

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting

9th January 2017

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 7 members of the public, Amanda Lumley, Mayflower
400 Executive lead and 1 member of the press.

151. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Fyson declared a personal interest in agenda item 13, Dartmouth Trust new nominative trustee.

152. PRESENTATION BY AMANDA LUMLEY, MAYFLOWER 400 UK EXECUTIVE LEAD.

Amanda Lumley the Chief Executive of Destination Plymouth told the meeting that she had been leading on the Mayflower 400 project for 3 years. A new Chief Executive Charles Hackett had just been appointed and would be taking up his post shortly. The key overarching aim for Plymouth was to highlight the link with Plymouth U.S.A. and increase business investment and visitor numbers in the UK.

In November 2014 Plymouth had invited all the local authorities and Town Councils linked to Mayflower 400 to celebrate with Plymouth. Today they were in partnership with 10 UK destinations, 2 in Holland as well as the east coast of the U.S.A. The Mayflower celebrations could continue until 2030 to mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of Boston.

Plymouth had encouraged all the UK destinations to develop their own plans and the aspiration was to connect these projects and develop a national visitor trail. They would launch this to the American market in November 2017 and would be putting in a Heritage Lottery Funding bid in March 2017 for up to £5m to develop a national cultural programme.

They had received £2.25m revenue funding from Plymouth City Council and £500,000 from Visit Britain. There would also be a £1.2m bid to the Discover England fund.

Amanda Lumley told the meeting that this would be a good opportunity for Dartmouth to develop projects and enhance the Dartmouth brand which would be good for business in the Town and would increase visitor numbers and the annual tourist spend.

On 16th March 2017 Plymouth would be putting in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and would be asked for 50% matched funding. It was hoped that the other UK destinations would provide 10% match

funding for the projects they proposed. A letter giving Dartmouth's commitment would be needed to accompany the Plymouth bid.

Cllr Smith told the meeting that he thought this would be great for Dartmouth and that the Town Council should support the project. He asked Amanda Lumley if there would be an American Presidential visit to the UK for 2020; this would not be known until 2018. Amanda Lumley explained that 30,000 descendants of the Mayflower in the U.S.A. were committed to supporting the celebrations.

Cllr Allen asked if the projects were to be run completely by volunteers, as the post of Chief Executive for the Mayflower celebrations had been advertised at a salary of £90,000 per annum. Amanda Lumley explained that the Chief Executive post was funded by the University of Plymouth and other stake holders. Dartmouth's first points of contact had been Cllr Lyon and Cllr Chilcott and were currently Peter Connisbee, Marilyn Bird and Diane Lyon.

Cllr Barnes queried a recent letter which stated that the Town Council had made a commitment to the Mayflower project. Amanda Lumley explained that this had not been from Plymouth although Dartmouth had been copied in to a letter to authority Chief Executives stating that there would need to be a financial commitment to this project.

Cllr Gent asked when a decision would be received on the Heritage Lottery funding bid; this would be in June 2017. The Lottery funders were very keen to support projects with community engagement and Plymouth had also asked the Government to give support through other existing funding channels.

Cllr Harriss questioned the projected cost of the concept ship at £4.5m. Amanda Lumley explained that this was a research vessel with robot technology and though only in the development stage at present, would be an opportunity to showcase British technology.

Peter Connisbee explained that he had written the letter to which Cllr Barnes had referred; the Town Council had made a commitment to work with the other trail towns. The Dartmouth Mayflower group had a current list of projects totaling £374,000.

Cllr Hawkins asked Amanda Lumley if Plymouth could provide support for the Dartmouth Mayflower group as we were only a very small town. Amanda Lumley explained this would not be possible due to Plymouth's own work loads.

The Mayor thanked Amanda Lumley for her presentation. Support for the Mayflower 400 project in Dartmouth would be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

153. REPORTS.

Police and District and County Councillors' Reports.

Police Sergeant Ian Simons gave a report on the crime figures for Dartmouth for the month of December 2016 which were slightly down on the same period in the previous year. There had still been incidents of vandalism and antisocial behaviour in the area of the Park and Ride.

Cllr Gent would be meeting the Chairman of Youth Genesis to discuss outreach youth work in the Town and he asked Sergeant Simons for the numbers of young people involved and when these most often occurred; this was mainly at weekends by a group of 6 – 8 young people.

