

**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 B T Harriss  
\*Cllr R M Lyon (Town Mayor)  
Cllr S Smith

\*Denotes attendance  
#Denotes apology for absence

Observers: Cllr F J Hawke  
Cllr R F Rendle

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Hawke declared a personal interest in agenda item 3 – Taxi Licensing and Fare Consultation by South Hams District Council.

Cllr Coles declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 – Illegal parking in Victoria Road.

Cllr Gent declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 – Illegal parking in Victoria Road.

## **2. SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL, CONSULTATION ON TAXI LICENSING AND FARES.**

Details of the South Hams District Council Consultation on Taxi Licensing and their Fare setting policy had been circulated to members. It was noted that responses were due by 17th October 2016. Cllr Hawke had formulated a response on behalf of the Town Council which had also been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Cllr Hawke explained to the meeting that South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council had divergent policies on taxi licensing at present and the purpose of the process was to bring both their sets of regulations in line. The consultation was going out to all Town and Parish Councils and to the taxi trade.

### Fare setting Policy.

Cllr Hawke told the meeting that South Hams District Council had to have a system in place to explain any advertised increases in fares i.e. a formula for setting fares. He detailed the anomalies in the current fare system for the meeting.

### Licensing Policy.

South Hams District Council were suggesting that all new taxi drivers should be over 23 years of age, should have held a current UK driving licence for at least 2 years and should take the DVLA taxi driving course which cost £90.00.

Cllr Hawke told the meeting that the taxi trade in Dartmouth was against the suggestion by the District Council that all medicals be done at a medical centre in Plymouth; the drivers wished to have medicals carried out by their own doctors as at present.

South Hams District Council was also proposing that taxi drivers should take a safeguarding course and a passenger awareness course; the drivers had asked that these courses take place in the winter months when there was less trade.

South Hams District Council also planned to set new rules on lost property which stated that all lost property should be taken to the local police station within 24 hours. Dartmouth taxi drivers had pointed out that this was not possible in Dartmouth as there was no local police station and had asked for flexibility in this policy.

The overall system to combine the 2 Council's policies would bring West Devon up to the standard of South Hams.

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**  
**Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke**

**Recommended: That the Town Council adopt the Taxi Licensing and Fare setting policy response forms as drafted by Cllr Hawke (Appendices A and B).**

**3. W.E.A.R.A. LUNCH.**

This item had been referred from Full Council on 5th September 2016. Cllr Cooke told the meeting that this year's event had been the best ever. Members were mindful that the office staff time was not factored into the cost of the event and this would be considered when the civic budget was set for 2017/2018.

**Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke**  
**Seconded: Cllr G B F Coles**

**Recommended: That the Town Council investigates the full costs of the WEARA lunch to correctly identify monies for the budget in 2017/2018.**

**4. ILLEGAL PARKING IN VICTORIA ROAD.**

This item had been requested by Cllr Gent, who informed the meeting that he had received numerous complaints from residents and businesses in Victoria Road concerning vehicles parking with two wheels on the pavement, particularly on the north side of the road. Members noted that on-street parking enforcement was carried out by Devon County Council. Many of those parking in this way were blue badge holders, who could park for up to 3 hours and often parked to visit the doctors' surgery. There were however other vehicles parking and completely blocking the pavement for long periods of time outside local businesses.

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

**Recommended: That the Clerk write a letter on this matter to Devon County Highways, a draft of which would be circulated to all Councillors for approval before being sent.**

**5. JOINT SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES PLAN**

A request had been received from South Hams District Council for a meeting to discuss the Joint Sports and Leisure Facilities Plan, between their consultant Roger Sheridan who was leading on the stakeholder consultations and Town Councillors.

Members noted that Fusion Lifestyle the new company to run the Leisure Centre in Dartmouth were having talks with the Trustees of the Indoor Swimming Pool concerning the running of the new pool. It was felt that it would be beneficial to find out the outcome of these discussions before meeting with the District Council.

A meeting would be arranged for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 10.30am.

**6. COMMUNITY ROAD WARDEN SCHEME.**

Details of the Devon County Council Community Road Warden Scheme had been circulated to members. The Chairman told the meeting that she had received details of the Community Road Warden Scheme following an enquiry made to Devon County Highways concerning the large number of A-Boards in the Town. Members felt that although Devon County Council provided insurance for the scheme this would need more discussion and would not be suitable for the Town Council at this time.

**Proposed: Cllr R M Lyon**

**Seconded: Cllr D M Gent**

**Recommended: That the Town Council does not join the Community Road Warden Scheme at this time.**

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**

**Seconded: Cllr R M Lyon**

**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.**

7. **QUOTATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW MAYORAL ROBES.**

Details of three quotations for the purchase of a new robe for the Mayor were laid round the table. Samples of the materials to be used were also made available at the meeting. Members stressed the importance of preserving the dignity of the role of Mayor and the Mayoral robes and postponed this item until further samples of material were available in slightly darker shades.

