

**Present**

\*Cllr T de Galleani – Chairman  
\*Cllr I A Pritchard – Vice-Chairman

#Cllr P F Allen  
\*Cllr M Baillie  
\*Cllr L M Barnes  
\*Cllr G B F Coles  
\*Cllr R W I Cooke (Deputy Mayor)  
\*Cllr D M Gent  
\*Cllr R M Lyon (Town Mayor)  
#Cllr S Smith

\*Denotes attendance  
#Denotes apology for absence

Observers: Cllr R F Rendle  
Cllr R Springett

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Coles declared a personal interest in agenda items 4 and 5 Mayflower 400 and Sister City Status.

**2. CIVIC EVENING 2016.**

Members discussed the date of and format of the Mayor's Civic Evening for 2016. It was agreed that this event should be cost neutral and the ticket price (£28 in 2015) would need to be increased to approximately £33 - £35.

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

**Recommended: That a Civic Evening be held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at a cost neutral basis to the Town Council.**

### **3. MAYFLOWER 400.**

Cllr Coles informed members that a meeting had been held that day at the Guildhall Dartmouth, between the towns taking part in the Mayflower 400 project. A virtual reality presentation had been made by Professor Bob Stone to all those present and it was hoped that the “virtual Mayflower” initiative would be adopted by all the towns.

Nottinghamshire County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Plymouth, Southampton, Rotherhithe and Harwich had all been represented and had all agreed this was an excellent scheme which could be funded as part of the £5,000,000 Heritage Lottery Funding.

Dartmouth was ahead of the other towns in planning for the celebrations although all other groups were funded; Dartmouth was the only group run by volunteers.

Professor Stone would be presenting the virtual ship to Dartmouth Academy to get the young people involved.

It was noted that the Finance Committee had put £500 in the budget for 2016/2017 for the Mayflower 400 project.

The Clerk sought clarification from members concerning the charging for room hire for the use of Council premises by the Mayflower 400 group.

**Proposed:** Cllr R W I Cooke

**Seconded:** Cllr L M Barnes

**Recommended:** That the Mayflower 400 group be given use of the Guildhall rooms at no cost, as an additional grant.

Preparations for the Mayflower 400 celebrations would also include:-

- A full size replica Mayflower to be built
- Music from the last 400 years
- A week of wearing period costume for the whole town
- Ed Welch and Brian Patten writing a Mayflower anthem
- A peal of bells would be written by the captain of the St Saviours bell tower for all towns to ring as the ships came in.
- Tall ships visiting Dartmouth
- Visitors from the New York Yacht Club visiting Dartmouth
- Dr Sarah Wollaston would become the Vice Patron and would write to the American Ambassador and/or the Prime Minister to ask that they attend the celebrations

- The group would ask the Lord Lieutenant's advice concerning inviting a member of the Royal Family to attend.

#### **4. SISTER CITY STATUS.**

Cllr Coles confirmed that the American visitors would be in Dartmouth from 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 and the Sister City accord would be signed on the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> May 2016.

Cllr Coles had met the American Ambassador at an event in Plymouth and he had agreed that he would try to attend the signing. There would be a gala evening for the guests, organised on a cost neutral basis and Cllr Coles was hoping to find hosts for the 26 to 28 American visitors for their 5 night stay in Dartmouth. It was noted that the Finance Committee had put £2,000 in the budget for 2016/2017 for the Sister City status.

**Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke**  
**Seconded: Cllr M Baillie**

**Recommended: That the Sister City group be given use of the Guildhall rooms at no cost, as an additional grant.**

#### **5. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS.**

The Chairman asked members to suggest items for inclusion on future General Purposes Committee agendas. Members also discussed whether the General Purposes Committee should be merged with other committees. Cllr Barnes reminded the meeting that there would be a large number of items to be considered to provide services no longer delivered by the District and County Councils e.g. weed spraying.

It was noted that a new member was needed for the Market working group to replace Cllr Chilcott; this would be considered at the next meeting of the Corporate Property Committee.

**Proposed: Cllr R M Lyon**  
**Seconded: Cllr I A Pritchard**

**Recommended: That the General Purposes Committee remain as a separate Committee.**