

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting**

**6<sup>th</sup> February 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 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 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 5 members of the public, Francois Smit from Fusion Leisure and 1 member of the press.

**175. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Smith declared a personal interest in agenda item 3 – presentation by Fusion Leisure.

Cllr Pritchard declared a personal interest in agenda item 9 – Corporate Property Minutes of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 re the Community Orchard.

Cllr Cole declared a personal interest in agenda item 15 – a loan facility for Dartmouth and District Guide Ltd.

Cllr Hawke declared a personal interest in agenda item 15 – a loan facility for Dartmouth and District Guide Ltd.

Cllr Gent declared a personal interest in agenda item 20 – Expressions of interest in the vacant unit in Dartmouth Market.

Cllr Fyson declared a personal interest in agenda item 20 – Expressions of interest in the vacant unit in Dartmouth Market.

**176. PRESENTATION BY FRANCOIS SMIT - FUSION LEISURE.**

Francois Smit, Fusion Leisure’s Sports and Partnerships Group Manager gave a presentation on Fusion Leisure, the principles of their offer and their key priorities in Dartmouth.

He explained that Fusion Leisure was a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee, created to promote healthy lifestyles and encourage participation in sport and physical activity. They had a voluntary board consisting of professional people committed to community services. All incoming resources were put to developing, extending and improving their services.

Fusion had been established in April 2000 and worked in diverse geographical and socio-economic environments. They had formed long-term partnerships with local communities and local stakeholders and Mr Smit went on to give details of their current clients and the locations they covered.

Fusion's current portfolio included:-

55 swimming pools (incl. 50m indoor; wave; flumes; movable floors & booms; outdoor; diving etc.)

30 sports halls

65 health and fitness centres

an ice rink

an 18 hole golf course

2 outdoor activity venues

indoor tennis facilities

4 indoor bowls centres

5 athletics stadia

public halls and community arts venues.

They also provided sports development services and public health services.

Mr Smit explained that Fusion had a vision to be the first choice leisure organisation, delivering a new standard in healthy active leisure. Their mission was to provide inclusive and accessible sport and leisure for health, vitality and wellbeing.

Their core values were putting the customer first, making things happen and only wanting the best.

Fusion's key priorities in Dartmouth included managing the smooth transfer of staff to Fusion, minimising disruption to customers and business, the implementation of Fusion's policies and procedures and the recruitment of new staff to fill any vacancies.

They were working to establish new relationships with customers, local stakeholders and with the Pool Trust in establishing pricing for the new pool. They had recently managed the opening and launch of the indoor pool and were liaising with local schools and clubs.

Fusion's next steps would be to develop the use of the indoor pool and to create the new link building and enhanced reception/foyer possibly with a café area.

They were developing the sports hall, gym and class programme and hoped to increase group exercise classes from 13 to 50 per week.

Brand new spinning bikes had been ordered and they were introducing wet and dry inflatables.

Mr Smit concluded the presentation by stating that Fusion was delighted to be working in Devon and they recognised the need for local solutions. They were willing to invest time and resource, to be flexible and innovative, were keen to make a difference and were determined to be a partner to be proud of.

Cllr Smith asked if Fusion Leisure were happy with the footfall to date. Mr Smit explained that they would always want more but recognized that there would be a slow start. Cllr Smith asked if their rainy day fund could be used to provide concessionary rates for low income families. Mr Smit explained that they had to charge vat on the pool prices but these would be reviewed in April 2017. Following a further question by Cllr Smith, Mr Smit stated that the indoor pool would no more be affected by the outdoor pool opening in the summer as many people already go to the beach in good weather.

Cllr Springett raised concerns over the website, which he believed needed pictures of the indoor pool opening and which still had the Christmas opening times. There was a statement dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016 that Fusion was working to enable online booking; this should be updated. Cllr Springett suggested that there should be a concessionary rate for senior citizens and low income families. It was possible to book an adult swim pass at Kingsbridge for use in all 3 of the pools but not in Dartmouth. Mr Smit replied that all the Fusion pricing would be brought to a consistent level at the next review.