Cllr de Galleani asked Sergeant Simons if the Police could deal with several recent incidents of noise disturbance in the early hours of the morning.

Cllr Hawkins asked if the Police made the parents of the young people aware of the problems; Sergeant Simons confirmed that this had been done and reports made to Social Services where appropriate.

Cllr Allen enquired if there had been any resolution of the incidents of a pellet gun fired in the Warfleet area; this had not been solved but no further incidents had occurred in the last month.

Cllr Smith told the meeting that the Youth provision at Townstal Community Hall had ceased due to lack of adult support.

Cllr Fyson asked Cllr Hawkins to ensure that the bottle banks at the Park and Ride were emptied more regularly so that the incidents of young people smashing bottles were curtailed.

Inspector Chris Tapley introduced himself to the meeting. He explained that his post covered the Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, Totnes and Ivybridge areas but added that he hoped to attend more Town Council meetings in the future. He had been working on a pilot scheme in the South Hams, making young people aware of the dangers of illegal highs. Inspector Tapley was also overseeing the temporary move of the Dartmouth Police Station to the St Johns Ambulance station and he told the meeting that it was hoped that the Police would move back to the ground floor of the new building in Mayors Avenue.

Cllr Hawkins reported that the Devon County Council Traffic Regulation Order advertised in November and December 2016 had caused concerns in Dartmouth and he and Neil Oxton had met with residents at County Hall. The main area of concern was the area at the south end of Coronation Park which had been included in the traffic order to alleviate summer blockages in the Higher Ferry queue. A restriction was now planned between 3 and 6pm from 1st April to 30th September.

Cllr Hawkins hoped to call a meeting to discuss traffic calming in Victoria Road particularly to discuss the problem of vehicles mounting the curbs.

Cllr Hawkins had held a meeting with residents of Bayards Cove and Dartmouth Green Partnerships to discuss how to enhance the floral displays; a further meeting would be held on 1st February 2017.

Cllr Gent asked Cllr Hawkins if bollards could be considered to prevent parking on the pavement in Victoria Road as this had been happening even while paving replacement works were taking place; Cllr Hawkins agreed that this was an option.

Cllr Smith asked Cllr Hawkins if he supported the St Ives ban on second homes on new build housing. Cllr Hawkins whole heartedly

agreed with this but added that it could not be imposed retrospectively on developments such as West Dart.

Cllr Allen told the meeting that he had read the South Hams District Council Strategic Asset review and noted that it had identified assets which were under performing or were in need of excessive maintenance. He asked Cllr Hawkins if the 3 Dartmouth District Councillors had contributed to the assessment of the transfer of assets to Dartmouth Town Council. Cllr Hawkins confirmed that the District Councillors had been consulted.

Cllr Rendle complimented the Devon County Council Traffic Regulation Order which was well thought out and he asked if this included the summer restrictions for parking on the embankment to be extended to all year. Cllr Hawkins replied that this had not been included in the current order.

Cllr Harriss asked Cllr Hawkins if the District Council could stop local shops from blocking the pavements with rubbish. Cllr Hawkins would visit the shops concerned.

Cllr Harriss asked why the charges at the new indoor pool had increased and why there was now a charge to park at the pool. Cllr Hawkins explained that the charging policy was the responsibility of Fusion Leisure and multiple swim discount tickets were available.

Cllr Barnes asked Cllr Hawkins if he agreed that the ownership of the Lower Ferry and the car parks should be passed back to the Town Council with the transfer of assets currently proposed and he asked Cllr Hawkins to push for this. Cllr Hawkins agreed that all the District Council assets in Dartmouth should be returned to the Town.

154. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

There were none.

155. URGENT BUSINESS.

There was none.

156. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.

Members reviewed the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5th December 2016 and the Special Town Council meeting held on 20th December 2016.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr RW I Cooke

Resolved: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5th December 2016, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

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

Resolved: That the minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on 20th December 2016, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

157. CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) A letter had been received from South Hams District Council asking for additional outlets for the blue and clear recycling sacks and requesting that names and postcodes be taken from members of the public collecting recycling sacks from the Town Council offices. The Clerk had replied that this would not be feasible.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke
Seconded: Cllr B T Harriss

Resolved: That the Town Council supports the Clerk's actions in declining to take details from members of the public collecting recycling sacks.

- b) An email request had been received from the Townstal Community Partnership asking if the Town Council would support 2 further community skip days in March and September 2017. This would be considered by the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.
- c) A copy of the Dartmouth Caring Winter Newsletter had been received and was available for members to view in the Council offices.

