

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2020 | FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY ON
MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT: There were 10 Councillors present at the meeting.
Cllrs: M Baillie; N Bodinnar; C Campos; D Case; G Evans; S Hibbert (Deputy Mayor); D Shepherd; G Webb (Mayor); D Wells; G Yardy.

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Administrator: R Searle; South Hams District Cllrs: H Bastone; R Rowe; Devon County & District Cllr: J Hawkins; South Hams District Council Director of Customer Service Delivery: Steve Mullineaux; Dartmouth Chronicle Reporter: Ginny Ware; 2 members of the public.

PART I - Open to the Public

The Clerk apologised for the late change to the 'zoom' link to the virtual meeting, but there appeared to be a problem with the original link.

129. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reminded both Councillors and the public that this meeting was being audibly recorded. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. asking questions) should be aware that they were being recorded or reported on and by entering the virtual meeting room, they were consenting to being recorded.

The Mayor also reminded members to conduct themselves in a manner befitting their position as elected Cllrs, and to show due respect to each other at all times. He also asked Cllrs to be as brief as possible in their questions and deliberations and to keep the meeting moving along at a reasonable pace.

130. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs: P Allen; T de Galleani; A Edsall; R Lyon; M Webber.

Proposed: Cllr Campos

Seconded: Cllr Evans

Resolved: To approve these apologies for absence.

Majority vote carried

131. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none but Cllr Evans took the opportunity in this section to formally apologise to District Councillor Bastone and the Dartmouth Visitor Centre for making a statement in the last Full Council meeting, which was factually incorrect and unfounded. Cllr Bastone accepted Cllr Evans' apology and thanked him.

132. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none

133. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
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Proposed: Cllr G Webb

Seconded: Cllr S Hibbert

Cllr D Case asked for clarification on Minute no 118 regarding Green Flag Status asked where this would be discussed. Cllr D Wells confirmed that it would be discussed at the Parks and Open Spaces Committee

Cllr D Case requested that Minute number 123 reflected that it was she who had suggested the proposal and not Cllr T de Galleani.

Resolved: to approve the Minutes with Cllr Case's amendments

Majority vote carried

As the Officer from SHDC was not yet present to give his report due to the issue with the Zoom link, it was agreed to move on to the next item and then return.

134. TO CONSIDER SUPPORTING: - (Cllr Campos)

a. The extension of the suspension of trading restrictions on South Embankment by SHDC until the 31st December 2020 (New Year's Eve)

Cllr Campos advised that representation had been made to SHDC by the traders currently using the North Embankment to have permission to extend until the end of the year. Support from Dartmouth Town Council was asked for. Cllr Bastone told members that this request was currently with SHDC and was likely to be looked at favorably.

Cllr Evans had no problem with permission being extend to December 31st, but asked if SHDC carried out checks to ensure that regulations were being adhered to reference seating and spacing etc.

Cllr Case had no issue with the arrangement continuing as it was but suggested extending the date until the end of the first week in January.

Cllr Rowe said that SHDC were keen to extend as it had proved popular and benefited everyone.

Cllr Bastone agreed that regulations in respect of marquees would need to be looked at later in the year.

Proposed: Cllr Campos

Seconded: Cllr Webb

Resolved: To support extending trading restrictions on South Embankment by SHDC until 31st December 2020 with the possible caveat that this is extended for a further week.

Majority vote carried

b. The permanent suspension of trading restrictions on South Embankment and making a recommendation to SHDC

CC advised that SHDC were looking at making the outdoor trading on South Embankment a permanent year on year arrangement.

Cllr Campos was happy to support the idea but wanted to have a couple of caveats added in that the arrangements needed to be more uniform and organized, more in keeping with Dartmouth and aesthetically pleasing. The question of the marques needed to be addressed as they had attracted too many complaints.

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Cllr Evans wanted assurance that if this was agreed then the existing annual events such as Regatta and Food Festival who used the Embankment, would need to be considered and given priority.

Cllr Bastone assured council that these events would be considered.

Cllr Wells was concerned from a Health & Safety side of things. He wanted stricter regulations put in place in respect of the carrying food from restaurants across the road to the tables, and suggested speed bumps or traffic calming be put in place and for this to be policed in a more stringent way. Protect the public and the businesses.

A strict contract needed to be put in place going forward to cover the points raised.