## APPENDIX A

<h3 style="margin: 0;">Draft Hackney Carriage Fare Setting Policy</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">Consultation Response Sheet</p>		 <p style="margin: 0;"><b>South Hams District Council</b></p>
NAME	Clerk to the Council	
ORGANISATION (if applicable)	Dartmouth Town Council	
ADDRESS	The Guildhall	
	Victoria Road	
	Dartmouth TQ6 9RY	
CONTACT	TEL: 01803 832281	EMAIL: clerk@dartmouthtowncouncil.org
REF: PLEASE QUOTE PARAGRAPH NUMBER	Please photocopy if more sheets are needed	
PARAGRAPH No		
	COMMENTS	<p>The Town Council has had discussions with the local Taxi trade, before responding to this consultation and has compared charges in the National Trade paper and note the vast difference in charges.</p> <p>Throughout the county of Devon, there is a difference of £1.10 for two miles between Exeter and South Hams District Council and £1.05 between North Devon and South Hams District Council. We also noted that there has been no increase in the South Hams District Council rate since 2012, which makes it more difficult to set an acceptable fare.</p> <p>The Town Council supports the view of South Hams District Council in using the AA Motoring costs with the added figure of £1,300 for insurance</p> <p>With the lack of bus services, Taxis provide a vital role and with the high cost of living in the South Hams, it is vital that taxi drivers can earn for a 40 hour week, somewhere near the average wage for the South Hams area.</p> <p>Many taxi companies offer reduced rates for senior citizens, who</p>

		use them on a regular basis. The Town Council is very concerned about short journeys in rural areas, where it costs the taxi more in fuel than they take in fares, for example Woodlands to The Sportsman's Arms, a fare of £4.00. The cost from Dartmouth to Woodlands is £12.00, therefor a loss of £8.00. This cannot be sustained, if the trade is only allowed to charge £4.00. The Trade would have to refuse the fare.
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### All responses must be received by 17 October 2016.

Although a register of comments received during the consultation period will be maintained the Licensing Section will not generally send acknowledgements to individuals unless they are recognised representatives of persons or businesses in the area or are a statutory responsible authority and such acknowledgement will only be sent on request.

More information can be accessed at [www.southhams.gov.uk](http://www.southhams.gov.uk) and consultation responses may be made via this form or by letter or email to:

**By Post:**

Licensing  
South Hams District Council  
Follaton House  
Plymouth Road  
Totnes  
TQ9 5NE

**By Email:** [licensing@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@swdevon.gov.uk)

**APPENDIX B**

<p><b>Draft Taxi Licensing Policy (Part One)</b></p> <p><b>Consultation Response Sheet</b></p>		 <p><b>South Hams District Council</b></p>
NAME	The Clerk to the Town Council	
ORGANISATION (if applicable)	Dartmouth Town Council	
ADDRESS	The Guildhall Victoria Road	
	Dartmouth	
	TQ6 9RY	
CONTACT	TEL: 01803 832281	EMAIL: clerk@dartmouthtowncouncil.org
REF: PLEASE QUOTE PARAGRAPH NUMBER	Please photocopy if more sheets are needed	
PARAGRAPH No		
	COMMENTS	The Town Council has had discussions with the local taxi trade before completing this Consultation Response.
Paragraph 2	COMMENTS	The Town Council fully supports the objectives of paragraph 2
Paragraph 3	COMMENTS	The Council would hope that when the South Hams District Council has formulated its policies, there would be further consultation with the trade
Paragraph 5	COMMENTS	The Town Council fully supports the view except in the case of 5.20- all medicals should be carried out locally with the driver's

Except 5.20		own doctor. This would save travelling to Plymouth.
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Para 5-15	COMMENTS	Whenever possible training courses should be held during the winter months.
	COMMENTS	Where the Town Council has not responded to a policy, it should be understood the Council accepts the Policy
Appendix A	COMMENTS	Supported by the Town Council with the exception of Policy 9.
	COMMENTS	The local Police Stations are not open to the public. There needs to be a new policy. This is also covered on Appendix B item 4.
Appendix B	COMMENTS	General support except item 4. An explanation is needed for item 10(D)
Appendix B.13	COMMENTS	Needs clarity
Appendix C	COMMENTS	The Town Council supports the Penalty Points System provided it is used properly.
Appendix D	COMMENTS	The Town Council Supports the Licensing process
Appendix E	COMMENTS	The Council supports the Spoken English Assessment
	COMMENTS	The South Hams District Council must bear in mind the service provided by taxi drivers. Therefore regulations should not be too onerous.

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