

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting

2nd February 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 8 members of the public.

177. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were none.

178. REPORTS.

Police Report.

Inspector Tomlinson gave a report on the crime figures for Dartmouth for the month of January 2015; there had been a slight fall in the number of crimes reported over the same period in 2014.

Cllr Chilcott enquired if there had been an increase in complaints against the police in the South Hams area as detailed in a recent news item. Inspector Tomlinson stated that very few complaints against the police force were received in this area.

District and County Councillors' Reports.

In his absence Cllr Bastone's report had been laid round the table:-

The District Council's newly appointed Head of Paid Service, Steve Jordan, started on 2nd February 2015. He would be undertaking a week long handover with Alan Robinson, who would be leaving the District Council on Friday, 6th February 2015.

At its meeting on 29th January 2015, the Executive recommended to the District Council that the Council Tax for 2015/16 should be 'frozen'.

The next Voluntary Voice Forum had been arranged to take place on Thursday, 12th February 2015 at 10.00am in Kingsbridge Library. The event was free to attend and the theme for this session was 'Volunteers – Finding, Managing and Keeping Them'.

A Super Cluster meeting had been arranged to take place at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 11th February 2015 at Follaton House, Totnes. The agenda for this meeting would include determination of the TAP Fund applications which had been received by the District Council.

Owners of empty homes throughout South Hams were being urged to bring their properties back to life. For further information, or to

inform the Council about an empty property, Town and Parish Councils were asked to call Environmental Health on 01803 861234 or via email: environmentalhealth@southhams.gov.uk.

At its meeting on 29th January 2015, the Executive recommended a raft of measures for the future leisure services delivery. The Executive also agreed the preparation of a detailed business case for the setting up of a Local Authority Trading Company in respect of the Devon Building Control Partnership of which the District Council was one of the three participating Councils.

County Councillor Jonathan Hawkins thanked the Mayor for chairing the Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta Annual public meeting and he thanked the Town Council for all the support they gave to Regatta. He went on to inform members that Devon County Council were having to find £28,000,000 of cuts in 2014/2015, £35,000,000 in 2015/2016 and £29,000,000 in 2016/2017 due to cuts in their central government grant.

Devon County Council were going out to consultation concerning their public bus service subsidies; this would end on the 20th April 2015. Services which could be cut were the 90B to Archway, which annually had only 8,210 passenger journeys and the 93 Sunday service to Plymouth which had 1,500 passenger journeys annually. Town Councillor S Smith and Cllr Hawkins were to organize a public meeting concerning these services.

The winter passenger ferry service was also under threat of losing its subsidy of £4,000 which would mean it would finish its service at 7pm; this would affect 10,500 passenger journeys a year. Cllr Hawkins hoped that the Dartmouth Steam Railway and Riverboat company would assist with the subsidy to maintain the service but this would be under threat in future years, as the railway company were in year 9 of their current 10 year agreement for the running of the service.

Cllr Hawkins asked the Town Council to assist in calling a public meeting in Dartmouth with Dr Sarah Wollaston MP to discuss the loss of the passenger ferry evening service.

Cllr Hawkins confirmed that the post of school crossing patrol officer for Dartmouth would not be cut by the County Council.

Devon County Highways had re-laid pavement outside Dartmouth Hospital and were to replace broken paving on the embankment, Duke Street was to be closed to traffic, except for buses in order for works to replace paving to take place. The street lights on the embankment were being replaced as part of a three year programme with the first phase starting in the next month from the Higher Ferry to Vavasour House.

Cllr Hawkins reported that Devon County Council had made a grant of £1,000 to Townstal Community Hall, £1,000 to the Tourist Information Centre and £500 to Dartmouth and District Food Bank. Cllr S Smith added that following the grant from Devon County Council the Town Council's grant of £200 was no longer required from the Town Council.

Following a question from Cllr Chilcott, Cllr Hawkins explained that the work schedule for the installation of new street lights on the embankment had been set and it would not be possible to start at the Lower Ferry end. The Clerk would contact Les Pym at Devon County Council to enquire if the second phase could be moved to the lighting from the Lower Ferry end of the embankment.

