

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**

**1<sup>st</sup> June 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 M Baillie

\*Cllr L M Barnes

\*Cllr R E Chilcott

\*Cllr G B F Coles

\*Cllr A J C Fyson

\*Cllr T de Galleani

\*Cllr D M Gent

\*Cllr F J Hawke

\*Cllr I A Pritchard

\*Cllr R F Rendle

\*Cllr S Smith

#Cllr R Springett

\*Cllr S Thomson

#County Cllr J Hawkins

\*District Cllr H Bastone

#District Cllr R Rowe

\*Denotes attendance

#Denotes apology for absence

Also in attendance 4 members of the public and 2 members of the press.

Before the meeting started the Mayor read out a short statement concerning a report in the press on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015 on the Tourist Information Centre website and details given at the Town Council Finance Committee meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

#### **34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Hawke declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 approval of the minutes – District Councillors reports – Park and Ride services.

Cllrs Fyson and Chilcott declared a personal interest in agenda item 12 - Grant to Dartmouth Green Partnerships.

Cllr Pritchard declared a personal interest in agenda item 13 – Skip service.

#### **35. REPORTS.**

##### Police and District and County Councillors' Reports.

In his absence Inspector Tomlinson's report had been laid round the table.

Cllr Bastone reported that the Town Council's letter regarding Affordable Housing to District Cllr Holway, had been delayed by the elections, and following the Transition 18 programme would now be dealt with by the new housing team.

Litter Bin collections over the Bank Holiday weekend had caused some concerns, again the Transition programme would take a while to settle in but front line services would be maintained. Problems had now been rectified and more recently three litter bin collections per day had taken place.

The appointment of a Locality Officer for Dartmouth was expected soon. This would help to resolve communication problems.

Cllr Bastone told the meeting that Dartmouth Green Partnerships were very important to the Town and he hoped the Town Councillors

would support them in their grant application later in the agenda. He noted that Torbay Council were turfing over flower beds and had done so in seven areas.

Cllr Bastone added that of similar importance to the Town was the Tourist Information Centre and he welcomed the Mayor's statement and looked forward to the TIC presentation at the next Full Town Council meeting.

At the South Hams District Council Annual Meeting, appointments had been made to bodies of the Council, outside bodies, other groups and the calendar of meetings had been set.

Dartmouth Indoor Swimming Pool supporters had demonstrated at the District Council Annual Meeting and presented a petition. The Trustees had been invited to make a presentation at the Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015. A decision on a list of options would then be made at the Executive meeting on Thursday 18th June 2015.

Regarding potholes, Cllr Bastone noted that Councillor Hawke had at times shown concern regarding potholes in Townstal. He too shared Cllr Hawke's concerns particularly on Slappers Hill in Kingswear and more recently on the South Embankment. Cllr Bastone had voiced these concerns to our County Councillor Jonathan Hawkins and added that he would appreciate the views of the Town Council.

Cllr Chilcott asked if it would be possible for the District Council to provide more bins; Cllr Bastone thought that this would be unlikely but the number of collections would be increased, he added that much of the rubbish problems were caused by holiday homes using the litter bins for household waste. At the request of Cllr de Galleani, Cllr Bastone agreed to chase the replacement of the litter bin in the Market.

Cllr de Galleani thanked South Hams District Council for the new trees that had been planted in the car park extension in Mayors Avenue.

Cllr Fyson asked for details of the numbers of staff in South Hams District Council's housing team; Cllr Bastone did not have this information but would supply details of the officer for housing.

Following a question from the Mayor Cllr Bastone confirmed that frontline services would not be affected by the T18 programme.

**36. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.**

Mr Boughton asked the Mayor for clarification regarding whether the Indoor Pool Trustees would be invited to a future Town Council meeting following contradictory points in the minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at pages 7 and 10.

The Mayor replied that the Indoor Pool Trustees would not be invited back until after their meeting with South Hams District Council.

