

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2019

PRESENT: Cllrs: M Baillie; C Campos; G Evans (Chair); G Webb (The Mayor);
D Wells (Vice Chair); G Yardy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Shepherd & Cllr Lyon; Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams;
Laura Campbell from the Mayflower 400 Committee;
District Councillor: H Bastone; K Perrow from the Dartmouth Visitor
Centre & 0 members of the public

PART 1 - Open to the Public

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Case, Cllr Rendle & Cllr Hibbert
Absent: Cllr Bodinnar.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

30. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none

31. PRESENTATION FROM THE MAYFLOWER 400 TEAM

Laura Campbell the Project Facilitator for the Mayflower 400 said that she had
circulated a commercial e-shot that goes out to businesses once a month, one is a
calendar of events that gives you an overview of events and activities that the
Mayflower are planning.

Official launch is at the end of November but there will be a preview unveiling of a
sculpture in October, and invites will be going out to Council next week.

Events planned / being worked on

- Maritime events
- Arts and culture
- A play has been specially written called 'Safe Haven'
- An anthem has been specially written
- A Peal of Bells has been composed
- Working with further education students from Plymouth College on a film
project
- Working with local children on a schools literary program
- Working with children from Kingsbridge on a film project
- Scale model boat has been built
- Mayflower ambassador program

Currently setting up our new Town Guide Program, four people have just finished
training and another five are in the pipeline. We aim to have them up and running in

next few weeks, so that when we sell Dartmouth as a Mayflower 400 experience, our visitors will know what it feels like to come to Dartmouth in the 16th Century.

Cllr Evans asked if any cruise ships would be coming in and Laura confirmed that there were cruise ships planned for next year.

Cllr Evans also asked how many events were being pushed towards Bayards Cove and Laura said they were:

- Working with the Bayard's Cove Inn, lots of engagement with them.
- Teaming up with Candlelit to have a Mayflower procession which would end up in Bayard's Cove.
- Looking at performances and lit displays and working with English Heritage.
- Working with children to make tiny boats which will be let loose from Bayard's Cove.
- Working with the tour guides who will take people down to Bayard's Cove.

Cllr Yardy asked how they would know if they've been successful and Laura said that there is some statistics available already and added that there is also ongoing research taking place.

32. TO DISCUSS THE REMAINDER OF FUNDS PROMISED IN 2017 TO MAYFLOWER 400

Cllr Evans spoke about the remaining money that had been promised previously which totalled £2,800 and added that he saw no reason as to why this new Council shouldn't fulfil this promise.

Cllr Campos asked about a breakdown of where the £37,200 has been spent so far. Laura Campbell, the project facilitator said that the original £40,000 was agreed to over 4 years, £10,000 per year, the original agreement was that the money would run the project for infrastructure /running costs etc... She has however gone over the accounts and identified some figures.

- In 2016 money was spent on the US/UK relationship and 'Sister City' was a program that was introduced back then, around £2,000 was put to that element.
- In 2018-2019 work took place on organising the Heritage Trail which included: interpretive panels and bronze way markers which were/are being created - £26,200 (fees, surveys, information, the panels etc...)
- This left around £9,000 which has gone on the infrastructure, insurance, professional fees, accounting, travelling expenses and engagement.

There was match funding, on top of the Council donation, of over £100,000 from donations from the public, grants, sales & tickets and merchandise.

Laura said they don't get any funding from the national Mayflower, but that this money would be purely for Dartmouth.

Cllr Yardy said he'd like to see the metrics when analysing the success and Laura said she'd be happy to share that.

Cllr Campos said she would like to see further information on where the money has gone, perhaps a proper breakdown and Laura said she would be able to provide more information.

Cllr Evans said that he was prepared to personally vote to approve the £2,800 but he wanted to say up front that being a new Council, the criteria was going to be much stricter for future events.