Cllr Hawkins also informed members that he and Cllr Chilcott had arranged a meeting with the Dog Warden at the Guildhall in April to discuss the problem of dog fouling.

Cllr Hawke asked Cllr Hawkins when the temporary pothole repairs would be made permanent, particularly those in Britannia Avenue. Cllr Hawkins asked that the Clerk contact the Highways office for dates.

Cllr Stone informed members that he had attended an excellent presentation made to the District Council's Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty including Dartmouth. He had just finished writing his book "Haven of Dartmouth" including the establishment of St Petrox at the mouth of the river Dart.

179. PRESENTATION BY THERESA PINK OF DART TREKKERS.

Theresa Pink explained to members that Dart Trekkers had been set up in summer 2014 following the withdrawal of the Youth Service in Dartmouth by Devon County Council. The volunteer group had been operating for 7 years providing support and training for young people to take part in the Ten Tors event each year. This took place on Dartmoor with teams of 6 young people taking part in a 35, 45 or 55 mile challenge and was run by the British Army. Dart Trekkers had carried out some fundraising this year and had received support from Dartmouth Rotary but needed additional funding for a training residential in April 2015 in the Lake District, which would cost £2,500. They continued to raise funds for equipment such as rucksacks and sleeping bags and made use of Dartmouth Academy's minibus. It was also hoped to start up an outdoor activity group for climbing, kayaking and snowboarding and to run this on a Tuesday evening; they also hoped to provide a mini summer residential travelling to Cornwall for an activities week. Following a question from Cllr Cawley, Theresa Pink added that Dart Trekkers had a Facebook page with lots of photos of their activities. Cllr Chilcott enquired about numbers of young people attending; 15 young people had started the training in September 2014 and the group was qualified to take up to 45 young people.

Proposed: Cllr S Smith

Seconded: Cllr R E Chilcott

Resolved: That a grant of £1,200 be made to the Dart Trekkers group.

180. PRESENTATION BY LESLEY CLARK OF TOTNES AND DARTMOUTH RING AND RIDE.

Lesley Clark explained that the Totnes and Dartmouth Ring and Ride Service had been running for over 21 years providing regular transport for the frail elderly, disabled and socially excluded members of the community centering around the Totnes and Dartmouth area. They carried approximately 3,500 passengers per year and helped their passengers to maintain their independence. They organized shopping

trips further afield but were not covered by the concessionary fare scheme. The service was provided to Dartmouth on a Tuesday and a Friday and carried 12 return passengers per week. They currently operated 2 fifteen seater minibuses and 1 seven seater people carrier. Originally all their vehicles were owned by Devon County Council and leased to Totnes and Dartmouth Ring and Ride. In June 2014 Devon County Council had recalled one of the minibuses which meant that Totnes and Dartmouth Ring and Ride had lost their school contract and the income this generated. To cover their service in the short term they had hired a minibus but were in the process of buying a 15 seater minibus at a cost of £58,000. They were unable to borrow a minibus from Dartmouth Academy as this had not been adapted for disabled use.

Members noted that currently Dartmouth Town Council gave an annual grant to Totnes and Dartmouth Ring and Ride of £750.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Resolved: That an additional Finance Committee meeting be called, as soon as possible, to consider an increased grant to Totnes and Dartmouth Ring and Ride.

181. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.

Mr Helyer asked the Mayor if he was aware that Phil Watson had carried out a sponsored run from Tavistock to Buckfast to raise money for the Dart Trekkers.

The Mayor thanked Mr Helyer for this information.

Mr Helyer asked the Mayor if further consideration could be given to the winter usage figures for the passenger ferry when cuts to the service were considered, as Mr Helyer believed the evening use to be very low.

The Mayor replied that all factors would be considered when this was raised at a public meeting later in the year.

Mr Helyer applauded the Town Councils' endeavours to refurbish and increase the use of the Guildhall.

The Mayor thanked Mr Helyer for his support.

182. URGENT BUSINESS.

There was none.

183. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr R E Chilcott

Resolved: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5th January 2015, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

184. CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) An email had been received from the landlord of the Ship in Dock Inn concerning the hiring of the Market for a beer and cider festival on 26th and 27th September 2015. The Clerk had confirmed this booking in consultation with the Chairman of Corporate Property.
- b) An application for a small grant of £100.00 for Dartmouth Community A.E.D. Fund had been received. This would be considered by the next meeting of the Finance Committee.
- c) Notification of a grant of £10,000 from Devon County Council for Ivy Lane Youth Centre had been received.
- d) A letter had been received from the Town Crier asking that the Town Council consider an honorarium of £250.00 for 2015/2016 as previously granted and also consider a donation towards the costs (£700) of a new set of light weight regalia for the International Town Crier's competition in Bermuda in 2015. This would be considered by the next meeting of the Finance Committee.
- e) An email giving confirmation that Dartmouth Preschool wished to use the Ivy Lane facility during the remodeling of their Southford Road premises had been received.
- f) Following a letter from the Town Council, email confirmation had been received from Devon County Council's solicitor that the indoor swimming pool's business plan had been considered by the County Council and had found to be viable. It was agreed that should members have specific queries on the business plan these would be

- passed to the Clerk who would write to the Trustees for further information.
- g) Notification of a consultation on the reduction of Devon County Council's Public Transport budget had been received; this would close on Monday 20th April 2015.
 - h) A letter had been received from Dartmouth United Charities asking the Town Council to nominate a new nominative Trustee as Cllr Hawke had failed to attend DUC meetings for one year. The Clerk would inform Dartmouth United Charities that this vacancy would be filled after the May 2015 Town Council elections.
 - i) Notification of a Super Cluster meeting to be held at Follaton House on Wednesday 11th February 2015 at 6.30 pm had been received. At this meeting TAP fund bids for 2014/2015 would be considered including Dartmouth's bid of £3,500 for Ivy Lane. Cllrs Lyon, Hawke and Gent would attend.

185. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

a) Planning Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7th January 2015 were reviewed.

Proposed: Cllr A J C Fyson

Seconded: Cllr R Springett

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 7th January 2015, be received, approved and adopted.

b) Finance Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 13th January 2015 were reviewed. The following amendments to the minutes were proposed:-

Minute 2(b) – Page 2 Cllr Hawke declared a **personal interest** not a prejudicial interest; application for a small grant (£200) from Townstal Community Hall.

Minute 2(b) – Pages 1-2 That the Town Council write to Dartmouth and District Food Bank to inform them that the costs of gas and electricity will be closely monitored to ensure that rent charged to the Food Bank at Ivy Lane is based on the activities undertaken.

Proposed: Cllr R E Chilcott

Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 13th January 2015, as amended, be received, approved and adopted.

c) General Purposes Committee

It had been noted that the General Purposes Committee meeting was not quorate and recommendations were for noting only.

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 20th January 2015 were reviewed. Cllr Hawke requested that the Town Council consider the Local Council Award scheme at a later date pending further developments which he believed were to be made to the scheme.

Proposed: Cllr A J Carter

Seconded: Cllr R E Chilcott

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 20th January 2015, be noted.

d) Corporate Property Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 21st January 2015 were reviewed.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 21st January 2015, be received, approved and adopted.

186. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

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

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr R E Chilcott**

Resolved: That the Clerk's actions in paying accounts totaling £34,914.50 for the month of January 2015 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be endorsed.

187. REPORTS.

Representatives on Public Bodies and Associations.

Cllr de Galleani informed the meeting that following additional entries received by the Royal Horticultural Society, Dartmouth was now again to be judged under the coastal towns with a population under 12,000 category in 2015.

21 cadets from the naval college were to assist Dartmouth Green Partnerships with their work on 3rd February; 6 at St John's School, 9 at Beacon Park and 6 at Longcross Cemetery.

Stevie Rogers had met with the Guinness Trust and Devon and Cornwall Housing and these agencies had agreed to find some land in Grenville Close, at the perimeter of the play area in Davis Road and also in Britannia Avenue for the provision of a "live in Orchard".

Cllr de Galleani had attended a recent meeting at the District Council to discuss the plans for the work at Mayors Avenue car park and the new community greenhouse; work would start in the next 2 weeks with the footings for the green house being in place by mid June 2015.

