

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting

5th October 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 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 2 members of the public, and 2 members of the press.

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Coles declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 – Mayflower 400.

Cllr Gent declared a personal interest in agenda item 18 – funding request from Dartmouth Pre-School.

104. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL, CLLR IAN BRAMBLE.

Cllr Bramble began by explaining that the District Council had gone through a time of significant change following the Boundary Commission's reduction in the number of wards from 30 to 20 and the reduction in the number of District Councillors from 40 to 31. There had also been the programme of shared services with West Devon and the T18 transformation programme. However, these had all made South Hams District Council ready to meet the challenges of the next few years.

South Hams District Council would need financial strength to meet the discretionary services it provided and Cllr Bramble told members of a scheme for the retention of the business rates by the District Council to compensate for the loss of Central Government grants.

Cllr Barnes asked Cllr Bramble to arrange a meeting between the Town Council and South Hams District Council concerning the devolution of services; Cllr Bramble agreed to take this point back.

Cllr Smith asked if the District Council could explore the provision of social housing through social housing providers rather than with developers and Cllr Bramble agreed that this could be explored.

Cllr Fyson asked Cllr Bramble to stress the importance of attendance at Town Council meetings by all the ward's District Councillors with his fellow District Councillors.

Cllr de Galleani asked Cllr Bramble to consider Dartmouth businesses when setting future business rates; Cllr Bramble agreed that it was

important to be mindful not to set rates that would close businesses down.

Cllr Gent asked if South Hams District Council was still using Plymouth City Council to determine some of its planning applications. Cllr Bramble explained that this had only taken place during a peak of applications and had only concerned minor applications.

Cllr Hawke queried whether the new District Council computer system should have been tested before staff numbers were cut; Cllr Bramble agreed that with hindsight this would have been the ideal but the new structure would make systems more efficient over time.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Bramble for his presentation.

105. PRESENTATION BY THE MAYFLOWER 400 GROUP AND TO ELECT TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GROUP.

Cllr Coles reported that the Mayflower 400 group would be calling a meeting of all the associations in Dartmouth to discuss future plans, on Monday 19th October 2015 at 6.30pm at the Guildhall. Future meetings of the group would be chaired by the Mayor.

106. REPORTS.

Police and District and County Councillors' Reports.

In his absence Inspector Tomlinson's report on the crime figures for Dartmouth for September 2015 was laid round the table.

Cllr Hawkins reported that he was assisting the member of the public who had fallen on a pavement with her complaint.

As Chairman of the Dartmouth and Area Public Transport Group, Cllr Hawkins informed the meeting that the Secretary, Angela Cairns-Sharpe had now stood down from the role. More members were needed to keep this important group functioning.

Cllr Hawkins would shortly be meeting with Peter Brunt from Devon County Highways to make a tour of the Town. Cllr Hawkins noted that weeds had been an issue for South West in Bloom and the District Council were about to purchase a road sweeping machine to spray and brush up the weeds.

From his County Council Locality fund Cllr Hawkins had given:-
£300 to Dartmouth and District Indoor Pool for a new tiled area
£500 to Dartmouth Green Partnerships
£500 to the Flavel
£500 to the TIC
£300 to the new furniture bank in Townstal.

Cllr Bastone reported that at a Special Council meeting on 10th September 2015, District Council Members agreed to revert back to the 2 to 10 Affordable Housing threshold policy in light of the recent High Court decision to quash national policy in respect of planning obligations for affordable housing; however, the Government had decided to appeal the decision.

District Councillors at the Special Council meeting also agreed a new discretionary business rate relief policy which included provision for local businesses to be offered discretionary business rate where it was in the interest of local Council taxpayers to do so.

The District Council Executive had approved at its meeting on 10th September 2015 the release or allocation of Section 106 funds for Open Space, Sport and Recreation, Community and Landscape projects.

Cllr Bastone also reported that the Executive had agreed to remain in the Devon Home Choice Partnership and to make no changes at this time to the Council's Local Allocation Policy. However, the District Council had also agreed that these decisions should both be reviewed in twelve months' time.

The District Council had issued a statement explaining that it was awaiting central government guidance about how a scheme for resettling Syrian refugees would be run and funded. In the meantime, parishioners who wanted to help could be directed towards the Red Cross's dedicated telephone line on 0800 107 8727.

