

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting

3rd April 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 D R Kelland
*Cllr I A Pritchard
*Cllr F R Pritchard-Tagg
*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 3 members of the public, and 1 member of the press.

216. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Smith declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 – Police report.

Cllr Pritchard declared a personal interest in agenda item 9 – review of Corporate Property Committee minutes, Community Orchard.

217. PRESENTATION BY TOBY RUSSELL , COMMUNITY HELIPADS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER.

Mr Russell was unable to attend the meeting and would make a presentation to the Town Council at a later date.

218. REPORTS.

Police and District and County Councillors' Reports.

Police Sergeant Iain Simons gave a report on the crime figures for Dartmouth for the month of March 2017. This included incidents attended together with the RNLi and the Coastguard. Sergeant Simons also told the meeting about recent changes to bail law. Members were concerned to hear that Dartmouth Police Station was to be sold completely, with no Police presence in the future at the Mayors Avenue site.

Cllr Smith asked if would be possible for the police to operate from a mobile police unit.

Sergeant Simons explained that all options for the police in Dartmouth were being considered.

Cllr Smith reported that there were on-going problems of anti-social behaviour around the Townstal Community Hall; Sergeant Simons told the meeting that the police were aware of this but added that all incidents should be reported.

Cllr Hawkins told the meeting that he shared members concerns regarding the closure of Dartmouth Police Station. He suggested that a possible solution might be a unit at Admirals Court or an extension on the Townstal Community Hall.

Cllr Hawkins reported that a recent Highways and Traffic Order meeting (HATOC) had voted on the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Dartmouth and he hoped that most of the residents' concerns had been answered. The closing date for a new order was imminent in order for items to be considered in May by HATOC and items should be sent to Cllr Hawkins as soon as possible.

A meeting would be held at County Hall the next day with residents of Victoria Road to discuss traffic calming issues.

Devon County Council had put £1.9m into rural roads and for their repair via their 2017/2018 budget and work at Halwell would be starting shortly.

Cllr Hawkins told the meeting that the level of central government funding for the road network was only £7.50 per person in Devon compared to £100 per person in the South East; there was also a low level of funding per pupil for schools in the South West.

As part of his District Council report Cllr Hawkins told the meeting that English Nature had gone out for a further 8 week consultation on foreshore access which would aid those campaigning for access to Lighthouse Beach in Kingswear and he urged the meeting to respond to the English Nature consultation, as Lighthouse Beach had been open to residents for generations.

Cllr Hawkins reported that the land at Seymour Drive which had recently been the subject of 2 planning applications was private land; he hoped that the Town Council would make an application on this land for it to be designated as green space.

Coronation Park had been badly churned up by vehicles following the Head of the Dart Race at the weekend and South Hams District Council officers had taken photos before and after the event so that

they could ensure that the appropriate repairs were undertaken by the event organisers.

Cllr Hawkins thanked Dartmouth Green Partnerships for all their hard work in the Royal Avenue Gardens and Coronation Park which were both looking very nice. He looked forward to the planting that would be taking place on the Castle Estate.

Cllr Allen asked Cllr Hawkins if he could ensure that the Devon County Council Civil Enforcement Officers covered all areas of the Town including Coombe Road and the entrance to the Marina as they appeared to only operate in the centre of Town. Cllr Hawkins suggested that he would arrange a walk round with enforcement officers to check which areas should be covered. Cllr Gent asked that the Enforcement Officers be reminded to issue tickets to members of the public parking on the pavements.

Cllr Hawke asked Cllr Hawkins if he could arrange for nurses and carers who were carrying out home visits to have parking permits. Cllr Hawkins thought that this was already being done but would check.

Cllr Harriss asked Cllr Hawkins when the missing bollard outside the post office sorting office in Victoria Road would be replaced. Cllr Hawkins confirmed that the work would be done as soon as possible.

Cllr Rowe's report had been laid round the table. Cllr Rowe told the meeting that she shared the Town Council's concerns over the closure of the Police Station; the Town needed proper policing. Cllr Rowe commented that healthcare and social services were also a worry with central government funding insufficient to fund these.

Cllr Rowe reported that the Local Plan presentations had been taking place; South Hams District Council had received £1.8m towards social housing schemes.

There would be a Neighbourhood Plan meeting on Wednesday 12th April at Follaton House from 1 – 3 pm.

Cllr Smith asked if South Hams District Council would support social housing providers more in the future. Cllr Rowe replied that this would be the case and the District Councillors would be taking this forward.

