

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL**  
**CHAMBER OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

- PRESENT:** Cllrs: N Bodinnar, T de Galleani, M Webber, G Webb (The Mayor); D Wells, Reporter Emily Baker, five members of the slipway committee, three members of Mayflower 400, two representatives of Dartmouth Green Partnerships
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Properties Administrator: K Brown; DTC Groundsman: R Harkness; DTC Gardener: M Horan;

**PART I - Open to the Public**

**28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr R Lyon, Cllr A Edsall, Cllr S Hibbert

**29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none

**30. PRESENTATION ABOUT THE NEW SLIPWAY**

Sir Geoffrey Newman gave a presentation about the new proposed public slipway.

The group have received plans from Acon and they are being looked at and scrutinised by the group with questions being raised to send back to the designers.

The plans need to be finalised before they go out for further consultation.

They would like to open a dialogue with the committee to look at areas around the slipway and see what else could be improved in the area. They would also like to talk about trailer parking and car parking.

Cllr Bodinnar asked if there was an idea of the cost of the slipway. Sir Geoffrey answered that they do not know the full cost as drilling is needed to find out how deep the sediment goes to the base rock at the bottom. Once this has been completed, a price will be available.

Cllr Webb asked what the timescale for the slipway being built would be. Sir Geoffrey differed to George Hardy who explained that the detailed license and full planning application would be submitted in December. Acon need to do an environmental study, risk assessment, ecological study and consultations with the Marine Management Organisation before December and they anticipate planning approval and marine license approval in April 2020. Once this has been granted, the bore holes can go ahead. Once they have the bore hole information, they will have a clearer price and can go out for major grant funding. The price will be around £2,000,000, which needs to be raised before they start the slipway.

Cllr de Galleani asked what the piles would be made of and the group stated that they would be made from steel and that the piles and slipway would last for at least 50 years.

Cllr Wells thanked the group for the presentation and added that this was something he felt the whole of Dartmouth would be behind as it would make the area safer.

### **31. REQUEST TO USE THE BOATFLOAT FOR MARITIME SPECTACLES DURING MAYFLOWER WEEK**

The Properties Administrator stated that we had received an email about moving some of the boats out of the Boatfloat for maritime spectacles during Mayflower week. A short discussion was had, and it was decided that more detailed information about the events were needed. The Boatfloat rules and regulations also need to be looked at due to the contract that Boatfloat users have with the Council.

### **32. REGULAR UPDATES**

#### **1. Groundsman's regular report**

The Groundman gave a report.

#### **RAG**

Planted bedding and bulbs  
Started leaf clearing  
Grass cutting ongoing  
Plinth in place  
Hedge cutting ongoing

#### **Coronation Park**

Play park inspections  
Tennis courts sprayed for moss  
Grass cutting ongoing

#### **Orchard**

About to do conservation cut  
Update on orchard progress

#### **Cemetery**

Grass cutting ongoing

#### **Castle**

Grass cutting ongoing  
Met with Richard Webb to plan winter work.

## **2. Dartmouth Green Partnerships report**

Dartmouth Green Partnerships gave a report.