Mr Boughton asked the Mayor if following the publishing of manifestos by the Town Councillors seeking election in May 2015, as none of these mentioned increasing Council Tax did the Mayor feel that the Council had a mandate to increase the Town Council's precept this year.

The Mayor replied that an increase in Council Tax would be discussed when the budget for 2016/2017 was discussed later in the year.

Mr Boughton asked the Mayor if he could be informed of the minute covering the grant of £4,500 to the Church of England for the repairs to the Church path at St Saviour's Church.

The Mayor replied that the repairs to the path were the responsibility of the Town Council, a contribution to which had been made by the St Saviour's PCC. He would ask the Clerk to give Mr Boughton details of the minutes concerning this matter.

**37. URGENT BUSINESS.**

There was one item of urgent business which would be taken in committee at the end of the meeting.

**38. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

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

**Resolved: That the minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May be confirmed and signed as a true record.**

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

**Resolved: That the minutes of the Adjourned Town Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015, be confirmed and signed, as a true record.**

**39. CORRESPONDENCE.**

- a) A copy of the Dartmouth Caring Spring Newsletter had been received – this was available in the Town Council offices.
- b) An email of a Devon County Council Speed Limit Order affecting Jawbones Hill from its junction with the A379 in a north easterly direction for a distance of 24 metres, Swannaton Road, at both of its junctions with the A379 to a point measured 57 metres north-east of the south-westerly junction with the A379 and the A379 from a point 90 metres north of its junction with West Park at Stoke Fleming, in a northerly direction to a point 161 metres south east of its junction with Milton Lane, Dartmouth had been received and had been circulated to members for comments to be made by 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
- c) An email had been received from the Treasurer of Dartmouth Food Bank concerning the use of Ivy Lane by Dartmouth Pre-school and also asking for the Town Council to consider the use of Ivy Lane by the CAB and Dartmouth Caring on a Wednesday with the Food Bank. This would be considered by the next meeting of the Corporate Property Committee.
- d) Details of the Devon Association of Local Council training courses had been circulated to members. Councillors were reminded to contact the offices should they wish to attend. New Councillors

training was available on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at the Watermark Ivybridge from 10am – 4.00pm.

**40. REPORTS**

a) Planning Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were reviewed.

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

**Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015, be received, approved and adopted.**

**41. FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

The Clerk presented a report on payments made under Standing Order No. 56 (b). It was noted that these included a transfer of £100,000 to the Town Council's special interest bearing account.

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**  
**Seconded: Cllr S E Thomson**

**Resolved: That the Clerk's actions in paying accounts totaling £131,389.18 for the month of May 2015 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be endorsed.**

**42. REPORTS.**

Representatives on Public Bodies and Associations.

Cllr de Galleani reported that Dartmouth Green Partnerships were in the process of planting up the Town. The BID had generously given 2 water bowsers for Dartmouth Green Partnerships to use for watering in the Town.

**43. REQUEST FROM DARTMOUTH GREEN PARTNERSHIPS FOR A GRANT OF £5,000.**

A request had been received from Dartmouth Green Partnerships for an increase in their annual grant from the Town Council from £3,000 to £5,000.

Cllr Barnes raised several questions on their accounts and Mrs Debbie Morris the Dartmouth Green Partnerships' Treasurer explained that:-

- Bloom expenses included the purchase of troughs, hanging baskets, compost, feed and replacing signs etc.
- All plants were purchased from local nurseries within 30 miles
- Dartmouth Green Partnerships saved money by “bringing on” small plug plants themselves
- Watering costs were kept low by volunteers carrying out the watering.

Cllr de Galleani added that plants were bought from a wholesaler and local nurseries were invited to carry out the planting on the embankment.

Mrs Morris informed the meeting that Dartmouth Green Partnerships were applying to become a charitable trust so that they could apply for grants in the future. Following a question from Cllr Chilcott she went on to explain that the volunteers only did menial tasks in the Royal Avenue Gardens assisting the District Council's gardeners.