Cllr Shepherd joined the meeting at 19.20

Cllr Case had heard a lot of positive comments from people being allowed to sit on chairs on the Embankment but also a lot of disappointment at the marquees being put up.

Cllr Case said that she would vote for tables and chairs with an umbrella only placed in a uniform style.

Proposed: Cllr Campos

Seconded: Cllr Baillie

Resolved: in principle to support the permanent suspension of trading restrictions but that DTC be involved in the discussion of the finer details with SHDC.

Majority vote carried

135. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SHDC ON THE UP AND COMING WASTE COLLECTION CHANGES

The Director, Customer Service Delivery from SHDC presented the proposed recycling changes, phase 1 is due to start on the 5th October 2020 which would mean some changes to the collection days. This would be in preparation to phase 2 which would be the introduction of curbside recycling in early March 2021. Letters had already been issued to householders to advise of the changes. By implementing these changes, SHDC hoped to save over 35 tons of carbon emissions.

Phase 2 will be a weekly recycling service and food waste will be separated from gardening waste.

Important to note, even if your collection date stays the same, the order and time of when rubbish is collected may change.

The SHDC officer explained how the changes were complicated and that the collection days would be changing to make operations more efficient.

Cllr Evans said that he would prefer all residents to receive a letter with the necessary changes, but the officer said that the letters had already been sent out and advised that the new website would allow residents to clearly see their next few

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collection dates to plan ahead and said that officers were carrying out presentations to local councils to highlight this.

Cllr Evans also asked if SHDC staff would be investigating if people had space to store the new boxes and if the date for this to start had been published. The officer agreed to let the DTC know when they would be looking at Dartmouth and update them with their findings and to check if they had overlooked anything.

Cllr Webb asked that despite the hardships council were experiencing at the current time with regards to finance, had this already been budgeted for and would it have any effect on residents Council tax in future years? The SHDC officer advised that it would not. He said that the delay had cost the District Council 150-200k and this was part of the new budget which would shortly go for approval. He reiterated that this would not be passed on to residents.

Cllr Yardy asked for clarification, if the Council went for the full recycle gamut, how many boxes would there be per household as he was concerned as to how many boxes would be sitting on the pavement. The Officer said that each household would get 2 boxes, which would take paper, cardboard, glass, and tins. There would also be a large plastic hessian type sack that would take all types of plastic.

Cllr Yardy asked if the boxes were stackable as worried about the boxes blocking the road, if put out the night before. The Officer said that the boxes were stackable and came with lids. The hessian sack was weighted. But it was important to educate everyone into what they can and cannot recycle.

Cllr Yardy also felt that it was important that the holiday let companies and owners were educated regarding the new system to minimize issues.

Cllr Shepherd asked if the leaflets were on recycled paper. The Officer said he didn't know but advised that SHDC had decided not to produce a new paper calendar and were looking to cut down on the amount of paper they used.

Cllr Wells said that a lot of second homes were using the local bins. The Officer replied, any business rated property who pay business rates, don't get their bins emptied like other residential properties, they should have a registered waste provider which is required by law. Work had also been going on to ascertain who was providing the refuse collection for these businesses. the bad link was the Airbnb's. SHDC have also had officers going out during the weekends looking to identify the illegal disposal of household waste / fly tippers.

Cllr Baillie asked if there would be any effects on the skips up at the Park and Ride and in the town. The Officer said that these would still be provided but it would be monitored.

The SHDC Officer left the meeting

136. TO CONSIDER EXTENDING THE ADDITIONAL TRADING IN ROYAL AVENUE GARDENS UNTIL 31ST DECEMBER 2020 (New Year's Eve) - (Cllr Campos)

Cllr Campos said she wanted to put this on the Agenda to keep the same conditions in Royal Avenue Gardens as SHDC on the South Embankment and that there was no need to discuss next year at this point. Cllr Campos said she was ambivalent about the decision but wanted to know if the Councillors were in favour of extending trading.

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Cllr Evans asked if Cllr Campos' proposal could be modified to keep in line with SHDC's decision regarding the South Embankment. IE if SHDC vote yes to extend trading then DTC would say yes to Royal Avenue Gardens and if the vote was against then DTC would also say no.

Cllr Campos was happy to modify her proposal

Cllr Case did not see the need to keep in line with SHDC and that DTC could decide what to do with its own property.