- This year's seasonal displays in troughs/boats/planters etc (which were very well received by everyone) are now being dismantled (and used plants prepared for overwintering) volunteers are now planting with spring bulbs. Having all year-round displays is one of our priorities. Our success in saving and overwintering plants and bulbs means that we are able to give away some to other good causes in Dartmouth (see below). Next spring we intend to have a 'Big Giveaway' of begonias.
- To ensure that our work follows sustainable and environmentally friendly guidelines, we intend to ensure that any plantings we do are of a more permanent and sustainable nature. Our intention is that our main plantings will be (mostly) of perennials, especially nectar-rich varieties.
- Anticipating a larger influx of visitors because of the Mayflower events, in 2020, we have been asked if it is possible to ensure that the whole of the Town is looking good. We shall do what we can : We as a voluntary group, are very happy to raise funds through sponsorship etc, to ensure the tradition of the town to be decked in flowers continues as it has since 1974: However we do need the Town Council to support our efforts by ensuring that the summer seasonal displays are watered.
- After being successful in our grant applications we have this year, received another £20,000 towards the Community Greenhouse. We are now halfway there and will continue to put efforts into grant funding applications.
- Having searched out and been awarded other grant funding, DGP is now in a position to begin work on the Community Plantation Garden located at the back of the tennis courts in Coronation Park. We shall be planting this area as a communal food growing area emulating the fusion of native American Indian and Colonial Settler's gardens. The surrounding area will be planted with American native plants. The legacy of this project is that it will be another community food growing area for everyone.
- DGP volunteers have also recently been helping with the renovation of the St Petrox Garden of Remembrance, we have donated several sacks of last year's daffodil bulbs (from our spring displays) to this Garden. We have also given sacks of bulbs to the Blackawton gardening volunteers and the volunteer gardeners from the Indoor Pool are collecting bulbs from us for the banks around the pool site.

### **Requests**

- The hanging basket pedestals around the boatfloat are owned by DTC. The last time they were painted was over 6 years ago. The shabby state of these pedestals has been highlighted by the newly renovated archway in Royal Avenue Gardens. Could we request that these pedestals are painted this year before the rust destroys the crown fixtures. Will need to be finished by June.

- Working in partnership with DTC, Dartmouth Green Partnerships has provided troughs, planters and hanging baskets for the Market, Guildhall and Butterwalk. Does DTC wish us to continue with this work?
- To enable us to confirm the plant order for next year's summer displays, DGP needs to have a guarantee from the Town Council that these displays will be watered, as appropriate.

### **3. Friends of the Orchard report**

The Groundsman gave a report for the Community Orchard.

- We had a successful Apple Day on 13<sup>th</sup> October, supported by Devon Wildlife Trust. Two dozen volunteers pressed *circa* 130 litres of juice. Much was taken by visitors in exchange for donations; about 20 litres was donated to the Food Bank / Community Chest at the Flavel Church; about 10 litres was passed to the Council officers.
- We also gave pressing demonstrations at the Food Festival on Thursday morning for the children and on Sunday in the Market Place marquis.
- There was a good crop of apples and no instances of tree stripping this year.
- Our programme of winter works will include:
  - strimming the grassland and raking up the arisings with the help of BRNC OCs
  - seeding some areas with yellow rattle
  - repairing the fence and gate that separates the western paddock from the woodland
  - pruning and supporting some trees that are leaning badly
  - planting a new length of hedgerow along the College Way boundary of the eastern paddock, working with Devon Wildlife Trust Greater Horseshoe Bat Project to plant saplings donated by them
- Our AGM will take place during February / March at a date to be set.
- The Council needs to be aware of a short stretch of boundary wall along Ridge Hill that is in need of repair.

### **33. GENERAL**

- To discuss bringing the toilet cleaning in house  
This was moved into the Confidential section
- To discuss the current state of the skatepark – Cllr MW  
Cllr Webber understands that the land is not ours and that it is South Hams District Council and that the main problem is rubbish, which is blowing across the Leisure Centre, the rugby field and the rest of Townstal. This is due to the bins not being used.

There is also a problem with broken glass in the skatepark, which means that young people cannot use it.

Cllr Webber would like to get hold of South Hams District Council to talk about adding CCTV to the area and signage about using the bins that are placed there.

The Groundsman added that the skatepark had historically been a problem.

Cllr de Galleani has been asked by some teenagers if the Council could add a skateboard ramp to Coronation Park for a skatepark as they are scared to use the one at Townstal.

Cllr Webb said that CCTV has been discussed with SHDC, but that they would only provide one camera. He stated that this had been discussed at Corporate Property and that the Committee were going to push SHDC for more.

The Groundsman added that he thought the committee should engage with the young people who use the area.

