

**CORPORATE PROPERTY
COMMITTEE**

17th October 2016

Present

*Councillor R Springett – Chairman
Cllr S Smith – Vice-Chairman

*Cllr M Baillie
*Cllr L M Barnes
*Cllr G B F Coles
*Cllr R W I Cooke – (Deputy Mayor)
#Cllr A J C Fyson
*Cllr B T Harriss
*Cllr F J Hawke
*Cllr R M Lyon – (Town Mayor)
*Cllr R F Rendle

Observers: Cllr T de Galleani

Also in attendance 7 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

*Denotes attendance

#Denotes apology for absence

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were none.

2. BT PAYPHONE REMOVAL IN DARTMOUTH.

Details of the consultation concerning the proposed removal of 2 BT telephone boxes in Dartmouth seeking the Town Council's views on adopting the telephone boxes, had been circulated to members. It was noted that the telephone box in Old Mill Lane had made 10 calls in the last year and the box at Lower Broad Park had made 4. Comments to South Hams District Council were required by 28th October 2016. Members were content for the two telephone boxes to be removed.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke

Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

Recommended: That the Town Council does not adopt the 2 BT telephone boxes proposed for removal.

DARTMOUTH MARKET

3. TRADERS PARKING.

Cllr Barnes told the meeting that the Market Working Group had met with Market traders and shop keepers representatives on 27th September and several issues had been raised.

The Market traders wished to have allocated spaces in the car park when the Market took place. The need for a loading and unloading space was also identified. It was suggested by Market traders present at the meeting that the car parking spaces adjacent to Market Street be used for traders parking and the outside Market be moved across the car park area to allow this.

It was agreed that the working group would look at loading bays and chevron parking adjacent to Market Street.

4. NO SMOKING IN THE MARKET.

Members discussed the possible banning of smoking in the Market. Cllr Coles told the meeting that the Market Working Group would investigate the legalities of this. It was thought that signage asking the public not to smoke would reduce the problem.

Proposed: Cllr R F Rendle

Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke

Recommended: That “No Smoking” signs be placed around the Market.

5. PARKING METERS FOR THE MARKET SQUARE.

Cllr Rendle stated that he believed that if the Town Council took away the opportunity for residents to park in the Market Square free of charge it would blight the houses in the area that did not have parking. He wholeheartedly disagreed with charging for parking in the Market Square in the strongest possible terms.

Cllr Barnes proposed residents parking from 16.30 overnight to 09.30, with pay and display parking with 2 hour slots between to increase parking for shoppers in the Town; Cllr Hawke agreed.

Cllr Lyon told the meeting that the Town Council needed to meet the costs of the business rates (£7,260.00 per annum) paid for the Market Car Park area.

It was suggested that residents could pay for a parking permit for the year and the Chairman explained that parking in the Town would be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan group.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke

Seconded: Cllr R M Lyon

Recommended: That charging for parking in the Market Square Car Park be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan for Dartmouth.

6. A CO-OPERATIVE OF TRADERS TO RUN THE MARKET.

Cllr Barnes explained that a co-operative of traders to take over the management of the Market had been one of the ideas explored at the meeting with traders on 27th September 2016. Stevie Rogers told the meeting that the traders were looking for a way forward to invigorate the Market and she had spoken to the National Market Traders Federation on this matter. The NMTF had expressed the view that this would not work in Dartmouth because of the mix of shopkeepers and Market Traders. Stevie Rogers also told the meeting that locally the most successful markets were food orientated.

Cllr Hawke showed the meeting a form used by the Farmer's Markets for traders to give contact details and details of the goods they would be selling in the next 12 months; he commended the form to the Town Council and this was passed to the Clerk.

Cllr Coles told members that she had researched co-operatives but felt that now that more effort was being put into the Market by the Working group a co-operative was not necessary. All agreed that with the extra enthusiasm shown, this should be taken forward by the Market Working Group.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr B T Harriss

Recommended: That the promotion of the Market be taken forward by the Market Working Group.

7. HOLDING A MARKET 4 DAYS A WEEK.

Members acknowledged that the current Market Supervisor was employed on a part-time basis and was only available on Tuesdays and Fridays and that this would have to be resolved if additional Markets were to become a feature. More advertising to promote the Market could be undertaken. It was noted that from May to September Markets were held on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with Emporium Markets run by Jane Willis taking place on a Saturday.

Proposed: Cllr G B F Coles
Seconded: Cllr B T Harriss

Recommended: That the Market Working Group look at how the promotion of additional Markets could be improved and advise on the necessary supervision.

8. ISSUES RAISED BY THE MARKET TENANTS AND TRADERS.

Cllr Coles had arranged to meet the Listed Buildings Officer from South Hams District Council to discuss the placing of banners in the niches on the outer Market walls. Cllr Coles was also keen to use the banner holders on the street lights along the embankment during the winter months to advertise the Market. Les Pym the Area South Street Lighting Engineer for Devon County Council had advised the Clerk that these banner holders should not be used in the winter months but Cllr Coles still wished to explore this option using low wind resistant

banners. Prices for banners and the different schemes would all need to be brought back to the Corporate Property Committee.

Mark Lobb raised concerns over whether the Classic Channel Regatta event would take place in the Market as this was a very important event for the Town; the Chairman reassured the meeting that the Town Council fully supported this event taking place in the Market. An item for a “Market Traders’ report would be added to the Corporate Property agenda for each meeting.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke

Seconded: Cllr B T Harriss

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.

8. REQUEST FOR RENT ADJUSTMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN THE MARKET SUFFERS FROM FLOODING.

The Clerk explained that she had received a request from a Market shop keeper for a refund on their rent for an occasion when the inner Market had flooded recently, this following the failure of the South West Water pumping station in the Town.

Members felt that this was not the responsibility of the Town Council and that the request should be refused. The Clerk would write to South West Water to seek their assurances that this would not happen again.