Cllr Webb said that he would like to wish it a success and hopes that it brings in the much needed publicity and revenue that Dartmouth deserves, also to follow on that money is very tight and will get tighter so please bear in mind in the future that we will need to be more selective on things that we support.

Cllr Campos said she was very keen on supporting the promotional video.

Cllr Yardy asked about which specific items would be left as a legacy and Laura said it lists what the legacy would be in the leaflet that she had brought with her.

Legacy items:

- Mayflower Heritage Trail, a walk through Dartmouth in 1620
- Replica model of the Mayflower – 10ft scale model
- Dartmouth Mayflower short film programme
- Sculpture of a Pilgrim by Mark Gregory
- Mayflower anthem – composed by Ed Welch, words by Brian Patten
- Peal of Bells – specially composed for the commemoration
- Mayflower Plantation Garden
- Dartmouth Mayflower Town Guides

Proposed: Cllr Evans

Seconded: Cllr Wells

Resolved: To recommend to Full Council to authorise the remainder of the total promised in 2017 of £2,800

Five Cllrs in favour, one abstention.

[Amended: The decision was not upheld at the Full Council meeting on 07/10/2019 until further investigation took place.]

33. TO DISCUSS UPGRADING CORONATION PARK TO ALLOW USE AS A 24HR COMMUNITY LANDING SITE FOR DEVON AIR AMBULANCE TRUST.

Cllr Evans explained that this item was postponed until the next meeting.

34. PREPARATION FOR BUDGET

Cllr Evans said that he proposed that a little more corporate responsibility would be introduced for future years and ask the Committees how much they need for the forthcoming years, and therefore ensuring that each Committee is responsible for it's own budget.

Cllr Evans also spoke about how this may be the last year that we can raise our precept without it being capped, in light of this Cllr Evans said that the Council need to ensure there are enough reserves to manage all the towns assets, especially the ones that the Council took on in 2018.

Cllr Campos asked where an advertising budget would sit, and Cllr Evans said that it may sit under the Finance Committee.

Cllr Baillie spoke about income generation and how we needed a bigger push on generating more revenue from our existing properties and assets.

Cllr Campos asked about the capping of the precept and Cllr Evans said whatever the increase it needs to be justified but we have to ensure the Council has a stable and sustainable future.

Cllr Yardy spoke about justifying the precept increase and to think about how we present this justification. Cllr Campos said that this would be a good idea to use this as a topic in the forthcoming Councillor clinics to ask the public for what they would like to see the money spent on within the town. Cllr Evans agreed and said there will be a clinic up at Townstal and another clinic down in the Guildhall. Cllr Evans said that an explanation of any rise to the precept will be given.

Cllr Campos asked when the budget needs to be finalised and agreed. The Clerk confirmed that the budget needs to be agreed in December as the precept has to be submitted by the end of January for the forthcoming financial year.

35. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Proposed: Cllr Webb

Seconded: Cllr Evans

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.

PART 2 – Confidential

36. TO DISCUSS DARTMOUTH VISITOR CENTRE FINANCIAL CASH FLOW

Cllrs looked at the financial cash flow document from the Dartmouth Visitor Centre. Cllr Campos asked if the meeting between the Dartmouth Visitor Centre, Cllr Rendle, Cllr Lyon & the Clerk had taken place. The Clerk confirmed a date is still be set. Cllr Evans confirmed that the Finance Committee would like the Dartmouth Visitor Centre to come and present to the Committee after their meeting. This is to make it easier for the Council to see how the Visitor Centre is managed going forward.

Cllr Shepherd asked if it could be noted about the inconsistencies of the different amounts of money awarded to various organisations within the town.

Cllr Campos asked about the relationship between the DVC, 'Discover Dartmouth' magazine which is being taken over by 'By The Dart' magazine' and wondered if there was a financial agreement. She also wondered if the website was internal or external, especially in relation to promoting Dartmouth in the future.

Cllr Evans stated that there were a lot of different websites advertising the town and it would be more beneficial for the town to consolidate the various websites into one.

Meeting finished at 19:05