

Present

*Councillor D M Gent – Chairman

*Cllr G B F Coles – Vice-Chairman

#Cllr P F Allen

*Cllr R W I Cooke (Mayor)

*Cllr A J C Fyson (Deputy Mayor)

*Cllr B T Harriss

*Cllr D K Kelland

#Cllr F R Pritchard-Tagg

#Cllr R Springett

#Cllr S Thomson

*Denotes attendance

#Denotes apology for absence

Cllr R M Lyon was there as an observer and one member of the public.

Members are reminded that under the Town Council's Standing Order no. 51 the minutes of the Planning Committee are for noting only.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There was none

47. CORRESPONDENCE.

Numerous emails had been received by the Chairman complaining about the plot of land in Seymour Drive which has been fenced off for a number of months and left to become overgrown and unsightly.

It was agreed that Patrick Whymer the Senior Planning Officer at South Hams District Council would be contacted to see if there had been a breach in Planning regulations.

48. PRESENTATION BY THE OWNER OF THE CRAB & BUCKET

Liz Moseley, owner of the Crab & Bucket gave a presentation to support her application to South Hams District Council to tender for commercial use of part of the South Embankment. Her plan was to have sixteen tables with sixty four chairs in a cordoned off area on the South Embankment. Cllr Coles asked if food would be served or would it just be drinks. Mrs Moseley said that they hoped to be serving alcoholic and soft drinks, coffee and tea and light snacks. There would be a need to have this station manned during opening hours and when closed the tables, chairs and all fixtures would be removed to a storage site. Mrs Moseley

also stated that the area would not be in use during busy periods like Regatta, Music Festival and Food Festival.

Cllr Cooke asked about possible traffic calming to ensure safety of pedestrians crossing the road and was concerned about restrictions to pedestrians and the possible risk of people falling into the river. Cllr Harriss questioned how they would deal with the umbrellas in high winds and would there be enough room for wheelchairs and pushchairs to pass by. Mrs Moseley confirmed that they had allowed two meters either side of the area and that the umbrellas were a necessity in view of the seagulls.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Moseley for attending.

49. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

Members gave consideration to the following applications received from South Hams District Council:

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|---|
| (A) | 1780/17/HHO/RH | Householder application to demolish existing garage, add a kitchen extension, veranda, a second storey and 4 no. conservation roof lights, internal alterations and hard landscaping.
Compass Cottage, Castle Road
Recommend Approval |
| (B) | 1753/17/FUL/KC | Proposed new dwelling located in rear garden.
6 Vicarage Hill
Recommend Approval with the proviso that the neighbour's comments are taken into consideration and that permeable surfaces are used wherever possible. |
| (C) | 2035/17/HHO/SC | Householder application for remodelling of rear upper ground floor, extension to include balcony and balustrade.
50 Victoria Road
Recommend Approval |

50. PREVIOUS PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

Notifications of South Hams District Council decisions issued had been circulated to members of the Planning Committee.

51. APPEALS - to receive notice of appeals issued and decided.

APP/K1128/W/16/3163014 – 11 Lower Street, Dartmouth TQ6 9AN

Decision: The appeal is allowed

52. NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

Cllr Fyson gave an overview of the Neighbourhood Plan and the current position of Dartmouth's preparation, he also recommended that Members read the Neighbourhood Plan documents that are on the Town Council website and comparison to the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative Plan.

On the matter of the organisation, Cllr Fyson said that it was not as far forward as he would have liked and that progression was far too slow and that new invigoration was needed. He felt that in order for it to move forward, the group should come under control of a committee of the Council and report back regularly to the Council. Cllr Fyson was still keen to continue in working on the plan.

Cllr Gent suggested that a working party that was devoted to the Plan, made up from an off shoot of the Planning Committee be set up to move the Plan forward, using its delegated powers to appoint members from the public to the group. This group would then have to report back to the Planning Committee on a monthly basis and as a result of this the minutes would go forward to Full Council so that all Councillors would be fully aware of how the Plan was progressing. Cllr Gent then asked if Cllr Fyson was prepared to stay on as Chairman and he agreed but he did however point out that there had been a working party for some time and felt that it was important to have more members from the town as members. Cllr Fyson also suggested that although the results of the survey had not been completely analysed yet, it was time to have topic based groups. These groups would then have to report back individually to the working group. He suggested that the Plan was also at the stage where it was necessary to raise funds in order to have a Consultant to develop the evidence in readiness for the Neighbourhood Plan Inspector. Cllr Coles asked how much money would be needed. Cllr Fyson advised that there was a government agency called Locality that was a channel for a Government funds to which the Working group was entitled to apply for a grant of up to nine thousand pounds. This was the last year that a grant could be applied for so they would be just in time. Money had already come from here to help with the questionnaire. If the grant was awarded then the consultant wouldn't cost the Council any money. However the process would take time in order to appoint a suitable candidate.

Cllr Lyon who was there as an observer said that there was talk in the town that people were distressed that this had been going on far too long. They wanted it to come to an end so that they knew what the Plan was going to say. He suggested that the original team was put back together again, as he felt that the application for a grant would take too long. He also knew of three people in Dartmouth who had some expertise in Planning who were willing to help and with an injection of new blood on to the committee, perhaps this would help to get things moving again.

Peter Goldstraw felt that although the group had been going for three years, it had produced very little and he didn't think that reproducing the group would help. He agreed with Cllr Lyon that an injection of new members with the appropriate experience and community background was needed. He felt that it wasn't possible to buy in a consultant and certainly not for nine thousand pounds to come in and lead the group. He felt that it was for the Topic groups to do the research and come up with the recommendations and not be given the evidence by a paid consultant. The consultant would be useful to help avoid conflicts, once the Topic groups had collated their findings and would only probably be needed for a month or two.

Cllr Coles made a proposal that the Group be restarted again to try and get more people from the town to become involved and to meet once a month. She also asked for a date to be set for the next meeting and offered assistance to help Cllr Fyson to start analysing the data gathered from the survey. Cllr Harriss suggested that original members of the group plus the three people suggested by Cllr Lyon meet and get things moving and then bring more people in. Cllr Lyon supported this thinking. Cllr Coles asked for Clerk support and Cllr Gent confirmed that if the group became a Town Council Working party then it was entitled to council resources.

The Mayor was not happy with the group being called a Town Council Working Group as he felt that it needed to be wider spread and would be happier if the wider group appointed their own secretary and minute taker from other resources within the town. His personal concern was that the group would remain the same when it was important that it was actually something new. As far as he was aware the Joint Local Plan submissions had been reviewed and a draft form of adoption was due to be put out next March. This however did not affect drawing up the Neighbourhood Plan as this can be submitted at any time but would need to be compliant with the Joint Local Plan. The Mayor suggested that Full Council should be asked how they would like the group organised, staffed and the members needed. The Mayor asked Cllr Gent to report back to Full Council on Monday in order for the Town Council to decide the way forward.

