

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 Ballie
Cllr T De Galleani
Cllr B T Harriss
Cllr I A Pritchard

Cllrs Barnes and Thomson had given apologies for the meeting.

Also in attendance 1 member of the press.

*Denotes attendance
#Denotes apology for absence

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were none.

2. CORRESPONDENCE REQUESTS FOR GRANTS.

Grant applications had been received from:-

a) Dart Trekkers.

Members considered a grant application for £1,000 from Dart Trekkers for funds to enable young people to attend training for the Ten Tors event in May 2017. The Clerk informed members that the grant budget for 2016/2017 had already been spent.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr P F Allen

Recommended: That a grant of £1,000 be made to Dart Trekkers in the 2016/2017 financial year.

b) Dartmouth Amateur Rowing Club.

Members considered a grant application for £2,320 from the Dartmouth Amateur Rowing Club for funds towards the purchase of additional boats to support the growth of junior rowing at DARC.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr P F Allen

Recommended: That a grant of £1,000 be made to the Dartmouth Amateur Rowing Club in the 2016/2017 financial year.

4. BUDGET 2017/2018.

An example draft budget showing the effect of the proposed transfer of assets had been laid round the table, the budget as agreed by the Finance Committee of 1st November had been previously circulated to members.

The Mayor reported on a meeting held at Follaton House on 25th November 2016 with Steve Jorden the Chief Executive of South Hams District Council and Chris Brook Asset Lead Manager for South Hams District Council, on the proposed transfer of assets to Dartmouth Town Council. A proposal from the Town Council showed total annual costs of approximately £250,000 and the Town Council had asked that £150,000 of these costs be met by South Hams District Council in the first year.

The South Hams District officers had thought this too high a figure but had agreed to discuss all the other points raised except the use of Collingwood Road as a depot.

Steve Jorden had agreed to provide a response to the Town Council proposals and had asked that the Town Council respond to this with a lower figure.

The District Council had suggested the possibility of a joint venture for the provision of a municipal campsite at the Jawbones site, which could also provide a composting facility for the Town Council.

Members noted that the Personnel Committee would need to consider staffing levels following approval by Council of the next steps in the Transfer of Assets negotiations.

For clarity the Mayor told members that the assets under consideration for transfer were Coronation Park, Royal Avenue gardens including the T.I.C. building, the Castle Estate and some grass verge areas in the Townstal Road.

Cllr de Galleani told the meeting that Dartmouth Green Partnerships could assist the Town Council in obtaining grants for work to areas such as the Castle Estate.

Cllr Fyson explained that the amount to be negotiated with South Hams District Council would be a reducing balance over 5 years. Members also noted that Dartmouth Town Council is not required to finalise its precept until the end of January 2017 and that Council could approve the balanced budget as shown without the costs and income involved in the Asset Transfer. These can be added later if the negotiating team feels able to recommend a satisfactory outcome for approval by Council.

The Clerk would send details of South Hams District Council's response to all Councillors as soon as this was received.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke

Recommended: That South Hams District Council be asked to pay the Town Council £150,000 in year one towards the costs incurred to maintain and increase the standard of the assets to be transferred, if the transfer was to take place on 1st April 2017 or £125,000 if the transfer was to take place on 1st April 2018.