

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**

**5<sup>th</sup> December 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 5 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

**127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Smith declared a personal interest in agenda item 3 – Dartmouth Outdoor Swimming Pool.

**128. PRESENTATION BY THE CHAIRMAN OF DARTMOUTH OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL.**

Mr David Bond the Chairman of the Outdoor Swimming Pool told the meeting that the Outdoor Pool was a valuable additional town asset. When it had been publicised that it was going to close, 360 members of the public had contacted the committee asking that it stay open. Mr Bond and Jo Tucker the new outdoor pool coordinator had met with Tim Mills a Director of Fusion Leisure who was also in favour of the outdoor pool staying open. The Outdoor Pool provided a great area for families to meet and picnic.

Cllr Cooke asked what funds the Outdoor Pool committee was hoping the Town Council might provide, what costs they would incur and what was the remaining length of their lease.

Mr Bond explained that they would be fundraising for new boilers and hoped that the Town Council would make £3,500 available as in previous years; there were 7 years left on the lease.

The Mayor thanked Mr Bond for his presentation.

**129. REPORTS.**

Police and District and County Councillors' Reports.

Police Sergeant Iain Simons gave a report on the crime figures for Dartmouth for the month of November 2016.

There had been a significant increase compared to the figures for 2015. Part of this increase was the vandalism caused by a group of young people around the area adjacent to the Leisure Centre and the Park and Ride.

Cllr Springett asked if a Youth Outreach worker would be useful to talk to the young people; Sergeant Simons explained that their families were already being helped by Social Services.

Cllr Springett questioned whether Dartmouth had sufficient policing to cope with the situation; Sergeant Simons confirmed that there was sufficient policing for Dartmouth.

Cllr Gent had spoken to Youth Genesis regarding a male youth outreach worker to speak to the young people but currently they had a shortage of male volunteers.

In his absence Cllr Hawkin's report was laid around the table.

Cllr Hawkins reported that on 3<sup>rd</sup> December it had been lovely to see the new Dartmouth and District Indoor Pool opened; he thanked the Trustees who had worked so hard and with such dedication to achieve this. It was a great tribute to them, and a lovely pool for all of Dartmouth, with disabled access and a learner's pool. Cllr Hawkins was pleased that Devon County Council had been able to offer £1.5 million to the project from the sale of Exeter Airport and that South Hams had also given the project £400,000, as well as the Town Council's grant.

Following on from the concerns over Devon County Council being able to provide adequate Social Care, Cllr Hawkins had organised a meeting for the new year with Pierre Landell Mills from the Dartmouth Patients Participation Group and Simon Tapley from Devon County Council at County Hall; from this a further public meeting would be called in the New Year.

The issue of access to Lighthouse Beach had been raised by English Nature's proposal for coastal access. Cllr Hawkins hoped that Dartmouth Town Council would write supporting their proposal which would ensure access to the Beach for the public; this would be discussed by South Hams AONB next month.

Following concerns over poverty in our communities, a number of meetings had been held on how best we can work together to help. At Townstal Community Partnership recently this was debated and a good discussion was held by all partners. Cllr Hawkins had been able to provide £1,000 from his South Hams Community Fund to Dartmouth and District Food Bank to help them over the coming months and in particular to be able to continue to offer emergency fuel grants.

He was also able to give £650 from his Devon County Council Fund towards extra outreach work in Townstal, to Dartmouth and District Youth Partnership, with the possibility of its being used to tackle anti-social behaviour.

From the South Hams Community Fund Cllr Hawkins had been pleased to offer £1,000 to the Trustees of The Flavel Centre. During the past month Devon County Council had also confirmed grants of £750 to Blackawton Parish Council, to Cornworthy Parish towards the restoration of their Church Bells and Dittisham Parish Council for new Play equipment on the Ham.

Finally, Cllr Hawkins reported that a meeting had been held with Dartmouth Town Council, South Hams District Council and stake holders on progressing plans for Coronation Park, on replanting and general improvements; Stevie Rogers from Dartmouth Green Partnerships was working with officers to bring this project forward.

Cllr Rowe's report had been laid round the table. She began by telling the meeting about the Totnes Rural Area Youth Engagement project T.R.A.Y.E., which had been set up by Totnes Town Council and now had 120 young people attending from rural parishes such as Dartington and Marldon; Cllr Rowe would be happy to help with Dartmouth's Youth Service if needed.

