

Present

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

*Cllr M Baillie
*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)

*Denotes attendance
#Denotes apology for absence

Observers: Cllr D M Gent

Also in attendance 2 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were none.

2. CORRESPONDENCE.

An email had been received from Candlelit Dartmouth giving dates for the event in 2017 and requesting use of the Market and Market car park on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th November 2017. Members noted the dates and referred this to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

3. MARKET –

a) Signs for the exterior recesses.

Following research by Stevie Rogers into the history of Dartmouth Market, a quotation had been received for the production of removable

panels (£350 to £400 per panel) to be hung in the outside recesses of the Market walls.

Cllr Coles reported that the Listed Buildings officer from South Hams District Council had commented that these panels would not be seen until visitors were already at the Market and he had suggested that an information board at the Royal Avenue Gardens might be of more use. Cllr Hawke added that at a meeting with traders on 20th January 2017 a map of the Town placed in the Royal Avenue Gardens had also been mentioned.

Proposed: Cllr G B F Coles

Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

Recommended: That the Town Council investigate the cost of the production and placement of a Town Map in the Royal Avenue Gardens.

b) Damp-proofing of the interior of the vacant unit in the centre building.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the vacant unit in the Market formerly known as The Shoe Box was in need of “tanking” to remedy a damp problem.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke

Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

Recommended: That the Clerk seek quotations for tanking the vacant Market Unit.

5. GUILDHALL.

a) Update on improvements.

A written report from the Mayor on the Guildhall refurbishments had been laid round the table.

The work on the Council Chamber was proceeding well and would be completed in good time for Mayor Making. The maintenance manager was leading the Town Council staff and the sub-contractors superbly and when the work was completed, it would be a wonderful asset to the Guildhall for the future. The costs to complete should be £24,425. Refurbishment of the Mayor’s parlour, toilet and kitchenette, plus some flooring and carpeting also required would be £18,533.

The Mayor informed members that portable lighting would be purchased that could be used in the Council Chamber for weddings and other events and in the Ballroom, at an approximate cost of £2,500.

Therefore the total would be £45,488.00 from the 2016/2017 budget of £96,612.94, leaving some £50,000 to move to the next financial year.

b) Display of Regalia.

Members discussed a purpose built display cabinet for the Council Chamber for the display of the Town's Regalia. The Chairman told the meeting that he did not feel that there was a need to rush to do this; the Town Council should wait until the room was completed and then make a decision. Cllr Coles commented that armoured glass doors would be needed to protect the Regalia and Cllr Baillie suggested that other items such as those displayed in the corridor adjacent to the Mayor's Parlour could be put on display in the Chamber.

c) Update on repairs to Guildhall roof.

The Clerk told the meeting that previously authorised works to repair the Guildhall roof were scheduled to take place in March 2017; this would mean scaffolding would be in place on the building for some weeks.

6. IVY LANE.

A report from the Mayor on proposals for Ivy Lane had been laid round the table together with drawings from Cllr Gent.

Following discussions with Youth Genesis, the Food Bank and others, the Mayor suggested that the Town Council consider the following:

moving the Coffee Bar in the Main Hall, part to the Kitchen area and part to the East Side by the Entrance door, also the removal of the Stage completely. This would enable the Hall to be used for sports such as Badminton again.

The Upstairs area that used to be a Recording Studio was unused at present. The original idea had been to resurrect this but it would be costly. A team made up of Matt Pink and Simon Phelps had offered to do this at their own cost, with no financial input from the Town Council. It would provide a full recording studio and band practice area that could bring an income in for the Town Council. Already a few bands had shown interest and it was another good addition to Dartmouth's facilities and it was believed that bands from some distance would want to record here. The Mayor reported that the property needed to have a greater use and income.

Cllr Gent explained that the young people using Ivy Lane would like to use the main room for Basketball and added that the equipment left in the recording studio by Devon County Council was 75% obsolete or not working.

Members agreed the recording studio idea was ideal for the premises but an agreement in writing over the use of private individual's recording equipment would be needed.

The Guildhall maintenance staff would carry out these works when the Council Chamber was complete.

Proposed: Cllr B T Harriss

Seconded: Cllr G B F Coles

Recommended: That the Ivy Lane Centre have alterations made to the main hall as soon as practicable and the recording studio be updated for future use at no cost to the Town Council.

7. COMMUNITY ORCHARD.

a) Discussion of the registration of the Orchard as an asset of Community Value.

Peter Goldstraw from the Friends of the Community Orchard told the meeting that the Friends group wished to have the Orchard registered as an Asset of Community Value in order to protect it and to gain recognition of their work. The main impact of the Friends group had been Community Involvement and it had had a beneficial impact on access and biodiversity.

Cllr Fyson told the meeting that the Town Council wanted to keep the Orchard as an effective green space and he read from an email that he had sent to the Chairman on this matter.

“This land is certainly a community asset in its present configuration, but that is not say it could not be a greater asset for a larger proportion of the community or for a more pressing purpose if it was altered in some way - while at the same time satisfactorily retaining its valuable 'green corridor' function.

We have always made clear that the Town Council may, given the necessary finance, seek to change parts of this space while being sure to maintain its general ecological role in the long term”.

Cllr Fyson continued and explained that the Neighbourhood Plan Survey had received many suggestions for the use of the Community Orchard.

Proposed: Cllr G B F Coles

Seconded: Cllr M Baillie

Recommended: That the Town Council comment to South Hams District Council on the application to register the Community Orchard as an asset of Community Value, that it can see no reason why this registration is required.

b) Proposed Shelter and information point.

Details of a proposed shelter and information point had been circulated to members. Peter Shaw explained that it was intended to be discreet.

Following a question from Cllr Baillie, he told the meeting that the Friends had consulted the local Police officers as to whether this shelter would cause a problem of use by young people and anti-social behaviour but the Police had confirmed that there was no history of this kind in the Orchard.

The Friends of the Community Orchard had been advised not to put seating in the shelter.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke

Seconded: Cllr A J C Fyson

Recommended: That the Town Council support the addition of a shelter in the Orchard by the Friends of the Community Orchard, on condition that there was no cost to the Town Council but note that the Friends may come back to the Town Council to make an application for assistance should they not be able to meet the financial costs.

8. BUTTERWALK

The Clerk informed the meeting that a listed building application was required for the flat roof repairs at the rear of the Butterwalk and this had now been sent to South Hams District Council.

9. BOATFLOAT –

a) Amendment to the Boatfloat regulations to prohibit sleeping on vessels whilst in the Boatfloat.

The Clerk asked member to consider a new regulation for the Boatfloat to prohibit the owners of vessels sleeping on the boats whilst in the Boatfloat.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr A J C Fyson

Recommended: That a new Boatfloat regulation be added to prohibit the owners of vessels sleeping on the boats whilst in the Boatfloat.

b) Boatfloat gates.

The Clerk reported that South Hams District Council hoped to take the Boatfloat gates away for repairs for a month from the middle of February 2017. Members asked the Clerk to write to the District Council to inform them that this would be at their own risk.

10. CEMETERY.

The Chairman told the meeting that the grounds maintenance of Longcross Cemetery had improved but that there was still a requirement to clear the overgrown areas and the war graves that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had asked to be cleared 2 years previously for access.

The Town Clerk would ask the Contractor for a price to clear these 2 graves and if reasonable would arrange for the work to take place as soon as possible.

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

Recommended: That the Clerk seek a price to clear the 2 war graves and arrange for the work to take place as soon as possible.