The Mayor was assisting Dartmouth Green Partnerships with the drawings for the new green house.

Negotiations were on-going with the Britannia Royal Naval College concerning arrangements for the South West in Bloom awards ceremony in September 2015.

Cllr Fyson reported that the Dartmouth and Kingswear Society would be holding an open forum on Tuesday 10th February at the Flavel to discuss the Town's Neighbourhood Plan. Graham Swiss from South Hams District Council would attend and answer questions. It was hoped to establish priorities for residents through the testing of a prototype Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire at the meeting. Following a question from Cllr Cawley, Cllr Fyson assured members that this would not be the only test of the questionnaire.

Cllr Springett reported that he had attended the quarterly meeting of Dartmouth United Charities and the current Chairman had been re-elected. Dartmouth United Charities continued to fulfill their charitable aims and had made a grant of £20,000 to Southford Road school rooms for the provision of a lift for disabled access.

Cllr S Smith reported that 20 cadets from Britannia Royal Naval College were to paint the inside of the Townstal Community Hall.

Cllr Cawley asked Cllr Chilcott as the Town Council's representative on the Dartmouth Business Improvement District if he could explain why the figures on the BID website showed:-

- 1) £55,000 in the business plan for parking
- 2) £206,000 for marketing but only £20,000 for advertising.

Cllr Chilcott clarified that the £206,000 was an error as the BID only received £170,000 per year. Cllr Chilcott was not on the Marketing committee so could not answer this but explained that the figures were still to be agreed by the BID board; the £55,000 had been put in prior to a vote as a best estimate; the budget would change year on year. At the suggestion of Cllr Fyson it was agreed that the BID Manager Francesca Johnson be asked to attend a future Full Council meeting.

188. TIMETABLE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR.

A proposed timetable for Mayor Making had been distributed to members. The Clerk explained that due to the potential number of Town and Parish Election votes that the District Council might have to count in addition to Parliamentary and District Council ward votes, the Town and Parish election votes would not be counted until Monday 11th May 2015.

The Clerk would attend the count and members agreed that she would telephone candidates who were unsuccessful.

Dates:-

Election	Thursday 7 th May 2015
Election Count	Monday 11 th May 2015
Informal Mayor Choosing	Monday 11 th May 2015
Mayor Making	Monday 18 th May 2015
Adjourned Annual Town Council Meeting	Tuesday 19 th May 2015.

189. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

It was proposed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on **Wednesday 25th March 2015**, this would allow enough time for potential Town Council candidates to attend and meet current Councillors and ask questions prior to the May elections. The Mayor requested that as many current Councillors as possible attend; this would be an informal event with refreshments.

190. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.

Cllr Hawke asked the Mayor if he would agree that a letter should be sent to the District Council asking:-

- a) would they consider the compulsory purchase of sites for affordable or social housing
- b) would they consider the industrial estate at Collingwood Road for housing and move the current business use to Admirals Court.

The Mayor agreed that a letter would be sent; a draft would be circulated to members.

Cllr Springett asked the Mayor if it was appropriate for members of the public to make statements rather than ask questions during the public forum part of the meeting. The Clerk later clarified that under Standing Order 75 (a) this was allowed.

Cllr Springett asked the Mayor if the Clerk could investigate the construction of a Town Diary to ensure that meetings held by different organizations did not clash.

The Mayor replied that this would be done.

Cllr Chilcott thanked all the Town Councillors who had attended the Mayflower 400 initial meeting; this would be a very important event for the Town.

Proposed: Cllr R E Chilcott

Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

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.

191. TENDERS FOR A LIFT FOR THE GUIDHALL.

Details of 3 tenders for the provision of a lift in the Guildhall were laid round the table.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr S Smith

Resolved: That the Town Council accept tender 1 for £19,955.00 plus vat for the provision of a lift for the Guildhall.

Cllr Cawley requested that it be minuted that he voted against this proposal as he felt insufficient information had been supplied, particularly regarding the colour scheme. The Mayor agreed to supply Cllr Cawley with further information.