Cllr Rowe told the meeting that the District Council was beginning to discuss their budget for 2017/2018 and the necessary changes to Council tax.

Cllr Rowe reported that South Hams District Council's I.T. systems were now improving including the Planning Portal which had become much easier to access. The Head of Planning Patrick Whymer would be happy to visit any Parish and Town Councils that wished to talk through any difficulties.

Cllr Rowe told the meeting that the District Council was continuing to discuss the formation of a Local Authority Controlled Company to raise income in the future.

The planning application at Kynance, Higher Broad Park in Dartmouth had been referred for a site inspection which would take place early in the New Year.

Town and Parish fund applications should be made by 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

Cllr Allen asked Cllr Rowe if the Local Authority Controlled Company would make money; Cllr Rowe confirmed that this would be the case and services would continue unaffected.

Cllr Gent asked how far behind was the Planning enforcement case load. Cllr Rowe explained that this was now up to March 2016 and asked that Cllr Gent give her details of any enforcement cases that had not been answered and she would chase these.

Cllr Bastone reported that the Devon Building Control Partnership had laid down plans for further independence from the three District Councils.

The Joint Local Plan presentation had been made to District Council members on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

Cllr Bastone had attended a meeting on Coronation Park landscaping at the Guildhall on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

The District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the following items at their meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016; Homeless Strategy, Devon Home Choice and Allocations Policy, Quarterly Performance Measures and the Ombudsman Annual Review Letter.

Cllr Bastone reported that the District Council Executive meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 had considered the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, the Adoption of UAV/Drone Policy, the Tadpool Asset Transfer, the Treasury Management Mid-Year Update, a Write off Report and a member workshop with consideration of the LACC under reserved matters.

Cllr Bastone had also attended the Indoor Pool opening on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016; Fusion lifestyle had signed a 25 year contract for leisure provision including the indoor pool in Dartmouth.

Cllr Smith raised concerns over the new pricing at the Indoor Swimming Pool in comparison to other Fusion Leisure facilities in the South Hams. The cost of a swim at Totnes was £3.50, Kingsbridge £4.20 but Dartmouth was £5.50. He asked the District Councillors if this price discrepancy could be adjusted.

Cllr Bastone explained that the Totnes facility was subsidised by the Tadpool Trust and that the concession price for Dartmouth was £1.70.

Cllr Springett asked the District Councillors for their rough sleeper policy. There was currently a rough sleeper in Dartmouth who had been reported to the District Council but who had not been helped as yet. Cllr Springett would send details to Cllr Rowe.

### **130. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.**

Mr Paul Reach asked the Mayor, if, as the local economy was heavily dependent on tourism and the Town Council had confirmed that they would not fill any financial gaps left by the BID, could the Town Council give assurances that the marketing of Dartmouth would carry on under the TIC auspices; or how would arrangements for the TIC continue under the Town Council.

The Mayor replied that the Discover Dartmouth Guide was now being provided through We Make Magazines and Visit South Devon was continuing the website provision. The TIC would be continuing the marketing of the Town with plans for a new visitor centre in the pipeline.

Cllr Bastone added that Visit South Devon had enhanced the website since taking over, both Visit South Devon and We Make Magazines were paying a percentage to the TIC from sales of space on the website and the Discover Dartmouth magazine. He added that the BID money had not been used to promote local businesses.

David Bond told the meeting that the charges at the Indoor Swimming Pool were high because of the need to charge VAT.

Ray Bridges explained that Fusion Leisure had taken over the management of the brand new Indoor Swimming Pool with no history and for the first three months had undertaken to open from 7am-10pm on weekdays and from 9am to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays. After 3 months they would seek feedback; performance would be monitored and they would produce a pool that would be as required by local residents. Fusion would give a report to the Trustees every three months.

**131. URGENT BUSINESS.**

There was none.

**132. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.**

Members reviewed the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

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

**Resolved: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016, be confirmed and signed as a true record.**

Members reviewed the minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

The Clerk informed members that Cllr Pritchard had declared a personal interest in agenda item 3 – presentation by Jenny Turner from South Devon and Torbay CCG on the future of Health Services in Dartmouth.