Cllr Campos agreed with Cllr Case and kept her proposal to its original form.

Proposed: Cllr C Campos

Seconded: Cllr D Case

Resolved: that DTC extend the additional trading in Royal Avenue Gardens until 6th January 2021.

137. TO CONSIDER SENDING A LETTER TO THE MP ANTHONY MANGNALL ASKING HIM TO PETITION TO FUSION TO REOPEN THE LEISURE CENTRE - (Cllr Campos)

Cllr Campos explained that this item would be discussed at SHDC on Thursday 24th September. She had spoken to Cllr Hawkins who had suggested that DTC write to all the District Councillors to campaign to get the Dartmouth Leisure Centre and Pool open.

Cllr Rowe confirmed that this was on the agenda and hoped for a positive outcome and agreed that an email to all District Councillors was a good idea.

Cllr Bastone said that SHDC had been pushing very hard despite it being very expensive to get Dartmouth reopened but they are hopefully going to get that achieved on Thursday.

Cllr Case said she thought it would be useful to send an email from the Clerk to the District Councilors and to actually quote from the South Hams District Council press release. Cllr Case also said that what was lacking, was not a criticism, but Dartmouth was not mentioned and a little bit of explanation would be helpful to benefit DTC's understanding.

Cllr Bastone said that everyone who had been paying throughout the Lockdown, would get credit.

Cllr Bastone clarified why the Dartmouth Leisure Centre was the most expensive to open, was because it was the least used of all.

Cllr Case said that to clarify that the monthly payment had reduced the payment to £10 a month which gave them access to online classes.

Cllr Shepherd, wanted to mention to all three District Councillors that it should be opened to help the local economy and to get people back to work.

Proposed: Cllr C Campos

Seconded: Cllr G Webb

Resolved: that the Clerk write a letter to South Hams District Councilors to ask for the immediate reopening of Fusion leisure centre.

138. TO APPOINT A NEW REPRESENTATIVE FOR OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (previously Cllr Hibbert)

Proposed: Cllr G Evans

Seconded: Cllr S Hibbert

Resolved: that Cllr Webb and Cllr Shepherd be the new Councilor Advocates

139. LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES' PAY AGREEMENT 2020/2021

To note the Local Government Services', Pay Agreement 2020/2021 had been reached between the national Employers and the National Joint Council (NJC) Trade Union side on rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2020. Pay rates have been increased by 2.75% (an allowance was made in the Town Council's budget for this)
Cllrs noted this

140. TO RECEIVE ANY REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS / REPRESENTATIVES ON PUBLIC BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

There were none

141. ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON A FUTURE AGENDA

Cllr Hibbert asked for a discussion to advertise the Market Square

Cllr Wells asked to discuss an idea for free parking for local businesses up at Jawbones.

Cllr Case asked for Public Paths Partnership to be discussed.

Cllr Case asked for a Flood Plan for Dartmouth to be discussed.

Cllr Case asked for an update on Defibrillators to be discussed.

Cllr Shepherd asked for the discussion about Community Corner.

142. CONFIDENTIAL

Proposed: Cllr G Webb

Seconded: Cllr G 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.

Majority vote carried

PART 2 – Confidential

The Council will be asked to RESOLVE to exclude the press and public "by reason of the confidential nature of the business" to be discussed and in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. The recording function of Zoom will be disabled and non Councillors asked to leave the meeting.

143. TO CONSIDER THE PROVISION OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR 2020-2021

There was a discussion about the provision of Christmas Lights in Dartmouth, Cllrs commented on the cost of this to the Council.

Proposed: Cllr Hibbert

Seconded: Cllr Baillie

Resolved: that the Council approve the provision of Christmas Lights for 2020-2021

Cllr Case voted against the Provision of Christmas Lights for 2020-2021 but wanted it noted that she wished the vote to take place at the next Full Council meeting by which time she may feel in a position to vote to support the proposal.

There was a discussion on the lights around the Boatfloat and it was decided to put this on hold until the next meeting in Oct and see if they are repairable.

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Cllr Hibbert commented on the cleanliness in the Market toilets and said that she had received a number of verbal complaints about them, the Clerk said that this would be passed to the Property manager.

Cllr Webb said that on a recent visit with family he had seen a community Christmas tree (Nordmann Fir) which had been planted and that he would like to investigate something similar in Townstal.

The meeting finished at 20.42