South Hams CVS Outreach Service meet monthly on a Friday from 10.30am to 12.30pm in Dartmouth Library (2nd Friday), Kingsbridge Library (3rd Friday) and Ivybridge Library (4th Friday). CVS Staff would be promoting local volunteering opportunities and offering advice to local groups.

In addition, the CVS had also arranged the following workshops:-

Trustees Roles and Responsibilities Workshop – 12th November 2015: CVS Offices, Totnes (9.30am – 12.30pm), £15 per person.
Volunteers and the Law – 3rd December 2015: CVS Offices, Totnes (9.30am – 12.30pm), £15 per person. To book, please email: cvs@southhamscvs.org.uk

Cllr Allen thanked Cllr Hawkins for the new lighting on the embankment.

Cllr Gent asked Cllr Hawkins to raise the matter of the blocked gulleys in Victoria Road at his meeting with Devon Highways.

Cllr Fyson would report the sets of steps that needed weeding to Cllrs Hawkins and Bastone.

In response to a question from Cllr Barnes, Cllr Bastone reported that all the spaces in the new part of the Mayors Avenue Car Park had been allocated and he confirmed that all the boats currently occupying spaces in the Coronation Park boat park would be offered spaces after the area had been refurbished. Cllr Bastone also confirmed that the Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta Committee would pay for the reinstatement of Coronation Park.

Cllr Hawke sought reassurance from the District Councillors that Townstal would also be included on the route for the mechanical sweeper; Cllr Bastone confirmed that this would be the case.

Cllr Rendle asked Cllr Hawkins if future Highways conferences could be arranged in South Devon as those currently planned were in the north of the county.

Cllr Bastone informed members that representations for the appeal on the West Dart development should be made before 29th October 2015. Following a question from Cllr Smith at a previous meeting, Cllr Bastone confirmed that the £35,000 set aside by the District Council for landscaping at the Indoor Swimming Pool was no longer available.

Cllr Smith asked the District Councillors if they could investigate who was responsible for clearing the overgrown vegetation in the road connecting Collingwood Road to Victory Road; Cllr Bastone would investigate.

Cllr Smith also reported that the Archway Estate play park was unsafe and was not being correctly maintained; Cllr Bastone would take this up with the Guinness Trust.

Cllr Allen raised the problem of parking on the South Embankment which was a danger to pedestrians and an eyesore. Cllr Bastone suggested that the District Council and the Town Council should write to the Harbour Authority on this matter.

107. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.

Mr Boughton asked the Mayor if the Town Council would be sending representations to the Planning Inspectorate concerning the appeal from the developers of the West Dart development and if a member of the Town Council would be attending the hearing.

The Mayor replied that the Town Council had sent representations and would await the announcement of the date and venue for the hearing.

Mr Boughton asked the Mayor if the Town Council had a clear idea of the location of the social hub that was planned for the West Dart development to include a hospital, dental surgery and doctors' practice.

The Mayor replied that this had been part of the master planning exercise which had suggested a location towards Venn Lane but this was only an outline plan at present. Cllr Bastone added that this would be a matter for the NHS to discuss with the developers who held the option on the land.

108. URGENT BUSINESS - TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE DARTMOUTH AND DISTRICT YOUTH PARTNERSHIP.

Following the resignation of Cllr Smith from the membership of the Dartmouth and District Youth Partnership (formerly FOIL) it was suggested that Cllr Pritchard represent the Town Council on the group.

Proposed: Cllr R M Lyon

Seconded: Cllr S Smith

Resolved: That Cllr Pritchard be elected as the Town Council's representative on the Dartmouth and District Youth Partnership.

109. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent

Seconded: Cllr A J C Fyson

Resolved: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7th September 2015 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

110. CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) A letter had been received from the Local Government Boundary Commission giving details of a further limited consultation on the Electoral Review of North Devon.
- b) A letter had been received from Dart Music Festival seeking use of the Amenity Hut in the Royal Avenue Gardens, the Old Market, the Guildhall and 20 spaces in the Market car park from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th May 2015. This would be referred to the next meeting of the Corporate Property Committee.
- c) A letter had been received from HSBC to inform the Town Council that their Dartmouth branch would close on Friday 11th December 2015; customer accounts would be transferred to the Kingsbridge branch.

