

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN
COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 11TH JULY 2019 at 6PM

PRESENT: Cllrs: N Bodinnar; D Case; A Edsall; S Hibbert (Deputy Mayor); D Shepherd; G Webb (The Mayor); L Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Administrator: R Searle; Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Cllr R Rendle
1 members of the public; Reporter for the Dartmouth Chronicle: E Baker

PART 1 - Open to the Public

The Mayor started the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs: G Yardy

2. TO ELECT THE CHAIR OF GENERAL PURPOSES

The Mayor asked for nominations for Chair of the General Purposes Committee

Cllr Edsall proposed Cllr Bodinnar

Cllr Shepherd seconded this proposal

The Mayor asked for a show of hands for Cllr Bodinnar and all Cllrs voted in favour

Proposed: Cllr Edsall

Seconded: Cllr Shepherd

Resolved: That Cllr Bodinnar be elected Chair of the General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year

3. TO ELECT THE VICE CHAIR OF GENERAL PURPOSES

Cllr Bodinnar took the chair and asked for nominations for Vice Chair

Cllr Williams proposed Cllr Edsall

Cllr Shepherd seconded this proposal

The Chair asked for a show of hands for Cllr Edsall and all Cllrs voted in favour

Proposed: Cllr Williams

Seconded: Cllr Shepherd

Resolved: That Cllr Edsall be elected Vice Chair of the General Purposes Committee for the ensuing year

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE DISASTER PLAN

Cllr Case said that this was mentioned at the beginning of this Council's term and wanted to gage what the Committee thought about creating a Disaster Plan.

She explained that the District Council had a legal responsibility to have a Plan in place, but some towns had also created their own. If the general consensus was to create a Plan, she would be happy to lead with this and tap into other stakeholders.

Cllr Shepherd said she would happy to work with Cllr Case.

All Councillors present agreed by a show of hands that they thought it was a good idea for Cllr Case & Cllr Shepherd to work on updating the Disaster Plan.

6. TO DISCUSS THE REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR YOUTH GENESIS FROM DTC TO PROVIDE REGULAR YOUTH SERVICES IN DARTMOUTH FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR BEGINNING IN APRIL 2020 AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councillors discussed the request for funding for Youth Genesis following on from a presentation at the last Full Council meeting (01/07/19). David Gent was invited to speak and said that he had previously helped with obtaining grants for Youth Genesis.

Cllr Shepherd said that she felt Youth Genesis provided a good service and that they needed stability with their funding.

It was decided to invite Youth Genesis in for a meeting with Cllr Hibbert and Cllr Edsall (Youth representatives) and bring this back to the next General Purposes meeting.

All Cllrs present were in favour of delaying this decision until the next General Purposes Committee meeting and after Cllrs Edsall and Hibbert had met with Jonathan Oliverio.

7. TO REVIEW AND AGREE THE DTC CORPORATE COLOURS

Cllr Rendle declared a nonpecuniary interest as Secretary of the Old Dartmothians. Cllr Rendle spoke about the previous decision for the Corporate Colours at the Corporate Property meeting in November 2018 to have black and gold as the Corporate colours.

The Clerk/Administrator explained that the Old Dartmothians had offered to renovate the archway in Royal Avenue Gardens with no cost to the Council, the only proviso being was that they would use the original town colours of green and gold, which would be in keeping with the fountain and Bandstand. Cllr Rendle wanted to have the previous decision revoked and clarification that the corporate colours of green and gold be adopted.

There followed a full and frank discussion.

Proposed: Cllr Case

Seconded: Cllr Williams

Resolved: To revert back to the Town Council Corporate Colours of green and gold and notify the Harbour Authority, Devon County Council and South Hams District Council of the Council's decision.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour

8. TO DISCUSS THE LEVEL OF INSURANCE FOR LARGE TOWN EVENTS AND AGREE A WAY FORWARD

A question had been raised over the amount of Third Party Liability Insurance cover that the Dartmouth Food Festival should have.

The current amount specified in the Rules & Regulations for the hire of Town Council properties was £5,000,000 for small events and the larger events such as Music

Festival, Regatta and The Food Festival would need to be £10,000,000. This was the advice given to the Town Council by its insurance company.

There was a discussion about this, and it was thought that the recommended cover of £10,000,000 Third Party Liability for Regatta, Music Festival, Food Festival and any other large events, should be in place.

Proposed: Cllr Case

Seconded: Cllr Hibbert

Resolved: To confirm that for all large events held on Dartmouth Town Council properties, should have their Third Party Liability insurance cover set at £10,000,000 minimum.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour

9. TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION STORING REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY MATERIALS IN COUNCIL PROPERTY AND AGREE A WAY FORWARD

There was a discussion in view of the fact that the Royal British Legion no longer had a base in Dartmouth for storing wreaths, poppies and other stock. This was following on from one of the town councillors, who had suggested that the Town Council offer storage.

Flat 6a had been given as a possible storage area, which would need to be agreed by the Museum. Cllr Edsall asked if the storage would be on a 1 year temporary agreement so as not to be tied into anything long term. Cllr Case raised the question of charges or would it be free.

After a discussion, the Committee were happy for an offer of a temporary agreement for six months to be made if storage was needed.

Proposed: Cllr Edsall

Seconded: Cllr Bodinnar

Resolved: To agree to let the Royal British Legion store their stock for a period of six months.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour

10. TO DISCUSS THE IDEA TO MOVE FROM WATER BOTTLES TO WATER JUGS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Cllr Case had raised concerns over the cost to the Council purchasing bottled water and suggested that Councillors should either bring their own bottles or using jugs of water.