To work in conjunction with the Corporate Property Committee on this matter by writing to South Hams District Council and to talk to Youth Genesis about this issue.

- To discuss the Dartmouth Mayflower 400 displaying pennants around the town  
Three representatives came to the meeting and showed the committee some examples of the pennants.

It is anticipated that the pennants would start to go up from the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 and remain in place until the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020. They would be at low-level, which will enable them to be affixed without the necessity of cherry-pickers etc. The necessary risk assessments and insurance will be in place prior to the 1st August 2020.

**Venues:**

The Royal Avenue Gardens, railings, statues, shelters, ironwork etc.

The Fountain

Boatfloat railings

The Butterwalk

The Old Market

The Orchard

Public toilets on the Embankment

Public toilets at the Castle

Coronation Park railings

Public toilets at Coronation Park and Manor Gardens

Any railings around the town generally

Kiosks around the Boatfloat

The other venues where permission is being sought from South Hams District Council, Old Dartmothian Association and individual businesses and home-owners are:

Full length of the Embankment railings – Dart Marina to the cannon.

The slipway down to the Passenger Ferry landing jetty.

Bayards Cove railings

Entrance to the town and helipad

Park & Ride car park and bus shelter

The Leisure Centre

The Kiosks on the Embankment

Maybe the Ferry (if safe)

Shops/restaurants on the Embankment

The Dart Marina Hotel

The Royal Castle Hotel

Lower Street

Foss Street

Smith Street

The Cherub and the Seven Stars

All the Churches

Mayflower Close

The Fire Station

The Castle Tea Rooms

As many shops fronts as possible

The Dartmouth Visitor Centre

The RNLI Building

The Flavel reception

5,064 of the pennants are being made, which is the number of residents of Dartmouth in the last census. The Mayflower 400 currently have 4,492 pennants already made.

All committee members thought that the pennants were fantastic.

Cllr Wells asked if they would withstand the weather and the seagulls. The Mayflower 400 stated that once the pennants are put up, there would be a team of volunteers who would check them everyday to see if any need repairing or replacing. One has been left out in a garden for the whole of last summer to see the effects of the weather on the pennant and it survived well. They will be sewn onto herringbone tape that is very heavy duty and will not tear.

Cllr Webber asked if there would be information about the pennants available. The Mayflower representatives said that there would be A4 information cards displayed with the pennants and in shop windows.

Cllr Wells added that it may be an idea to have the pennants in the shop windows, as this would prevent them getting damaged by the weather and would create extra business like 'Spot the Oddity' does at Regatta. The

Mayflower 400 representatives said they would feed this idea back to the organisation.

**Proposed:** Cllr Webber

**Seconded:** Cllr Wells

**Resolved:** To work in conjunction with the relevant parties to ensure that the pennants can be put up for the Mayflower 400 celebrations.

#### **34. ROYAL AVENUE GARDENS**

- To discuss the use of advertising / banners on the bandstand and the fountain

Cllr Rendle stated that there is an Act of Parliament that states there cannot be banners or flags on the archway, the fountain and the bandstand in the Royal Avenue Gardens and that there should be no trading in the gardens either.

The Old Dartmothians have had a meeting with the Mayflower 400 group and have said that it is up to Dartmouth Town Council to decide if the pennants can be put on the bandstand, archway and fountain as it is up to the Council to enact the Act of Parliament and follow it as strictly as the Council decides as the banners are on Council property.

Cllr Rendle stated that the Council need to look at what rules there are in the Royal Avenue Gardens and what rules the Council want to enforce.

Cllr Rendle added that through the Act of Parliament regarding the Royal Avenue Gardens, the Council are within their rights by law to decide what can and cannot happen in the gardens.

Cllr Wells thinks that there should be more stringent guidelines that organisations and events that use the gardens are held to. It was suggested that the current Rules and Regulations be distributed to all Cllrs for feedback on what could be changed in them.