Cllr Hawke informed members that Dartmouth Green Partnerships grant had not changed for a number of years and future grants should be discussed before the next budget. Cllr Rendle identified that the extra money could be found from the £10,000 the Council had budgeted for devolution of services, as Dartmouth Green Partnerships were carrying out work formerly done by South Hams District Council.

**Proposed: Cllr S Smith**

**Seconded: Cllr D M Gent**

**Resolved: That a grant of £5,000 be made to Dartmouth Green Partnerships.**

**43. PROVISION OF SKIPS FOR DISPOSAL OF LARGE ITEMS OF HOUSEHOLD RUBBISH.**

Cllr Barnes informed the meeting that he thought this was a good idea but should be provided by Devon County Council as previously at Jawbones.

Cllr Smith explained that there had been a pilot one off initiative run by the Townstal Community Partnership following incidences of fly tipping. He felt that Guinness Trust and Devon and Cornwall Housing should be approached to help deal with the continuation of this service.

Cllr Bastone informed the meeting that bulky items of waste could be collected by the District Council at a charge.

Members suggested that the provision of skips could be made 6 monthly, with 2 at Townstal and 2 in the Town but this would need to be policed. Further discussions were needed and Cllr Gent reported that he would be attending a DCH meeting in the next week. It was suggested that this be discussed by the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee and DCH and Guinness Trust representatives would be invited to meet with Councillors.

**44. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.**

Cllr de Galleani asked the Mayor if the Flavel could be asked to take down the Comedy Festival banners that were still being displayed at the top of the Town.

The Mayor replied that the Clerk would request this.

Cllr Gent asked the Mayor if the narrowing of the road caused by construction work at Sails on the north embankment could be reported to Devon County Council Highways as this was causing gridlock with the ferry queue.

The Mayor replied that the Clerk would ask Devon County officers to visit at peak times to review the problem.

Cllr Smith asked the Mayor if he agreed that the closure of the minor injury unit at Dartmouth Hospital should have taken place with no public consultation and nothing put in place to replace staff retiring. Cllr Smith read out a reply he had received to a letter to Dr Sarah Wollaston MP, who was aware of the problem and would be working to ensure that measures would be put in place to provide cover. The Mayor agreed that this was a dreadful loss to the Town and a letter would be sent to the Health Commissioners and Dr Sarah Wollaston.

Cllr Rendle asked the Mayor if the Town Council had been consulted concerning the minor injury unit. The Mayor replied that the Town Council had not been consulted.

Cllr Hawke asked the Mayor if he would agree that in view of all that had been written in the press concerning the Indoor Swimming Pool for Dartmouth that the Town Council should fully support the Swimming Pool and that the Town Council was honour bound to wait until after the District Council's meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2015 before taking any further decisions on this matter. The Mayor replied that he agreed with Cllr Hawke.

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**  
**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.**

**45. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR UNIT 6 IN DARTMOUTH MARKET.**

Members considered 5 expressions of interest for unit 6 in Dartmouth Market.

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**  
**Seconded: Cllr L M Barnes**

**Resolved: That unit 6 be offered to Mr M Jessep.**

**46. QUOTATIONS FOR THREE PHASE ELECTRICAL WORK FOR THE GUILDHALL LIFT.**

Details of two quotations for three phase electrical work required for the installation of the Guildhall lift had been laid round the table.

**Proposed: Cllr T de Galleani**

**Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke**

**Resolved: That quotation 1 for £2,450.00 plus vat be accepted.**

Cllr Pritchard asked how much work had been planned to the fabric of the Guildhall and queried whether others works should have been carried out before the lift.

The Mayor replied that a lift would make the ballroom much easier to use and encourage greater use. The schedule of works for the Guildhall planned by the Guildhall working group would be circulated to all Councillors.

The Mayor informed members that an informal meeting of Councillors would be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015 at 6pm to update new Councillors and so that everyone could discuss matters to be taken forward.