Cllr de Galleani asked why senior citizens could not buy a pass for a month or year just for use of the pool and would Fusion be providing swimming lessons beyond grade 4.

Mr Smit explained that Fusion were struggling to recruit swimming teachers but would strive to increase this provision as soon as possible.

Cllr Fyson asked if Fusion had a policy re the employment of local people. Mr Smit confirmed that their policy had always been to recruit local people and the workforce would double over the next few years; he believed the current workforce were 70% local.

The Mayor thanked Mr Smit for attending and for his informative presentation.

## 177. **REPORTS.**

### Police and District and County Councillors' Reports.

There were no police representatives present at the meeting.

In his absence Cllr Hawkins report was laid round the table. Cllr Hawkins had been working with residents and District Council officers concerning the proposals for changes to the permits for Mayors Avenue car park. He had asked residents and anyone concerned to contact Officers at South Hams District Council over the changes and he had arranged a meeting on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 to discuss this with the Officers.

#### Devon County Traffic Regulations Order

Cllr Hawkins had attended a very successful meeting at County Hall with concerned residents over this order, items that were not contentious would proceed in April, the remainder would come to the Devon County Council Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2017. Cllr Hawkins believed that what will be proposed there will have included residents' concerns and most would be happy with the changes.

#### Hospital and Social Service Care

Cllr Hawkins had met with Simon Tapley from the Hospital Trust and Pierre Landell Mills from the Patient Participation Group (PPG) over our concerns that when the hospital was closed would all the promised services be in place. Cllr Hawkins had received assurances that they were not able to close the hospital until all was in place. He was also concerned over the provision of services to those in the community; he believed this would be the first of many meetings.

#### Victoria Road

Cllr Hawkins was still trying to get a meeting of County Council officers concerning this, but it might now have to wait until after May. Cllr Hawkins wished to raise the issue of traffic calming and the possibility of a 20 mile speed limit.

### Castle Estate

Cllr Hawkins had held two positive meetings with District Council officers, together with Stevie Rodgers of Dartmouth Green Partnerships and Richard Webb, concerning the hydrangea beds. The area in question had been cleared and the soil would soon be prepared for replanting in the spring. Cllr Hawkins had offered his South Hams District Council fund to pay for the new plants.

### Bayard's Cove

Cllr Hawkins had attended a number of meetings with residents, Dartmouth Green Partnerships and The Mayor over plans to improve this area, both in the short term and longer, in readiness for Mayflower 400.

New hanging basket pedestals, repainting of benches, lamps and new bins are all being looked at for this summer.

Cllr Bastone told the meeting that he had attended the South Hams District Council executive meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017, the agenda for which had run to 424 pages.

This had included the recommendations for the budget proposals for 2017/2018, which would go on to their next Full Council meeting, and included a £5.00 increase in Council tax and car parking charges being increased by 2%.

The Capital budget programme for 2017/2018 would be £1,485,000 and included the next phase of Admiral's Court.

The District Council had decided not to go ahead with the Local Authority Controlled Company but would continue to investigate other ways of using this facility.

As part of such a development strategy for South Hams District Council, a working group would be formed to consider income generation.

The District Council had also adopted another drone policy which had been refined and made simpler.

A new Emergency Response Plan had been approved by the District Council, as had a strategy for ICT. Funds had been allocated from Section 106 monies for a green travel scheme in Totnes and the

District Council had approved further discussion of the asset transfer to Dartmouth Town Council.

Cllr Smith asked about the status of the planning application on land adjoining Admirals Court which belonged to the Raleigh Estate and which included some social housing. Cllr Bastone replied that as yet no application had been received by the District Council.

Cllr Smith told the meeting that County Councillor Jonathan Hawkins had stated that when Dartmouth Hospital closed the Riverview facility would open but the staff at Dartmouth Hospital had been given 6 weeks' notice and Riverview was nowhere near ready.