**Proposed:** Cllr de Galleani

**Seconded:** Cllr G Webb

**Resolved:** To take down the banners that are not sanctioned and to make sure that banners are put up with string and not cable ties.

- To discuss the redesign of the tree stump on the corner next to the boat float.

The Groundsman bought a model of the design for the tree stump, designed by Elizabeth Hadley. This will cost £4,000, which the committee thought was expensive.

Cllr de Galleani suggested that the tree stump could be cut down and the area turned into flowerbeds, using the metal crown or boat that have been in the gardens before.

Cllr Wells suggested asking the American Embassy if they wanted to do anything to the tree stump for the Mayflower 400.

There was a brief discussion about this, and more ideas were asked for with regards to the tree stump.

### 35. CORONATION PARK

- To discuss the request from the Dartmouth and District Amateur Radio Society

The Dartmouth and District Amateur Radio Society asked permission to drive across Coronation Park at least twice a day to put up a radio mast and to also erect a gazebo for the duration of the Mayflower 400 Celebrations.

There was a discussion about the number of vehicles that are currently flouting this rule.

**Proposed:** Cllr Wells

**Seconded:** Cllr de Galleani

**Resolved:** Email the Dartmouth and District Amateur Radio Society stating that vehicles are not permitted on Coronation Park and that the mast will have to be walked across the Coronation Park by foot.

- To discuss the relocation of the RNLI car parking spaces

The Properties Administrator suggested that, due to the state that the Dinghy Park gets into during wet weather and the damage cars cause, that the RNLI parking spaces by the public toilets be reallocated to the straight Dinghy Park Path (the second entrance.)

Cllr Wells asked if there was enough room on the path for this to be achieved. The Groundsman stated that with a little modification there would be enough room and the Properties Administrator added that if the cars are parked there during a shout, the other users of the Dinghy Park would still have full access to the river through the first entrance, where the road is safer to cross.

Cllr Wells asked that a letter be sent to the RNLI about reallocating the spaces that are used when they have a shout to the path, which will be easier for them to drive into and are closer to the Lifeboat Hut.

**Proposed:** Cllr Webber

**Seconded:** Cllr Wells

**Resolved:** To send a letter to the RNLI about changing the position of the 'shout' parking spaces.

### 36. DEPOT

- To discuss the purchase of a chipper for the Open Spaces Team

The Groundsman distributed a proposal for buying the chipper along with five quotes.

There was a brief discussion about the Parks and Open Spaces Budget for last year and this year.

Cllr Wells stated that there was no money in the budget for this year to purchase a chipper, but that it could be added to the budget for next year.

There was a discussion about how much money has and will be spent on hiring a chipper.

Cllr de Galleani asked if the chipped materials could be used as mulch for the gardens, the Groundsman answered that you could unless it had come from brambles as these could reseed.

Cllr Webb added that he thought the committee should purchase a chipper as when added together with skip hire, man hours and storage space purchasing a chipper would save money.

The Groundsman suggested that we could also hold 'Chipper Days' where members of the public and community groups could drop off garden waste to be put through the chipper.

Cllr Webb asked if the chipper would save the Council money and the Groundsman replied that it would.

The committee voted for quote one of the chipper options.

**Proposed:** Cllr Webb

**Seconded:** Cllr de Galleani

**Resolved:** To take the improved proposal to the Finance Committee but agree that this should be purchased with money bought forward from the budget next year.

### 37. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

There were none

### 38. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

**Proposed:** Cllr de Galleani

**Seconded:** Cllr Wells

**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**

- To discuss bringing the toilet cleaning in house  
A document was handed out that had three options for toilet cleaning.

There was a discussion about the costs of the options.

There was a general thought that this needed further investigation.

*The meeting ended at 20:06*

**EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Note: If it is necessary for matters to be considered in confidence it will be proposed by the Chairman that a resolution be passed under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as amended, excluding the press and public.