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

**Resolved: That the minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016, as amended, be confirmed and signed as a true record.**

### 133. CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) A copy of the consultation document on the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan had been received. Copies were available in the offices and comments were due by 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016. This would be considered by the next meeting of the Planning Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016.
- b) An invitation had been received from Visit South Devon for all Councillors to attend the South Devon Tourism Update and Brand Launch which was due to take place on the 13th December 2016, between 10.30am and 12.30pm, at Exeter Racecourse.
- c) A reminder had been received from South Hams District Council's Monitoring Officer to check that all Town and Parish Councillors had ensured that their Registers of Interest were up-to-date.

### 134. REPORTS.

- a) Corporate Property Committee  
The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were reviewed.

**Proposed: Cllr R Springett**  
**Seconded: Cllr B T Harriss**

**Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016, be received, approved and adopted.**

- b) Planning Committee  
The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 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 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016, be received, approved and adopted.**

c) General Purposes Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were reviewed. Amendment item 3, page 2 – Vinos should be asked to sponsor the new litter bin in Victoria Road.

**Proposed: Cllr T de Galleani**

**Seconded: Cllr D M Gent**

**Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016, as amended, be received, approved and adopted.**

d) Finance Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 were reviewed. Cllr Hawke raised concerns regarding the grants to D.A.R.C. and the Dart Trekkers when the grant budget had already been spent. Cllr de Galleani asked that the fees for the use of the Royal Avenue Gardens Amenity hut be reviewed; this would be taken to the next meeting of the Finance Committee. Amendment item 4 page 3, Cllr Rendle asked that the proposal re Transfer of Assets from South Hams District Council was amended to add “ and if” taken on.

**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 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016, as amended, be received, approved and adopted.**

**135. FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

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

**Proposed: Cllr R Springett**

**Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke**

**Resolved: That the Clerk's actions in paying accounts totaling £42,600.05 for the month of November 2016 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be endorsed.**

**136. REPORTS.**

Representatives on Public Bodies and Associations.

Cllr Gent reported that the Youth Club was doing really well and would shortly need to recruit more youth workers.

Cllr Smith reported that he and Cllr Gent had attended a Patient Participation Group meeting where a presentation on the future of health services had been given; this was the same as the presentation that had been given to Dartmouth Town Council.

Cllr Gent also reported that the Dartmouth and District Chamber of Trade was about to re-launch and hold quarterly meetings open to the public. Membership would be free and there was a new website.

Cllr Gent told members that the Dartmouth and District Public Transport meeting had been postponed for the month of December. It had been noted that the information sign on the bus shelter adjacent to the Station Restaurant was not working and he was in correspondence with the County Council about this.

Cllr Springett reported that the Townstal Community Partnership was continuing to work well. The recent meeting had discussed a spate of vandalism in the area of the Leisure Centre and Cllr Springett had agreed to put the Town Council's concerns in a letter to the Head of the Academy.

Cllr Smith added that deep concerns had also been raised at the meeting about people living in Dartmouth who were not well off, there was a strong desire for the stakeholders of the T.C.P. to work together to help people and to ask people to come forward before things got too bad.

Cllr Gent told members that Churches Together in Dartmouth had compiled a list of places in the Town where free meals were available and would be advertising this.

Cllr Rowe told the meeting that South Hams District Council had a range of leaflets on the benefits that could be claimed; Cllr Springett asked Cllr Rowe if she would attend a future T.C.P. meeting. Cllr Rowe agreed that she would if possible or would pass the information to Cllr Springett.

Cllr Allen suggested that a Youth Outreach Worker be invited to attend a future Town Council meeting. The Mayor would be meeting with Jonathan Oliverio from Youth Genesis and would suggest this.

Cllr Pritchard told members that Dartmouth Caring provided a service to help those in need fill in official forms and would also signpost them to other services.

Cllr Rendle reported that the first proposals for the new moorings in the river at Noss Marina had been published and the River Dart Non-Beneficiary Group would be calling a special meeting in early January 2017 to discuss these.

### **137. TRANSFER OF ASSETS FROM SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

The Mayor told members that he, the Deputy Mayor and the Clerk had met with the Chief Executive of South Hams District Council, Steve Jordan and Chris Brook their Asset Manager, at Follaton House on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016. A response was awaited to the Town Council's proposal from Steve Jordan and then the Town Council would reply to this. Members were still mindful that a Special Full Council meeting would be required to discuss this subject in detail before any proposal could be accepted.

