

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**

**7<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**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 B T Harriss

#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 1 member of the press.

**104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr de Galleani declared a personal interest in agenda item 8, Corporate Property Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

**105. REPORTS.**

Police and District and County Councillors' Reports.

Sergeant Ian Simons gave a report on the crime figures for Dartmouth for the month of October 2016.

Following the road traffic accident on the Townstal Road that day Cllr Barnes queried whether the speed camera on the Townstal Road was working. Sergeant Simons was not aware of whether this was the case.

Cllr Smith told the meeting that he had been contacted by the school crossing lady at the Milton Lane crossing, concerning the number of speeding cars and drivers using mobiles and he asked Sergeant Simons if the Police could monitor this with unmarked cars, not with officers in uniforms.

Sergeant Simons replied that the uniformed officers regularly attended the school crossing site and were a deterrent to speeding vehicles.

Cllr Hawkins asked if this area could be part of a community speed camera project; Sergeant Simons explained that these were difficult to set up and were not always effective; the Police would await the results of the investigation on the recent accident.

Sergeant Simons told the meeting that although plans for the Police station site in the Town had been agreed there had not been a date set yet for the building work. Discussions had taken place on a temporary base for the Police at the St Johns Ambulance station

Cllr Hawkins reported that there had been speed issues in Townstal Road and Victoria Road, he had asked Devon Highways how these issues could be addressed and he suggested that a speed survey of these 2 roads was required.

Cllr Hawkins reported that extra bollards had been added on the pavement in Higher Street to stop cars parking between the bollards. The Traffic Regulation Order first advertised in June 2016 would be re-advertised later this week and would go out for full consultation. Cllr Fyson asked if this traffic order included double yellow lines at the junction of Crowthers Hill and Above Town; Cllr Hawkins confirmed that it did.

Cllr Hawkins informed the meeting that Swannaton Road was about to be resurfaced.

Cllr Hawkins and representatives from the Mayflower 400 group would be meeting with Cllr John Hart the Leader of Devon County Council to seek funding for the project.

Cllr Hawkins told the meeting that the Food Bank was seeking additional volunteers. He also distributed copies of a survey on the future of Dartmouth Hospital and Health facilities to members present at the meeting.

Cllr Hawkins commended the Town Council on the new street light in the Market Square Car Park and he asked the Town Council to support his request to Devon County Council for new street lights in Victoria Road.

In her absence Cllr Rowe's report had been laid round the table. Cllr Rowe reported that recent meetings at the District Council had included discussions on the Joint Local Plan, work was continuing on this at present. Local Towns and Parishes were working on their Neighbourhood Plans if they wished to have one in place which could feed into future development. There had been discussions around whether the District Council should progress with the formation of the Local Authority Controlled Company (L.A.C.C. ).

B.T. Phone boxes had been identified in certain areas as no longer being used very much, with only a handful of calls per year being made. B.T. would be removing them unless the local councils wished to take them over for £1.00.

Meetings had been taking place concerning the closure of the local Hospitals. Cllr Rowe reported that fortunately Totnes was not on the list and it was likely to be used as a Central Hub for more parts of the South Hams. The Hospitals under threat were Ashburton, Dartmouth and Paignton which were used by Parishes and Towns within this area. Cllr Rowe felt that whilst to do nothing was not an option, alternative facilities for basic treatments and nursing needs must be in place before these Hospitals were allowed to be closed. Cllr Rowe felt that the care of the old and vulnerable should not be cut and added that our local M.P. felt very strongly about this.

A group of Young Refugees from Calais had arrived in the north of Devon and a group might be arriving locally. Offers of support from a wide section of the Community to help with language skills and translation, medical assistance from retired Doctors, to name but a few were the necessities that were needed.

Following a question from Cllr Smith, the Clerk explained that Cllr Rowe had spoken to the appropriate officers at South Hams District Council about the bill for watering for Dartmouth Green Partnerships and had managed to get a reduction from 17 weeks down to 10. The cost would now be £1.080.00 for the season.

Cllr Bastone reported that following the last meeting of the Town Council, he had followed up on 2 items:-

1) Playground gate at Coronation Park.

Rob Sekula at South Hams District Council had provided a response: “The general approach to gates is that gates should open outwards – reason being to stop dogs getting in (as dogs can push gates, but thankfully can’t pull!), and the general expectation being that parents should keep an eye on children (i.e. stop them getting out/escaping).

Exceptions were made where playgrounds were next to a busy road to reduce risk of children running straight out onto roads”.

Mr Sekula would not be seeking to change the opening direction of the gate at Coronation Park. However, he had sent a request to the repairs team to take a look at increasing the resistance on this gate.

## 2) Planning queries.

At the previous Full Council meeting there had been some concern regarding unanswered planning queries; Cllr Bastone had requested a list of queries from the Town Council. This had not been received as the Town Council was waiting for a meeting with the Head of Planning.

