

Present

*Cllr T de Galleani – Chairman
#Cllr I A Pritchard – Vice-Chairman

*Cllr P F Allen
#Cllr M Baillie
*Cllr G B F Coles
*Cllr R W I Cooke (Mayor)
*Cllr A J C Fyson (Deputy Mayor)
*Cllr D M Gent
*Cllr B T Harriss
#Cllr S Smith

*Denotes attendance
#Denotes apology for absence

Observers: Cllr R M Lyon

Also in attendance 2 members of the public and 2 members of the press.
The meeting was videoed by the press.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were none.

2. WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW FOR DARTMOUTH.

Details of the criteria necessary to call a ward boundary review in Dartmouth were laid round the table. Members noted that there were two methods of invoking a Community Governance Review for Ward Boundary changes:-

1. The District Council (as a ‘principal Council’) could invoke a review itself by virtue of a majority of Members voting to approve a motion at a full District Council meeting; or

2. The Town Council could submit a petition to the District Council that would need to be signed by the following requisite number of local electors:-

- a) For an area with less than 500 local electors, the petition must be signed by at least 50% of the electors;
- b) For an area with between 500 and 2,500 local electors, the petition must be signed by at least 250 of the electors; or
- c) For an area with more than 2,500 local electors, (as in Dartmouth) the petition must be signed by at least 10% of the electors.

Cllr Cooke told members that he had previously spoken in favour of a ward boundary change to bring St Clements Church back into the Townstal Ward but he now felt that he agreed with other Councillors, who proposed that Dartmouth should be considered as a whole and he withdrew his support for the change. Cllr Gent agreed that it would be preferable to consider Dartmouth as a whole and it would not be worth the effort of cost and staff time just to move St Clements Church into the Townstal ward.

The Chairman told the meeting that the ideal would be to move the boundary to include the new West Dart development but Cllr Fyson reminded members that this had been discussed with Stoke Fleming Parish Council who had said an indefatigable no. The leader of South Hams District Council Cllr John Tucker had explained at the time that this would not be possible without the agreement of Stoke Fleming Parish Council.

Cllr Allen arrived at 6.07pm

Cllr Fyson also informed the meeting that he believed that the extra business opportunities in Townstal were leading to the footfall downturn in the lower town, not a drop in tourist numbers and he added that moving the boundary would not change people's attitude to visiting the lower town; the Chairman agreed.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent

Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke

Recommended: That on the grounds of need and cost the matter of a ward boundary change should not be pursued.

3. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDER 8 – COUNCILLORS DRESS CODE.

This had been referred from Full Council on 3rd July 2017. Cllr Gent informed the meeting that the dress code had been added to Standing Orders at a review approximately 10 years previously. He had asked a question on this at Full Council following the change of dress code in the Houses of Parliament. Cllr Harriss believed that the code should remain in its present form. Cllr Allen favoured an optional code with members allowed to use their own sense of what was appropriate.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke

Seconded: Cllr B T Harriss

Recommended: That Standing Order 8 remain as “All members of the Council are required to dress formally for all meetings of the Full Council” with the addition of “the Chairman of Full Council may give the option to those members who wish, not to wear a jacket and tie because of temperature”.

4. SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS FOR ALCOHOL.

Details of the renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Orders for Alcohol had been circulated to members. Members noted that this was a three yearly renewal of the existing areas already covered by an order; comments on the areas to be covered were requested by 28th July 2017.

Proposed: Cllr R W I Cooke

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Recommended: That the Town Council support the police recommendation for the Public Spaces Protection Orders for Alcohol in Dartmouth.

5. WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES IN THE TOWN.

Neil Greenhalgh Waste Manager (Operations) for South Hams District Council was unable to attend the meeting to talk to the Town Council concerning waste management issues in the Town.

The Clerk had sent several questions to Mr Greenhalgh on waste management including:-

- 1) When a map of the public waste bins in Dartmouth would be produced and what was the District Council policy on the replacement of damaged bins.
- 2) What supervision of waste management/street cleaning staff was carried out – how often by whom
- 2) What were the routes covered by a)the mechanical sweeper b) the street sweepers.
- 3) What were the Trade Waste collection times – were checks made on holiday homes to ensure that they weren't using residential waste collections if they were run as a business.
- 4) How could the District Council help with the promotion of use of Seagull Proof sacks.

Cllr Gent suggested that the District Council should also be asked what the level of supervision was for the area of the Mayors Avenue Car Park recycling area which was frequently a mess with bins overflowing.

It was noted that waste collections from properties in Duke Street were often missed.

Mr Campbell from Vicarage Hill told the meeting that he thought the Town was in a disgraceful state. The mechanised street sweeper covered the same roads at the same time every day and missed all the rubbish by the parked cars as there were no street sweepers on foot. The sweepers needed a better programme of areas to be covered as parts of the town were never swept.

Proposed: Cllr B T Harriss

Seconded: Cllr P F Allen

Recommended: That a strong letter be written to South Hams District Council with the Town Council's concerns and an invitation issued to an officer in authority at the District Council to attend a Full Town Council meeting to give a presentation. That the public be alerted to the item and the letter be copied to Sophie Hosking the Chief Executive of South Hams District Council.