The Mayor felt that the cost per year was not very much and that having bottles was less distracting than passing jugs of water round and that they were recyclable. He also felt it would be time consuming for staff to have to fill and put out jugs of water prior to each committee and then having to clear them away and wash up after the meeting, there was risk of spillage, and that the bottles were a better idea.

Proposed: Cllr Case

Seconded: Cllr Williams

Resolved: To cancel the water bottles and ask Cllrs to bring their own drink.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour

[Amended: The decision was not upheld at the Full Council meeting on 02/09/2019 and it was referred back to the Full Council meeting on 07/10/2019]

11. TO PROPOSE THE CREATION OF A GRANT FUNDING APPLICATIONS WORKING GROUP THAT WILL BE TASKED WITH FINDING GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DTC INITIATIVES, NEW PROJECTS OR ONGOING FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS, AND AGREE A WAY FORWARD

Cllr Edsall had asked for this to be discussed as a way forward. He felt that with the heavy workload for councillors and staff and the financial constraints, it was unlikely that some new projects or ongoing financial commitments would be dealt with. He felt that by setting up a working group, overseen by the Council, but made up of non-councillors who would be tasked with searching out grant funding. Cllr Edsall gave the Committee names of people who had already been identified as showing an interest in becoming part of this working group.

Cllr Williams was in support but asked about ways of recruiting members in addition to the people who had already shown an interest. Cllr Edsall thought that it would evolve organically.

Cllr Shepherd asked if it could be used for charities as well to benefit them.

Cllr Bodinnar who had recently attended a training course said that grants for councils were limited so it would be mainly aimed at charities and community groups. Cllr Shepherd recommended contacting the CVS in Totnes who were a great contact for help.

Cllr Edsall confirmed that the group would be working to raise grants for those projects that the Council wish to see happen.

Cllr Case also thought this was a good idea but was keen to point that if the working group was working under the Council, then the Council would need to be clear in terms of what was being applied for, how it was being positioned and that there was a strategic aim in what was being asked.

Cllr Shepherd said that if the group signed up to CVS then they would provide free access to the websites that showed daily updates of what grants were available.

Cllr Bodinnar also confirmed that for a fee it would also give access to the national database.

Proposed: Cllr Bodinnar

Seconded: Cllr Williams

Resolved: To create a 'grant funding working group' with Cllr Bodinnar and Cllr Shepherd leading on this group. This working group will sit underneath the General Purposes Committee.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour

12. TO DISCUSS THE NEED FOR SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL TO PROVIDE SEAGULL PROOF SACKS FOR RECYCLING BAGS AS WELL AS GENERAL HOUSEHOLD RUBBISH AND AGREE A WAY FORWARD

The Mayor reported that at the last Mayors and Clerks meeting South Hams said that they were going to change the way they collect, increase what they collect and the frequency of collections but not until next year.

Cllr Edsall said that he thought that the bags could be in a different coloured bag and not necessarily free.

The Mayor said that this issue should be directed to holiday homes especially as the collections are not on the changeover day and the rubbish is left out for the seagulls to pull out.

Cllr Williams asked about the possibility of fines being imposed for residents who persistently leave their rubbish out on non collection days and asking the bin men to carry brooms and a shovel in order clean up the rubbish that is left out on the ground.

The Mayor advised the Committee that South Hams had now appointed an outside business to deal with the waste collections and any problems should be reported as they were contracted to clean up any mess that was left.

The Administrator advised that there was a meeting with Sarah Moody from South Hams and these issues would be reported to her.

Cllr Williams also said that the matter of a 2 day turnaround for missed collections was unacceptable for Dartmouth whose collection day was Wednesday. It meant that the rubbish was not actually being collected until the Monday.

Proposed: Cllr Webb

Seconded: Cllr Williams

Resolved: To write to SHDC to ask if seagull proof sacks can be provided.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour

13. TO DISCUSS THE IDEA OF THE COUNCIL HAVING ITS OWN VIDEO CAMERA TO RECORD MEETINGS AND AGREE A WAY FORWARD

There was a discussion

Cllr Edsall was in agreement with idea that the Council purchase their own camera.

Cllr Case thought it would be better to remain with the member of the public who videos the meetings at the moment as long it wasn't edited.

Cllr Shepherd said it wasn't fair to expect the member of the public to record all the time.

Cllr Edsall felt that it was better if the Council had their own recordings as it could be controlled and not used commercially

The Mayor thought it was better as there would then be continuity and a true copy of what had gone on in the meeting.

Cllr Bodinnar said that Plymouth Town Council filmed every committee meeting, which allowed you to look back had what had actually been discussed or agreed.

Cllr Shepherd felt that the behaviour in meetings was better when it was being videoed. She also felt that it might be a good project for the Academy to undertake.

Cllr Edsall thought it was a good idea but also quite an undertaking to commit to filming every Full Council meeting for twelve months.

Ask the office to research costs for purchasing our own camera that is easy to use.

Proposed: Cllr Bodinnar

Seconded: Cllr Hibbert

Resolved: To approach the Academy to see if they were interested in allowing students to record Council meetings, whilst also researching alternative options for recording with our own video camera.

All Cllrs attending the meeting were in favour.

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL

None

Meeting finished at 19.53