158. REPORTS.

a) Personnel Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 7th December 2016 were reviewed. Confidential minute 2/16 was taken in committee at the end of the meeting,

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr T de Galleani

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 7th December 2016, be received, approved and adopted.

b) Planning Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 14th December 2016 were reviewed.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent

Seconded: Cllr P F Allen

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 14th December 2016, be received, approved and adopted.

159. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

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

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Resolved: That the Clerk's actions in paying accounts totaling £26,675.91 for the month of December 2016 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be endorsed.

160. REPORTS.

Representatives on Public Bodies and Associations.

Cllr Gent reported that the Dartmouth and District Chamber of Trade would be holding a meeting at Dartmouth Yacht Club on 17th January 2017 from 6pm.

Cllr de Galleani reported that Dartmouth Green Partnerships had met with residents of Bayards Cove to discuss the floral displays.

Cllr Rendle had attended the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority AGM, which had been attended by the new Harbour Master who started work on 9th January 2017.

Cllr Hawke reported that the new Tourist Information Centre Directors had held 3 meetings so far to discuss items such as the way forward and the volunteers. He hoped that the Town Council would consider the future of the TIC building when devolved services were discussed, as the ownership of the building would affect their future budgeting. Cllr Hawke added that the new directors had seen the accounts but had raised some concerns and these had been returned to the accountant for revision. Cllr Hawke would bring a copy of the final accounts to a future Finance Committee meeting.

161. NEW NOMINATIVE TRUSTEE FOR THE DARTMOUTH TRUST.

Following Cllr Allen's request to step down as the Town Council's nominative Trustee on the Dartmouth Trust, members considered the election of a new nominative Trustee to the Dartmouth Trust.

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

Resolved: That Cllr R F Rendle be elected as the Town Council's nominative Trustee to the Dartmouth Trust.

162. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.

Cllr Allen asked the Mayor if the letter from the project director of the Mayflower 400 group would be replied to.

The Mayor replied that this would be considered by the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

Cllr Smith asked the Mayor if the Town Council would formally support St Ives Council in their call for making a ban on new build homes as second homes.

Through the Mayor Cllr Fyson explained that it was not possible to impose this ban retrospectively to the West Dart development.

Cllr Rendle added that Dartmouth's problem was the allocation of social housing. This should be allocated to local families in work; a policy change was needed.

This item would be added to the agenda for the February Full Council meeting.

Cllr Barnes asked why the item on Devolved Services had been scheduled to be discussed in committee. The Clerk explained that members would need to discuss items on staff costs in committee.

Proposed: Cllr R F Rendle
Seconded: Cllr A J C Fyson

Resolved: That the item on Devolved Services be discussed in public.

163. DEVOLVED SERVICES - TRANSFER OF ASSETS FROM SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Mayor explained that the Town Council had received a formal offer from South Hams District Council of £150,000 pro rata over 5 years. This was a very important subject for members to consider as control over Dartmouth's green spaces could be passed to external contractors. The Tourist Information Centre building had been offered as part of the package and the transfer of all the assets would be very good for the Town.

Cllr Smith told the meeting that he believed that should the Council take this on, it would leave a legacy of debt for future Councils and the Town Council should only consider this if the District Council would pass over the Lower Ferry or Mayors Avenue car park.

Cllr Hawke asked members to have a full and final discussion on this and he asked for a recorded vote to be taken. He detailed the assets to be taken over and added that the District Council would not hand over the Lower Ferry or Mayors Avenue car park. He believed that the Town Council should accept the District Council's offer of £150,000 decreasing over 5 years and he hoped that members would support a positive recommendation.

Cllr Fyson told the meeting that he supported the transfer in principle but realised that a significant proportion of the Town Council did not wish to take this on now. He believed that there could be an option to delay, with a chance to seek consultants to produce an independent report; this cost to be included in the precept for 2017/2018.

Cllr Thompson still had concerns over the long term costs of the transfer and that the precept would have to increase year on year.

Cllr de Galleani explained that there was a need to move quickly because the District Council were cutting back and Dartmouth, as a tourist town, needed to be kept beautiful and clean. The District Council would be putting all their gardening out to tender and these were usually 3 or 5 year contracts, so this might be the last chance to take control of the green spaces in the Town.