However, Cllr Bastone had offered to arrange a meeting with the Head of Planning for an evening of planning training which the Chairman of Planning then refused on the grounds that it was not what was asked for.

Cllr Bastone reported on District Council meetings that had taken place during October.

Cllr Bastone had been given permission by the Chairman to make a statement to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel concerning the proposals in the District Council Events Policy. He believed this would destroy all semblance of voluntarism and the tremendous wellbeing that it brings to our communities.

Cllr Bastone cited the proposed charges for South Hams District Council land/premises usage. He felt that they were outlandish and inequitable; most of the charges were at £50 a day yet all those in Cllr Bastone's Ward were £150 a day. This was totally unacceptable. Cllr Bastone had insisted that the charges should be the same throughout the South Hams.

Cllr Bastone believed that the District Council should be working to preserve and support the traditions of the South Hams and its wonderful array of events.

The Overview and Scrutiny group sent Cllr Bastone's report back to the Task and Finish Group with the following comment:

“That the Task and Finish Group be reconvened with the purpose of focusing on the objective to ensure parity of fees and charges for events on South Hams District Council land / premises.”

Cllr Bastone had also attended a meeting between Officers and the Town Council on the Transfer of Assets from South Hams District Council to the Town Council on 7<sup>th</sup> October and a meeting on Street Cleansing on 31<sup>st</sup> October similarly between District Council Officers and the Town Council.

**106. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.**

There were none.

**107. URGENT BUSINESS.**

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

**108. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.**

Members reviewed the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016.

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**  
**Seconded: Cllr R Springett**

**Resolved: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016, be confirmed and signed as a true record.**

**109. CORRESPONDENCE.**

- a) An application to use the Guildhall, Royal Avenue Gardens, Amenity Hut and Market for Dartmouth Music Festival on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017 had been received. This would be considered by the next meeting of the Corporate Property Committee.
- b) Details of a variation to the premises licence at Dartmouth Wine Company, 6 Duke Street, had been received from South Hams District Council and circulated to members for comments by 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016. This would be considered by the Planning Committee at their meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016.
- c) The organisers of the Snow Ball in Dartmouth had already raised £4,500 this year for new Christmas lights for the Town and hoped that following their auction they would have raised even more. They asked that the Town Council accept these funds for the purchase of new Christmas lights in the future.

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**  
**Seconded: Cllr R Springett**

**Resolved: That the Town Council accept the funds raised by the Dartmouth Snow Ball organisers for the future purchase of new Christmas lights.**

- d) An application for funds towards a new boat for the Dartmouth Amateur Rowing Club had been received. It was noted that the Rowing Club had just been awarded £10,000 by Sport England for this project. The Town Clerk would invite the rowing club to complete a grant application.
- e) A letter of introduction had been received from Fusion Lifestyle following their successful tender to take over the management of South Hams Leisure Centres. They had also requested to attend a Full Council meeting in the first quarter of 2017 to give a presentation; the Clerk would invite representatives from Fusion to attend a future Full Council.
- f) Details of a consultation on Community Composting and Recycling Centres had been received from Devon County Council and had been circulated to members. This would be considered by the General Purposes Committee at their meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016.
- g) Details of a consultation on the street cleaning service in the South Hams had been received from South Hams District Council. Comments were requested by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016. This would be considered by the General Purposes Committee at their meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016.
- h) An email had been received from Dartmouth Outdoor Swimming Pool requesting to attend the December Full Council meeting to give a presentation on their plans for opening the outdoor pool in 2017.
- i) The annual report and accounts for 2015/2016 had been received from Citizens Advice South Hams and was available for members to view in the offices.
- j) Details of a Town and Parish Council event to be held at Follaton House on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 starting at 6.30pm had been received from South Hams District Council. Members should let the office know if they wished to attend.
- k) Dartmouth Caring's Autumn Newsletter had been received and was available to view in the Council offices.

- 1) A letter giving details of funding programmes from the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group had been received. This funding was for local businesses supporting the rural economy and creating jobs. Further details were available in the offices; the Clerk had passed this information to the Chamber of Trade.

## **110. REPORTS.**

- a) Corporate Property Committee  
The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were reviewed.

**Proposed: Cllr R Springett**  
**Seconded: Cllr G B F Coles**

**Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016, be received, approved and adopted.**

- b) Finance Committee  
The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were reviewed.

**Proposed: Cllr A J C Fyson**  
**Seconded: Cllr D M Gent**

**Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016, be received, approved and adopted.**

- c) Planning Committee  
The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were reviewed.