**138. INVITATION FOR A MEMBER OF THE TOWN COUNCIL TO JOIN THE SOUTH HAMS TEAM OF THE SOUTH DEVON COASTAL LOCAL ACTION GROUP.**

The Clerk had received an invitation from the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group for Dartmouth Town Council to nominate a representative to join their South Hams team. Cllr Coles offered to fill this post as there was a tie in with the work of the Tourist Information Centre.

**Proposed: Cllr S Smith**

**Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke**

**Resolved: That Cllr Coles be nominated as the Town Council's representative on the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group, South Hams team.**

**139. DARTMOUTH GREEN PARTNERSHIPS REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR PLANTING SCHEMES IN DARTMOUTH.**

Following an email request from the Chairman of Dartmouth Green Partnerships for the Town Council's support in principle for the proposed Mayflower planting schemes on both Coronation Park and in the Royal Avenue Gardens, Cllr de Galleani confirmed that this was to facilitate Dartmouth Green Partnership's grant applications. Members wished to see detailed proposals before any agreement or support was given.

**Proposed: Cllr R Springett**

**Seconded: Cllr G B F Coles**

**Resolved: That Dartmouth Town Council continues to welcome the involvement of Dartmouth Green Partnerships and asks that their detailed proposals for planting in the Town should be made to the General Purposes Committee.**

**140. CHRISTMAS CLOSING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES.**

Members were asked to confirm the Christmas closing of the Town Council offices between Thursday 22nd December 2016 and Monday 2nd January 2017 inclusively.

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

**Resolved: That the Town Council offices be closed for Christmas, between Thursday 22nd December 2016 and Monday 2nd January 2017 inclusively.**

**141. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.**

Cllr Springett asked the Mayor if the Town Council could facilitate Youth Outreach workers for Dartmouth following the report from Police Sergeant Simons on vandalism in the Town.

The Mayor replied that he had spoken to Jonathan Oliverio from Youth Genesis who were receiving funds from County Councillor Jonathan Hawkins to possibly employ a new outreach worker who could visit Dartmouth on a regular basis. Cllr Springett suggested that Youth Genesis be encouraged to make an application to the Town Council for a minor grant.

Cllr Allen asked the Mayor if he was aware that 50% of the shops in Dartmouth Market had not been opening on a regular basis.

The Mayor replied that the tenants would be reminded of the terms of their leases and encouraged to open on a more regular basis.

Cllr Springett asked the Mayor if the Town Council would be represented at the AGM of the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

Through the Mayor Cllr Rendle confirmed that he would be attending.

Cllr de Galleani asked the Mayor if a letter of thanks could be sent to the Britannia Royal Naval College for the work of the cadets in planting bulbs in College Way and cleaning in Dartmouth Market.

The Mayor replied that this would be done.

Cllr Rendle asked the Mayor if the new directors of the TIC had completed their forms and was the Town Council aware that the TIC would be closed in January.

The Mayor replied that the new Directors had completed their registration forms and he was aware that the TIC was closing for the month of January as they did each year.

Cllr Bastone added that the current manager and one part-time member of staff had resigned and a meeting of the old and new Directors would be called as soon as possible.

Cllr Gent asked the Mayor why it had been necessary for the cadets from BRNC to clean the Market.

The Mayor replied that the Town Council had been approached at the last moment as the cadets had completed another task early; their work had been much appreciated.

Cllr Pritchard asked the Mayor if following the Clerk's report to Personnel on Boundary changes, could this be taken as an agenda item and include the moving of the Townstal boundary to take Townstal Church back into the Townstal ward.

The Mayor replied that this would be added to the agenda for a future meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**

**Seconded: Cllr P F Allen**

**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.**

**142. TRANSFER OF ASSETS FROM SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

The Mayor told the meeting that at present the Town Council was waiting for South Hams District Council to report back from the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016; the Mayor would write to Steve Jordan the next day.

Cllr Rendle was concerned that other towns in the South Hams were not taking on assets from the District Council and that monies saved in Dartmouth would be spent in other towns. He was also concerned that the Town Council did not have the staff to take this forward. Cllr Rendle asked that a Special Full Council meeting be called so that members could go through the proposal line by line so they fully understood what was being taken on. All members agreed that this should happen.

Cllr Allen reminded the meeting that it would be necessary to consider the PR issues if a 70% rise in the precept was proposed.

**Proposed: Cllr R F Rendle**

**Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke**

**Resolved: That a Special Full Council meeting be called to discuss the transfer of assets from South Hams District Council following receipt of a reply from their Chief Executive on this matter.**