- d) A notice and details of the Devon Association of Local Councils AGM on Thursday 15th October 2015 had been received and distributed to all Councillors. Cllr Baillie had asked to attend and a place had been booked.

111. **REPORTS**

a) Personnel Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 15th September 2015 were reviewed. Item 3 page 3 Appraisal of the Office Administrator would be referred back to the next meeting of the Personnel Committee.

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 15th September 2015, as amended, be received, approved and adopted.

b) Planning Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16th September 2015 were reviewed.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr G B F Coles

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16th September 2015, be received, approved and adopted.

112. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

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

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

Resolved: That the Clerk's actions in paying accounts totaling £38,950.01 for the month of September 2015 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be endorsed.

113. DEEDS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke
Seconded: Cllr P F Allen

Resolved: That Deeds of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial be issued in respect of Grave No. J0 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.

114. REPORTS.

Representatives on Public Bodies and Associations.

Cllr Fyson reported that the Dartmouth and Kingswear Society had changed their programme of talks to refocus on the central purposes of the society i.e. planning issues and conservation and development.

Cllr Coles reported that she had spoken to members of the Sister City delegation in Dartmouth Massachusetts and they would be visiting England from 18th to 23rd May 2016. Cllr Cole stressed that this was completely separate to the Mayflower 400 plans and she would put together a budget for the visit to be put to a future meeting.

115. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.

Cllr Allen asked the Mayor if he could ensure that recommendations of the Council's committees were discussed by the members of that committee only.

The Mayor replied that he would endeavour to see that this was the case.

116. DARTMOUTH AND AREA PUBLIC TRANSPORT GROUP.

Members discussed the future of the Dartmouth and Area Public Transport group. The Mayor stressed the importance of Town Council representation at the group's meetings as representatives of the District Council, County Council and bus operators all attended. The Chairman of the group was County and District Councillor Jonathan Hawkins, Town Council representatives were Cllrs Pritchard and Springett. Cllr Smith attended to represent the Townstal Community Partnership.

117. NEW PAVING IN DUKE STREET, DARTMOUTH.

An email from the Devon County Council Highways Officer had been circulated to members. The Town Council's views were sought on a tarmac pavement instead of paving slabs in Duke Street, Dartmouth.

Proposed: Cllr A J C Fyson

Seconded: Cllr R F Rendle

Resolved: That the Town Council reject the proposal for tarmac paving in Duke Street Dartmouth as this would not enhance the historic setting of the Town.

118. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR BUILDING COSTS FROM DARTMOUTH PRE-SCHOOL.

Members discussed a letter received from Dartmouth Pre-School seeking funding towards the refurbishment of the Southford Road

Schoolrooms. Concerns were raised over the level of funding required and members requested that the Pre-School be asked to make a presentation to a future Full Council meeting.

119. DARTMOUTH YOUTH CENTRE.

- a) Notification of the Freehold Transfer of the Ivy Lane Centre from Devon County Council.

The Clerk reported that Devon County Council had given notification that they had obtained the appropriate authority to transfer the freehold of the Ivy Lane Centre to the Town Council for the sum of £1.

- b) Youth Centre Health and Safety Policy.

Cllr Gent reported that the Friends of Ivy Lane had now changed their name to the Dartmouth and District Youth Partnership; Jonathan Oliverio was now the Chairman of the group.

Cllr Gent was in the process of writing 2 codes of conduct, one for the Youth group and one for the young people and was also writing an anti-bullying policy, anti-discrimination policy and Health and Safety policy, all of which would be distributed to members as soon as possible.

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.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr P F Allen

Resolved: That Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow the meeting to continue after 9.30 pm.

120. REFURBISHMENT COSTS FOR THE GUILDHALL.

A schedule of the additional works and their costs against budget was laid round the table.

Members discussed future refurbishment work, a detailed schedule of which would be put to the next meeting of the Corporate Property Committee.

Proposed: Cllr P F Allen

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Resolved: That the additional costs of £16,884.77 for Guildhall refurbishment work be approved.