Cllr Fyson asked if South Hams District Council had set a timetable for the asset transfer to the Town Council. Cllr Bastone replied that there was no timescale set; this had been delegated to officers and the Leader of the District Council, Cllr John Tucker.

**178. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

Mr Froude the owner of the Anchorstone Café on Coronation Park told the meeting that he was hoping to install 3 large umbrellas, similar in design to those at the George and Dragon Public House, over half of the outside seating area at the Anchorstone Café. This would provide a flexible solution which could be taken down when not required. These umbrellas would be fixed by concrete weights or into sockets flush with the ground. Members felt that fixed sockets in the ground would prove less of a hazard.

**179. URGENT BUSINESS.**

There was none.

## **180. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.**

Members reviewed the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and the Special Town Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

*Amendment Minute 163 – page 159 (second line) remove the word “not”.*

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**

**Seconded: Cllr B T Harriss**

**Resolved: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017, as amended, be confirmed and signed as a true record.**

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**

**Seconded: Cllr A J C Fyson**

**Resolved: That the minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017, be confirmed and signed as a true record.**

## **181. CORRESPONDENCE.**

- a) A copy of the Youth Genesis newsletter for spring 2017 had been received and was available for members to view in the Council offices.
- b) An email had been received from the Devon Countryside Access Forum seeking new members; details were available from the Council offices.
- c) An invitation to attend a CPRE presentation on New Housing and the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan at the Watermark Centre Ivybridge on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 from 2 – 4.30pm had been received. Places could be reserved through the Town Council offices.
- d) A letter had been received from the Dartmouth Food Festival for use of the Market, Market car park, community corner and Guildhall for the Food Festival events between 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2017. It was noted that the Food Festival organisers had requested use of the Royal

- Avenue Gardens from South Hams District Council. This would be considered by the next meeting of the Corporate Property Committee.
- e) An email had been received from Candlelit Dartmouth requesting a reduced rate for hire of the Market for their event in 2017. This would also be considered by the next meeting of the Corporate Property Committee.
  - f) An email from the owners of the Anchorstone Café at Coronation Park re the placement of three large umbrellas to cover their outside seating area had been received. This had already been approved by South Hams District Council officers and members noted that this would not require planning permission.

## **182. REPORTS.**

### a) Planning Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were reviewed.

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**

**Seconded: Cllr B T Harriss**

**Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017, be received, approved and adopted.**

### b) Finance Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were reviewed. Members noted that Cllr Fyson had drafted a letter (circulated at the meeting) of reply to the Mayflower 400 project director which would be sent from the Town Council offices and signed by the Clerk.

**Proposed: Cllr A J C Fyson**

**Seconded: Cllr R Springett**

**Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017, be received, approved and adopted.**

c) General Purposes Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were reviewed.

**Proposed: Cllr T de Galleani**

**Seconded: Cllr D M Gent**

**Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017, be received, approved and adopted.**

d) Corporate Property Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 were reviewed.

Cllr Hawke told the meeting that following the resignation of Cllr Barnes another member was needed on the Market Working Group; members agreed that Cllr Thompson should join the Market Working Group.

Members also clarified that the shelter to be put up in the Community Orchard by the Friends of the Community Orchard would become the property of the Town Council. Cllr Thompson told the meeting that the use of the new shelter in the Orchard by young people would need to be monitored.

*Amendment minute 5b) remove Cllr Coles comment concerning the armoured glass doors.*

**Proposed: Cllr R Springett**

**Seconded: Cllr A J C Fyson**

**Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017, as amended, be received, approved and adopted.**

**183. FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

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

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**  
**Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke**

**Resolved: That the Clerk's actions in paying accounts totaling £55,737.02 for the month of January 2017 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be endorsed.**

**184. DEEDS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL.**

**Proposed: Cllr R Springett**  
**Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke**

**Resolved: That Deeds of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial be issued in respect of Grave No. J 27 at Longcross Cemetery, Dartmouth and the Town Mayor (Councillor R M Lyon) and Deputy Mayor (Councillor R W I Cooke) be authorized to sign the Documents in accordance with terms contained in Minute No. 225 (3) 1975/6.**

**185. REPORTS.**

Representatives on Public Bodies and Associations.