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

There were none.

220. URGENT BUSINESS.

There was none.

221. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.

Members reviewed the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 6th March 2017.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent

Seconded: Cllr P F Allen

Resolved: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 6th March 2017, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

222. CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) A request had been received from South Hams District Council seeking feedback from the Town Council on the designing of “community-led” tariffs for the pay and display car parks in the Town. The Operational Manager (Environment Services) Cathy Aubertin had offered to attend a future Council meeting if required. This would be referred to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee and

- would also be discussed at the next meeting of the Dartmouth and District Public Transport Group to be held later in April 2017.
- b) A letter had been received from former Mayor Maggie Roberts concerning an amount of £900 held by Dartmouth Town Council which Mrs Roberts had raised for charity in 2004. Mrs Roberts now wished the monies to be paid to Devon UK Mega 2017 Committee a not for profit organisation she was currently supporting. Members were concerned to ensure that as the money had been raised for Dartmouth it should stay in Dartmouth.

Proposed: Cllr de Galleani

Seconded: Cllr P F Allen

Resolved: That the money raised for a Dartmouth cause be kept by the Town Council for a local voluntary organisation or event.

- c) An email had been received from the estates department at Devon and Cornwall Police confirming the sale of Dartmouth Police Station and the use of the St Johns Ambulance Station as a base. The use of the Guildhall as a “drop in” facility for officers had also been requested.
- d) Notice had been received from the Land Registry Plymouth Office that South Hams District Council had applied to register Dartmouth Community Orchard as an asset of Community Value; the deadline for objections was 24th April 2017.
- e) An email request had been received that day from South Hams District Council for a Continental Market to be held over the Easter weekend (14th – 17th April 2017) in the Royal Avenue Gardens. This had previously been turned down by the Corporate Property Committee meeting of 20th March 2017. Members had concerns about the mess and damage that would be caused to the gardens and felt that this was not an appropriate use. It was noted that this event might aid the falling footfall in the Town but would be better held within the Market site.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Resolved: That the event be turned down as the Royal Avenue Gardens were an unsuitable venue.

223. REPORTS.

a) Planning Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8th March 2017 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 8th March 2017, be received, approved and adopted.

b) Personnel Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 15th March 2017 were reviewed.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr P F Allen

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 15th March 2017, be received, approved and adopted.

c) Corporate Property Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 20th March 2017 were reviewed. Cllr Allen told the meeting that he believed that the Town Council should have an official representative on the Friends of the Community Orchard.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Resolved: That the Town Council hold discussions with Senior Planning Officers on the possible development of part of the Community Orchard for units of affordable rented accommodation.

Proposed: Cllr S Smith
Seconded: Cllr G B F Coles

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 20th March 2017, as amended, be received, approved and adopted.

d) General Purposes Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 23rd March 2017 were reviewed. Cllr Hawke noted item 5 concerning a parish boundary review for Dartmouth and informed the meeting that he believed that the parish boundary should be extended to take in the proposed development at West Dartmouth. Cllr Fyson reminded the meeting that this had been previously discussed at a meeting with Stoke Fleming Councillors and was categorically refused by the members of Stoke Fleming Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr T de Galleani
Seconded: Cllr I A Pritchard

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 23rd March 2017, be received, approved and adopted.

224. 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 £43,607.89 for the month of March 2017 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be endorsed.

225. DEEDS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Resolved: That Deeds of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial be issued in respect of Grave No. D (1) 116, D (1) 117, D(1) 121, and J28 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.

226. REPORTS.

Representatives on Public Bodies and Associations.

Cllr de Galleani reported that Dartmouth Green Partnerships had finished the planting around the Coronation Boat Park with the help of cadets from Britannia Royal Naval College. The cadets had also helped to tidy the Royal Avenue Gardens and had carried out clearance work at Longcross Cemetery. The Mayor would write a letter of thanks to the Naval College for the cadets' help.

Cllr Smith reminded the meeting that Dr Sarah Wollaston would be attending a public meeting to discuss the future of health provision for Dartmouth at the Townstal Community Hall on Wednesday 12th April 2017 from 7.30 pm.

Cllr Hawke told the meeting that the new Directors of the Tourist Information Centre (T.I.C.) had been delayed in taking up their posts while waiting for their details to be processed by Companies House but they intended to report to the Town Council on a monthly basis. The T.I.C. would be open over Easter with the new manager starting on 10th April 2017.

