issued in respect of Grave No. J16 at Longcross Cemetery, Dartmouth and the Town Mayor (Councillor R M Lyon) and Deputy Mayor (Councillor R W I Cooke) be authorized to sign the Documents in accordance with terms contained in Minute No. 225 (3) 1975/6.

**167. REPORTS.**

Representatives on Public Bodies and Associations.

Cllr Allen reported that St Petrox Trust might consider future support for the Ivy lane Youth Centre.

**168. FUTURE OF THE PARK AND RIDE - UPDATE.**

The Mayor reported that the future of Dartmouth's Park and Ride service was in the hands of South Hams District Council who had issued tenders to 2 or 3 companies and were awaiting the results of this process. The District Council had given assurances that they would consult with the Town Council before any decisions were taken.

Following a question from Cllr Cawley the Mayor confirmed that the BID, TIC and representatives of the Town Council had met with the District Council to discuss the Park and Ride but would fight for the District Council to continue to run the service.

Cllr Hawke raised concerns over drainage at the rugby pitches if these were used as an overflow car park during Regatta in the future and stressed the need for the Town Council to be involved in all the discussions in order to assure the benefit of the community at large.

**169. OPTING TO VAT ON THE GUILDHALL.**

The Clerk explained that following discussions by the Finance Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014, where members decided not to increase Guildhall hire charges and to include future vat charges within the fees until the refurbishment of the Guildhall had been completed, a resolution by Full Council on opting to charge VAT on the Guildhall was required. This would allow the Town Council to reclaim VAT on the refurbishment costs.

**Proposed: Cllr C B Smith**

**Seconded: Cllr T de Galleani**

**Resolved: That the Town Council opt to charge VAT on the Guildhall.**

**170. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.**

There were none.

**Proposed: Cllr D J Cawley**  
**Seconded: Cllr R 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.**

**171. DARTMOUTH TRUST.**

The Mayor explained to members that the Dartmouth Trust had recently discussed the level of rents charged on its properties. Both the Mayor and Cllr Cawley had supported a proposal to discount rents for local businesses which were being outstripped by multi-nationals; this vote had been lost. Since this meeting the 3 beneficiaries of the Trust (Parish of Dartmouth, Dartmouth Town Council and Dartmouth United Charities) were being asked to consider the discounting of rents for local businesses (running 2 shops or less), which would involve a change to the Trust deed; this currently ruled that the Trust had to obtain the highest rents possible in all cases.

**Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke**  
**Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke**

**Resolved: That the Town Council agrees in principle to the idea of discounted rents for local business but reserves judgement until more details are available and requests that the whole Town Council has input into the final decision on this matter.**