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**  
**Seconded: Cllr R Springett**

**Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> October, be received, approved and adopted.**

- d) Finance Committee  
The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 were reviewed.  
The Chairman read out a statement concerning the budget which he stressed was a draft, and which might be subject to both minor and major adjustments. It would have to be subject to further consideration by the Finance Committee and to final approval by the Full Council, no later than the Full Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017.  
In the case of major adjustments the outstanding issue not yet addressed in the draft budget, was the matter of the devolution of assets and services from South Hams District Council to the Town Council. Cllr Fyson felt that the Town Council would be wise to at least consider this change rather than reject it outright.  
If the Town Council did not respond at all to the pressure to take on some new responsibilities, the maintenance of these spaces would continue to decline, mitigated only by overstretched and ultimately unsustainable voluntary labour.  
Cllr Fyson detailed the scale of the financial challenge and the prospect of developing new sources of income; however in the early years these would be unlikely to cover the costs of the necessary new staff and equipment. A phased solution might be possible and agreement of an outline strategy with South Hams District Council which would allow the Town Council to set a devolved services budget element for this coming year starting next April.

**Proposed: Cllr R Springett**  
**Seconded: Cllr A J C Fyson**

**Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016, be noted and referred back to a future meeting of the Finance Committee.**

**111. FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

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

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**  
**Seconded: Cllr R Springett**

**Resolved: That the Clerk's actions in paying accounts totaling £36,101.59 for the month of October 2016 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be endorsed.**

**112. DEEDS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL.**

**Proposed: Cllr R Springett**  
**Seconded: Cllr D M Gent**

**Resolved: That Deeds of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial be issued in respect of Grave No. D (1) 114 and D (1) 115 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.**

### **113. REPORTS.**

#### Representatives on Public Bodies and Associations.

Cllr Smith informed the meeting that the Outdoor Swimming Pool had 7 years remaining on the lease of the land it stood on. Two hundred supporters were campaigning for the outdoor swimming pool to remain open and the Chairman wished to attend the December meeting of the Town Council to make a presentation.

Cllr Springett reported on a visit by members of the American Battle Monuments Commission to Dartmouth. Three representatives including Commissioner Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel, and her husband, former Ambassador Carl Spielvogel, visited Dartmouth on 24<sup>th</sup> October and agreed a site for a new monument similar to that at the Midway Atoll. Cllr Springett would continue to liaise with the Commission on this matter, ready for an event to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 for the installation of the new monument.

Cllr Gent reported that the Youth Club at Ivy Lane was going from strength to strength with an average of 45 young people attending each week; the young people would shortly be fundraising for Children in Need.

### **114. DEVOLUTION OF ASSETS FROM SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

The Mayor told the meeting that the working group had met during the previous week and had agreed on a document showing costs for the maintenance and management of the assets that formed the proposal for asset transfer from South Hams District Council. The revised paper would be sent out to all members of the group in the next few days for comments. A meeting had been arranged with South Hams District Council on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

**115. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO THE DARTMOUTH AND DISTRICT GUIDE LTD.**

The Mayor told members that Cllrs Coles and Hawke and Dr Fiona Ward had all agreed to become Directors of the Dartmouth and District Guide Ltd.; Cllr Bastone had kindly agreed to stay on as a Director to provide continuity. Cllr Rendle asked when the Town Council would be able to see the completed accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016; these were currently with the T.I.C.'s accountant.

**Proposed: Cllr S Smith**

**Seconded: Cllr B T Harriss**

**Resolved: That Cllrs Coles, Hawke and Dr Fiona Ward become Directors of the Dartmouth and District Guide Ltd.**

**116. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.**

Cllr Springett asked the Mayor when the Town Council would see a financial statement from the Dartmouth and District Guide Ltd. The Mayor replied that this would be distributed to members as soon as it was available.

Cllr Rendle asked the Mayor if the new lamp post in the Market Square had been a necessary replacement of the Victorian style one that it had previously been in place.

The Mayor replied that the old post had rusted through and the new light had been supplied at a discount through Devon County Council Highway lighting.

Cllr Barnes asked the Mayor if it would be possible to publish Councillors attendance at meetings on the Town Council website as he was concerned that some Councillors were not attending as many meetings as they should.

The Mayor replied that this would be possible and through the Mayor Cllr Gent advised Cllr Barnes that several Councillors were unwell at present.

Cllr Rendle asked the Mayor if he would ask the District Councillors to provide a collective report, as they all had several Parish Councils to cover and this might save time.

The Mayor replied that the Town Council would be happy to receive reports in this way if the District Councillors wished.

**Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke**  
**Seconded: Cllr T de Galleani**

**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.**

**117. STAFFING MATTERS.**

The Clerk reported that she had that day received the resignation of the Finance Officer. She asked members for authorization to advertise the post straight away.

**Proposed: Cllr A J C Fyson**  
**Seconded: Cllr R Springett**

**Resolved: That the post of Finance Officer be advertised immediately.**

**118. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN UNIT 5 DARTMOUTH MARKET.**

Details of two expressions of interest in Unit 5, Dartmouth Market were laid round the table.

**Proposed: Cllr S Smith**  
**Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke**

**Resolved: That Unit 5 be leased to Sarah Hibbert at an annual rental of £3,000.**