227. AT THE REQUEST OF CLLR ALLEN - TO CONSIDER THE EFFECTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF NOT UNDERTAKING PROFESSIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT AND DUE DILIGENCE IN ANY POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF ASSETS FROM SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL TO DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL.

Cllr Allen told the meeting that he knew that all the Councillors had the good of the Town at heart and had unity of principle over devolved services but he wished to make members aware of examples where there could be future consequences for the Town Council.

Personnel:- The Town Council already spent a large percentage of its precept on wages and the effects of taking on more assets and the new staffing for this would mean that there was less to spend on other projects.

Corporate Property:- Cllr Allen believed that the budgets for the Guildhall refurbishment had shifted and he was concerned as to where the rest of the money would come from; it would take 12 months for marketing to take effect on bookings.

Finance:- Cllr Allen was also concerned with the Town Council's budgets and he read to the meeting from an email from the Chairman of Finance, who had also voiced concerns. Cllr Fyson told the meeting that these views had changed since the email was issued and he had received more information on the devolved services transfer.

General Purposes:- Cllr Allen told the meeting that it was unclear as to which committee would review the work schedules for gardening and cleaning and whether this would be agency or contract work.

Cllr Allen also warned members that there could be possible conflicts over the running of the Tourist Information Centre and he reminded the meeting that Councillors should not take sides.

Cllr Coles told the meeting that there were no issues over increasing staff costs competing with other projects as budgets had been set to cover these. She also assured the Town Council that there would be no problems concerning the Tourist Information Centre and she would

be meeting with Mark Simpson from By the Dart in the next week concerning Town Maps.

The Mayor informed members that he, together with the Deputy Mayor, Chairman of Corporate Property and Chairman of Finance had discussed taking professional advice on risk assessment and due diligence. He stressed the need to look after the Town, particularly as Dartmouth was a tourist destination and it was important to encourage repeat visits. He reminded the meeting that the Town Council as a whole had decided that the transfer of assets would be dealt with by the working group.

Cllr Fyson reminded members that they had voted against employing external consultants as the effects and consequences of the asset transfer were largely unknown. He invited Cllr Allen to join the working group and identify any shortcomings in the process.

Cllr Pritchard agreed with all that Cllr Allen had said, every Councillor had a right to know everything and all Councillors should be informed of the strategy details for moving forward. The best care would cost the best money and Cllr Pritchard believed that the Town Council could be leaving a legacy of costs for future Councillors. She told the meeting that every Councillor had a right to express their views and have them listened to.

Cllr Thomson voiced concern that the South Hams District Council monies would reduce over 5 years and then the Town Council would not be able to afford to take care of the new properties.

The Mayor assured the meeting that no decisions would be taken other than those voted on by all 16 Councillors.

Cllr Hawke told members that until the special Personnel meeting on 20th April 2017 took place it would not be clear how the Town Council would take this forward in terms of staffing which might cost £80 - £100,000. Following this the necessary equipment would have to be considered and the matter would be brought back to Full Council for a decision; all members should be working together for the benefit of Dartmouth.

Cllr Harriss told the meeting that he had complete faith in the working group to carry out the negotiations on behalf of the Town Council.

228. VILLAGE GREEN STATUS FOR LAND AT SEYMOUR DRIVE.

Cllr Smith informed the meeting that the land in question at Seymour Drive had been left as waste land considered for public use following the building of the houses in 1993. A developer had recently applied twice to build 2 houses on the land and had been turned down. The residents had not been consulted and Cllr Smith commented that he would support any move that would remove the fencing and make the land available for residents to use again.

The land had originally been owned by Midas Homes who had passed this to the next developer and it had finally been sold to the person who was trying to develop the land at present.

Cllr Gent explained that South Hams District Council Enforcement officers were keeping a watching brief on the land and would move to have the “temporary” fencing removed when it had been permanently used. He felt it would be best to go down the enforcement route first.

229. REQUEST BY DARTMOUTH MUSEUM TO CARRY OUT EXPLORATORY WORK AT THE REAR OF THE BUTTERWALK IN PREPARATION FOR THE ADDITION OF A POSSIBLE MUSEUM EXTENSION.

Members discussed a letter from Dartmouth Museum requesting permission to carry out exploratory work at the rear of the first floor of the Butterwalk, with a future extension in mind. This work had been discussed with the Listed Buildings Officer and English Heritage. It was noted that this work and the reinstatement works would be paid for by Dartmouth Museum.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr T de Galleani

Resolved: That Dartmouth Museum be allowed to carry out the exploratory work at the first floor of the Butterwalk subject to reinstatement.