Cllr Gent told the meeting that Councillors always had to make difficult decisions that would affect future Councils, or no decision would be for more than 4 years. This decision could keep slipping and he believed the Town Council should make a decision now.

Cllr Rendle explained that all local government funding was decreasing and the District Council did not have money to spend because of central government cut backs. He was worried about the scale of the areas that the Town Council was proposing to take on and had counted 370 wooden seats in the Town. He felt that the transfer of assets should take place right across the district and he felt that reluctantly he would have to vote against taking this on.

Cllr Allen reiterated his previous statements that this should not be rushed and the details should be talked through.

Cllr Harriss agreed with Cllr de Galleani that this opportunity would be lost if it was not taken up now.

Cllr de Galleani asked the Clerk if other Councils had taken on these services. The Clerk explained that many local Councils around the country had taken on additional services but this was not the case in the South Hams.

Proposed: Cllr P F Allen

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Resolved: That Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow the meeting to continue after 9.30 pm.

Cllr Fyson reminded the meeting that Central Government had decided that they would defer proposals to cap the precepts set by town and parish councils. While this would be kept under review all

Town and Parish councils would be expected to clearly demonstrate restraint when setting increases, except where these were not a direct result of taking on additional responsibilities, such as the Town Council were proposing.

Cllr de Galleani proposed that the Town Council accept the offer of £150,000 over five years and this was seconded by Cllr Coles. Cllr Hawke proposed an amendment that was seconded by Cllr Gent that the Town Council accept the District Council's offer for £150,000 over 5 year plus the £42,000 section 106 monies from Coronation Park, listing the freehold transfer of the TIC Building, Coronation Park, the Royal Avenue Gardens and toilets and the Castle Estate. Also that the Town Council though a group under Cllr Barnes produce a substantive business plan in the next 3 – 4 weeks or as soon as possible.

There was a further amendment which became the substantive resolution:-

Proposed: Cllr R F Rendle

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Resolved: That the Town Council accepts the offer in principle from South Hams District Council of £150,000 in year 1 (£120,000 in year 2, £90,000 in year 3, £60,000 in year 4 and £30,000 in year 5) plus the balance of Section 106 monies from Coronation Park for the freehold transfer of Coronation Park, the Royal Avenue Gardens (including the toilets and greenhouse site) and the Castle Estate. That the Town Council wishes to firm up the details through negotiations with the District Council over the next 6 months, taking advice from outside sources or whatever maybe needed to clarify all the implications. The Town Council will meet to agree the final position when all the details are known.

For the motion

**Cllr Baillie
Cllr Barnes
Cllr Cooke
Cllr de Galleani
Cllr Fyson
Cllr Gent
Cllr Harriss
Cllr Hawke
Cllr Lyon
Cllr Rendle
Cllr Thompson**

Against

**Cllr Allen
Cllr Coles
Cllr Smith**

Abstentions

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

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.

164. TO CONSIDER HALF OR COMPLETE RE-PLASTERING OF THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND A QUOTATION FOR THESE WORKS.

The Mayor told the meeting that the Listed Buildings officer from South Hams District Council had suggested that while the refurbishment works were taking place the Town Council should consider completely re-plastering the Council Chamber rather than just making good. Members considered of 3 quotations for different schemes for the re-plastering of the Council Chamber.

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

Resolved: That quotation 3 for £3,640.00 for the complete re-plastering of the Council Chamber be accepted.

165. QUOTATIONS FOR ELECTRICAL WORK TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Members considered 3 quotations for a new lighting scheme and re-wiring for the Council Chamber.

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

Resolved: That quotation 3 for £4,000 to include 4 storage heaters be accepted.

166. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – TO AUTHORISE PAYMENT FOR THE 2016 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND THEIR TAKING DOWN.

The Clerk informed members that as the Town had been fortunate to have additional lights bought through fund raising by the “Snow Ball” group this had led to an increase in the cost of erecting and taking down the lights in the Town. Although the cost of putting up the lights would be within budget, there would be an additional cost of approximately £3,000 to take the Christmas lights down.

Members agreed that this would be considered at the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

167. CONFIDENTIAL PERSONNEL MINUTE 2/16 FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD ON 7th DECEMBER 2016.

Cllr Hawke told the meeting that the salary quoted on the confidential minute was incorrect, the grade stated was correct and the salary should be £20,138 (not £20,661).

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr T de Galleani

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 7th December 2016, as amended, be received, approved and adopted.