Cllr de Galleani reported that Dartmouth Green Partnerships had replaced the magnolia in Coronation Park at a cost of £1,200. They had also met with residents of Bayards Cove to discuss new stanchions and hanging baskets to match the rest of the town. Members of Dartmouth Green Partnerships had met with officers of South Hams District Council at the Castle Estate and they would be replanting the hydrangea garden once this had been weeded by the District Council.

Dartmouth Green Partnerships representatives had met with Penny Woollams, the Town Council's tree officer, at the Community

Orchard and concerns were raised about the amount of brambles that had been cut down; they felt it was looking too neat and tidy.

The acacia trees on the embankment were not doing well and would need to be replaced at some point. There would be another rose pruning class held in the Royal Avenue Gardens in the near future which would be advertised at the site.

Following a question from Cllr Hawke, Cllr de Galleani reported that the District Council had been pollarding trees in the town.

Cllr Fyson reported that the Dartmouth and Kingswear Society would be holding their Annual Public Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7.30pm at the Flavel. They would be discussing the state of the footways in the town, the need for maintenance and weeding and the controversial issue of remodeling some of the footways.

Cllr Springett reported that he had attended a meeting of the Townstal Community Partnership on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 and he noted their gratitude for the skips to be provided by the Town Council at dates to be confirmed. He also reported that the funding for the Townstal Community Partnership Coordinator ran out in April 2017.

Cllr Gent reported that the Patient Participation Group had discussed the move of the doctors' surgery to Riverview, which it was hoped would happen as quickly as possible. The move would include Dartmouth Caring, an optician and pharmacy. Cathy Congdon the practice manager was retiring and a replacement had been appointed.

Cllr Gent also reported that as Jonathan Oliverio from Youth Genesis was working on a project in East Devon, Michelle Fascione was now running the Ivy Lane Youth provision.

Cllr Hawke told the meeting that he was concerned that, following the closure of Dartmouth Hospital and the smaller provision of beds at Riverview, patients from Dartmouth would be cared for much further from their homes. Cllr Smith confirmed that there would be 6 beds at Riverview which would be sufficient for the number of Dartmouth residents currently cared for at Dartmouth Hospital.

Cllr Gent stated that more public transport would be needed once the Hospital and Surgery had moved and added that the freehold of the GP surgery belonged to the doctors; its move could not be influenced.

Cllr Pritchard told the meeting that the Town Council had a duty to monitor the situation concerning Riverview and she raised concerns that some patients might be sent home without the correct care package in place. There appeared to be little or no plans or provision for training of the extra care staff required and she urged members to scrutinize the situation as time went on. Cllr Gent told members that the Clinical Care Group was recruiting at present, with £1.5m set aside for staffing for Dartmouth.

Cllr Smith told the meeting that Riverview would be the future for care in Dartmouth. There was an active care policy for training by the Clinical Care Group; there would be a need to ensure that there was no delay between the closure of Dartmouth Hospital and the opening of Riverview. Cllr Coles was concerned about the loss of the minor injuries unit; the doctor's surgery would be providing minor injuries cover. Cllr Smith added that the clinic building would also be closing and their services would move to Riverview.

**186. POLICY ON THE ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING IN DARTMOUTH AND AN IMPOSITION OF A BAN ON NEW BUILD SECOND HOMES.**

Cllr Smith told the meeting that he would like the Town Council to support the view of St Ives Town Council that second homes should stop, full stop. Members felt that The Town Council needed a Social Housing policy rather than a ban on second homes. Cllr Smith reported that there were 648 second homes in Dartmouth and over 600 people in need of housing. The West Dart development would provide very little social housing.

The Mayor reported that at a recent meeting with Cllr Tucker the leader of South Hams District Council the need for rented housing had been discussed; South Hams District Council would move this forward if land was available.