230. PERSONNEL MEETING 20th APRIL 2017.

Cllr Hawke told members that as Chairman of Personnel he was seeking their permission to invite additional members of the public with specialist knowledge to a special meeting of the Personnel Committee on 20th April 2017 where staffing for the devolved services would be discussed. Members agreed that this would be beneficial and discussed a range of possible attendees.

231. JUNE FULL COUNCIL MEETING – CHANGE OF DATE.

The Clerk explained that as the dates for the close of end of year accounts and internal audit had been delayed following the change in Finance Officers, it would be necessary to hold the June Town Council meeting on 12th June 2017 in order to approve the audited accounts for 2016/2017.

Proposed: Cllr P F Allen
Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

Resolved: That the June Town Council meeting be held on 12th June 2017.

232. CO-OPTION OF CANDIDATES TO FILL TWO VACANCIES IN THE CLIFTON WARD.

Application forms from 5 candidates had been circulated to members. The Clerk explained that Mr Pope had withdrawn his candidature that day and that Mr McGowan-Scanlon was unable to attend the meeting. Mr Kelland, Mr Pritchard-Tagg and Mr Reach all gave a short presentation and answered members' questions before a ballot was taken.

Following a ballot it was confirmed that Mr David Kelland and Mr Pritchard-Tagg be co-opted as new Dartmouth Town Councillors for the Clifton Ward and each signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

233. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.

Cllr Allen asked the Mayor if he had been invited to the opening of the refurbished shelter on Coronation Park by the Old Dartmothians, as he felt it was sad that no-one from the Town Council had attended. The Mayor replied that he had not been invited but would like to have attended; he had sent a letter of thanks to the Old Dartmothians for their excellent work on the shelter.

Cllr Allen asked the Mayor why the Deputy Mayor was not wearing his pendant.

Through the Mayor the Clerk replied that repairs were being carried out at present on the Deputy Mayor's pendant.

Cllr Gent asked the Mayor what action could be taken to deal with complaints being received about the amount of items being displayed on the pavement outside the Community Shop in Victoria Road.

The Mayor replied that this would be discussed with officers from South Hams District Council.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr P F Allen

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.

234. IVY LANE – FUTURE YOUTH PROVISION.

A confidential report from Cllr Gent was laid round the table. Cllr Gent explained that the Youth Club in Ivy Lane was currently run by Youth Genesis through the Dartmouth and District Youth Partnership.

Proposed: Cllr P F Allen
Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

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

Cllr Gent proposed that a Youth Services Committee be set up to contract Youth Genesis to run the Youth Service direct for the Town Council from September 2017. Terms of Reference for the new committee would be brought to the adjourned Town Council meeting on 9th May 2017.

Funding would initially be from unused monies currently held by the Dartmouth and District Youth Partnership which would be wound up and remaining funds found by fundraising by Youth Genesis.

Cllr Smith told the meeting that he fully supported this move; there was no organisation more professional in running Youth Services than Youth Genesis.

Cllr Gent confirmed that Youth Genesis would ring-fence any monies passed to them from the Dartmouth and District Youth Partnership for Youth Services in Dartmouth.

This item would be brought back to the next Full Council meeting.

235. QUOTATIONS FOR REPAIRS TO THE FLAT ROOF AT THE REAR OF NO. 10 THE BUTTERWALK, DUKE STREET, DARTMOUTH.

Details of two quotations for repairs to the flat roof at the rear of the Sloping Deck at the Butterwalk, Dartmouth were laid round the table.

Proposed: Cllr B T Harriss

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Resolved: That quotation 1 for £1,830.00 plus vat be accepted for the replacement flat roofing at the rear of the Butterwalk.

236. QUOTATIONS FOR EMBANKMENT FESTOON LIGHTING – REFERRED FROM CORPORATE PROPERTY COMMITTEE.

Details of 3 quotations for permanent festoon lighting for the embankment (referred from the Corporate Property Committee on 20th March 2017) were laid round the table. The Clerk explained that both contractors for quotes 1 and 3 had confirmed that their lights were non-light polluting but the contractor for quotation 3 had revised their quotation, only wishing to install a greater length of lighting in one tranche.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke

Seconded: Cllr G B F Coles

Resolved: That quotation 1 for £7,304.95 plus vat be accepted to be paid from the monies raised by the Snow Ball and held by the Town Council.