

Present

*Cllr A J C Fyson – Chairman
*Cllr F J Hawke – Vice-Chairman

#Cllr P F Allen
*Cllr G B F Coles
*Cllr R W I Cooke (Deputy Mayor)
*Cllr D M Gent
*Cllr R M Lyon (Town Mayor)
*Cllr R F Rendle
*Cllr R Springett

Observers: Cllr M Baillie
Cllr L M Barnes

Also in attendance 1 member of the press.

*Denotes attendance
#Denotes apology for absence

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Lyon declared a personal interest in agenda item 3 – grant to the Mayflower 400 group.

2. CORRESPONDENCE REQUEST FOR A GRANT FROM THE MAYFLOWER 400 GROUP.

A request for a major grant of £9,265.80 had been received from the Mayflower 400 group together with accounts and a business plan and had been discussed at the Finance Committee meeting on 18th October 2016. Answers to the questions raised by members at that meeting had been provided by the Mayflower project director and were laid round the table.

The Chairman informed the meeting that he had met with Peter Connisbee the Mayflower project director who had stated that the Mayflower group's first priority was to produce a leaflet. Cllrs Hawke and Rendle expressed concerns regarding the level of funding being requested but agreed that the Mayflower celebrations

in 2020 would be a golden opportunity for Dartmouth that should be supported by local businesses and the Chamber of Trade.

Cllr Cooke arrived at 6.10 pm

Cllr Coles explained to members that while there would be Lottery funding for this of which Dartmouth would receive a share, Dartmouth was the only project group being run by volunteers; all the other groups were funded by District and County Councils and Chambers of Trade.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr G B F Coles

Recommended: That £3,500 be granted to the Mayflower 400 group in 2016/2017.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke

Recommended: That £5,000 be included in the budget for 2017/2018, which may be applied for by the Mayflower 400 group as and when required.

3. REVIEW OF CHARGES.

Details of the current charges had been circulated to members.

i) Boatfloat Charges

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr R M Lyon

Recommended: That the Boatfloat charges be increased by 5% for Dartmouth residents and non-residents.

ii) Guildhall a) Clifton Room

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr R F Rendle

Recommended: That the Clifton Room charges remain at their current level.

b) Council Chamber

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke

Seconded: Cllr R Springett

Recommended: That the Council Chamber hire fees remain at their current level until the completion of the refurbishment and then be doubled.

c) Ballroom

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr R M Lyon

Recommended: That the Ballroom charges remain at their current level until the completion of the refurbishment works, when the charges would be reviewed and a recommendation brought back to the Finance Committee.

iii) Ivy Lane

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent

Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke

Recommended: That the Ivy Lane hire fees remain at their current level.

iv) Royal Avenue Gardens Amenity Hut

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Recommended: That the Royal Avenue Gardens Amenity Hut charges remain at their current level.

v) Community Corner

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent

Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke

Recommended: That the Community Corner charges remain at their current level.

vi) Banners – Boatfloat railings

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

Recommended: That a charge of £20 per banner per week be levied for the placement of banners on the Boatfloat railings.

vii) Longcross Cemetery

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

Recommended: That the Longcross Cemetery charges be increased by 10%.

viii) Market a) Tolls

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

Recommended: That the Market Toll charges remain at their current level pending a review by the Market Working Group.

b) Hire for events

Proposed: Cllr R Springett
Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke

Recommended: That the fees for the hire of the Market for events remain at their current level.

4. BUDGET 2017/2018.

The Chairman explained to members that as in previous years, this meeting had the opportunity to discuss this budget in draft with a view to approving a definitive version at the next full council meeting. Amendments affecting expenditure and income considered under Items 3 and 4 of the agenda would be incorporated.

An inflation figure of 2% had been allowed for and underspent resources would be rolled over to the next financial year to make sure that the coherence of longer-term programmes such as the Guildhall refurbishment were more easily identified and maintained.

There was, however, one major new budget element that the Town council was not yet in a position to identify with precision. The costs to the town of services that might have to be provided, which were previously the responsibility of South Hams District Council were likely to be substantial, involving new staff and equipment. There was a two month window of opportunity between now and the January Full Council meeting for a decision to be taken on the precept.

Members then reviewed the draft budget item by item.

The following amendments were made:-

- The addition of £13,000 to the Guildhall repairs and maintenance budget for repairs to the roof.
- The addition of £2,000 to the Guildhall publicity budget at the suggestion of Cllr Springett, for the employment of a marketing consultant for 3 hours per week on a 6 month contract. This would be reviewed by the Personnel Committee in December.
- The addition of £3,000 to the Market repairs and maintenance budget for relining the car park and electrical checks.
- The addition of £5,000 to Other Services for the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The addition of £20,000 (initially £40,000 but reduced to £20,000 by the resolution below) to the Butterwalk repairs and maintenance budget for repairs to a flat roof.
- The addition of £500 to Civic Affairs for the WEARA lunch.
- The addition of £5,000 to Civic Affairs for the American Battle Monuments Commission placing of a monument in the Royal Avenue Gardens on 6th June 2017.
- The addition of £500 to the repairs and maintenance budget for Ivy Lane for equipment for the Youth Club.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr G B F Coles

Recommended: That the precept be increased by 10% to £206,903 and £20,000 be removed from reserves and the Butterwalk repairs and maintenance budget be decreased by £20,000.