Cllr Fyson told the meeting that the government was striving to promote renting homes instead of owning. He reminded members that the St Ives resolution referred only to new homes; the District Council

would look favourably on a resolution asking for a ban on second homes in new developments.

Cllr Springett commented that Dartmouth was not short of social housing but local people were “gazzumped” by others from outside the area with greater housing need. Cllr Hawke agreed that the problem was the Devon Home Choice housing scheme. He wished that Dartmouth United Charities would build more homes for local people but these people would need jobs as well.

Cllr Cooke suggested that Dartmouth United Charities be encouraged to take over the Dartmouth Hospital building and convert it for mixed housing for local people.

**Proposed: Cllr S Smith**  
**Seconded: Cllr D M Gent**

**Resolved: That this Council fully supports South Hams District Council and other providers in the provision of more rented social housing in Dartmouth.**

**Proposed: Cllr A J C Fyson**  
**Seconded: Cllr S Smith**

**Resolved: That Dartmouth Town Council encourages South Hams District Council to impose a ban on new build housing becoming second homes.**

**187. A LOAN FACILITY FOR DARTMOUTH AND DISTRICT GUIDE LTD.**

Cllr Hawke told the meeting that the new Directors of the Dartmouth and District Guide Ltd believed that the Tourist Information Centre (TIC) would break even this financial year unless there was a sudden unexpected call on funds at the early part of the season. He asked that the Town Council make available an interest free loan of up to £5,000 to be paid back within 12 months.

Cllr Fyson asked that the TIC make a full report to the Finance Committee as soon as possible; Cllr Hawke had provided this

information to Cllr Fyson and would make a report to the next meeting of the Finance Committee.

**Proposed: Cllr S Smith**

**Seconded: Cllr D M Gent**

**Resolved: That the Town Council makes available an interest free loan of up to £5,000 to Dartmouth and District Guide Ltd, to be paid back within 12 months.**

**188. THE RE-FORMING OF THE DARTMOUTH TRAFFIC AND PARKING GROUP.**

The Mayor informed the meeting that the Town Council's Traffic and Parking Group had originally been led by Paul Reach and in later times by Cllr Chilcott. He asked members if they wished to reform the group.

Cllr Springett told members that it was not possible to solve the parking problem but that the main issue was to do as best as possible with public transport and there was already a group to discuss that. Cllr Fyson asked that any conclusions were fed into the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Gent suggested that the next meeting of the Public Transport Group would consider Traffic and Parking as well.

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**

**Seconded: Cllr S Smith**

**Resolved: That the Dartmouth and District Public Transport Group consider Traffic and Parking at its next meeting.**

**189. NEW TOWN COUNCIL NOMINATIVE TRUSTEE FOR THE DARTMOUTH TRUST.**

Following Cllr Rendle's resignation, members considered the election of a new nominative Trustee to the Dartmouth Trust.

**Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke**  
**Seconded: Cllr D M Gent**

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

**190. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.**

The Clerk informed members that under the Local Government Act the Annual Parish Meeting should take place between the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 inclusive. Cllr Gent told the meeting that he believed the Town Council should encourage more public attendance at the meeting. It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017, to invite local groups to give a presentation at the meeting and that the format would be organised by the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

**191. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.**

Through the Mayor, Cllr Smith asked Cllr Fyson how the Neighbourhood Plan was progressing.

Cllr Fyson replied that things were moving slowly and he hoped to produce the analysis of the survey results shortly. He added that he believed that the Town Council should settle the asset transfer with the District Council first.

*Cllr de Galleani left the meeting at 9 p.m.*

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**

**Seconded: Cllr S Smith**

**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.**

**192. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN A VACANT UNIT IN DARTMOUTH MARKET (FORMERLY THE SHOE BOX).**

Details of 5 expressions of interest in the vacant unit in Dartmouth Market (formerly the Shoe Box) were laid round the table.

**Proposed: Cllr G B F Coles**

**Seconded: Cllr R Springett**

**Resolved: That the Market unit (formerly the Shoe Box) be offered to Emma Stearn as a Beauticians, at an annual rental of £3,000.**