

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
MONDAY 25TH JANUARY 2021 | FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD
VIRTUALLY ON MONDAY 25TH JANUARY 2021**

PRESENT:

There were 6 Councillors present at the meeting

Cllrs: Cllr C Campos; Cllr A Edsall; Cllr G Evans (Chair); Cllr Sally Hibbert (Deputy Mayor); Cllr D Wells (Vice Chair); Cllr G Yardy

ATTENDANCE:

Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; RFO: Ali McGrigor; Administrator: R Searle; Cllr D Shepherd; representative for the Dartmouth Visitor Centre: District Cllr Hilary Bastone; three representatives from the Dartmouth and District Indoor Swimming Pool: Yvonne Cottam, Helen Darch and Craig Davidson (all names given with permission) and one member of the public.

Cllr Evans welcomed everyone and explained that the meeting was being recorded and that Cllrs and members of the public should be aware that what they say would be recorded and could be put on the Council's YouTube channel, by remaining in this meeting you consent to this.

PART 1 - Open to the Public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr N Bodinnar for work commitments

Proposed: Cllr G Evans

Seconded: Cllr S Hibbert

Resolved: To accept the apology and reason from Cllr Bodinnar.

Majority vote carried.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none

3. NOMINATE VICE CHAIR

Proposed: Cllr G Evans

Seconded: Cllr S Hibbert

Resolved: To appoint Cllr David Wells as Vice Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Majority vote carried

4. TO CONSIDER AWARDING SPONSORSHIP TO THE FOLLOWING LARGE FESTIVALS HELD IN DARTMOUTH, FROM THE 2021-2022 FINANCIAL YEAR SPONSORSHIP BUDGET:

Music Festival - £5,000

Cllr G Evans explained that the Music Festival was included in the proposal passed during Full Council approval of the budget. It had been agreed that the four large festivals would receive sponsorship directly without having to go through the grant

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procedure. These Festivals would just have to file the necessary paperwork and provide a report of how the event went.

Cllr C Campos clarified that this money was dependent on the festivals going ahead. Cllr A Edsall suggested creating a festivals liaison person/s and Cllr G Evans agreed, this would be added to a future agenda (the list for Cllr representatives)

Proposed: Cllr G Evans

Seconded: Cllr C Campos

Resolved: To pay the £5,000 sponsorship to the Music Festival in the next financial year, if the festival went ahead.

Majority vote carried.

5. TO CONSIDER AWARDING THE FOLLOWING GRANTS, FROM THE 2020-2021 FINANCIAL YEAR GRANTS BUDGET:

Dartmouth and District Indoor Swimming Pool - £5,000

The representatives of the Indoor Swimming Pool gave an overview of the relationship between themselves and Fusion who act as an agent and run the leisure centre. They explained that with lockdown fundraising had stopped, causing a considerable loss of income. They had submitted grant claims and had recently been successful which helped.

They confirmed that a lot more people had used the swimming pool since December and would like to encourage younger people to come and learn essential life skills.

They had been trying to develop a scheme to provide free entry to taster courses, aimed at getting people interested in returning to swimming and providing a swimming coach.

Cllr G Evans said that as Dartmouth Town Council's money was raised from the residents of Dartmouth, it would be good to find ways to ensure that the grant was only applicable for the benefit of the people of Dartmouth. EG: tickets sold at the Council offices or distributed to the schools etc...

Cllrs then discussed this grant application and Cllr Evans' suggestion, but felt that the money should be offered unconditionally at this stage but hoped that the swimming pool may be able to find some ways for local people to benefit from type of discount.

Cllr D Shepherd asked permission to speak and said that she would like to talk further with the representatives from the pool because Community Chest had previously been purchasing tickets to enable families to use the pool who would not ordinarily be able to.

Cllr G Yardy asked for clarification on the relationship between Fusion and the pool. Helen said the money from SHDC went directly to Fusion to help keep their sites open and that Fusion did not need to contractually offer any money to the indoor pool.

Proposed: Cllr G Evans

Seconded: Cllr A Edsall

Resolved: To award a grant of £5,000 to the Dartmouth and District Indoor Swimming Pool from the 2021-2022 budget without any restrictions and with the view that further talks would take place in the future to work out how the grant could directly benefit the people of Dartmouth.

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Majority vote carried.

6. TO CONSIDER THE ADVICE FROM THE INTERNAL AUDITOR TO MOVE ALL COUNCIL BANK ACCOUNTS TO UNITY TRUST, WITH A PHASED ROLL OUT STARTING WITH THE DARTMOUTH TRUST AND THE HENLEY COLLECTION ACCOUNTS FIRST.

The RFO explained that the internal auditor had recommended the Council move the Council bank accounts to Unity Trust Bank, but to start with the two charity accounts first.

The RFO added that it was used by a lot of Councils across the UK.

Cllr G Yardy asked how long it had been in existence and it was clarified that they had been in operation since 1984 and were part owned by the Co-Op bank. It was also noted that the Co-Op and NatWest were joint clearing agents.

The RFO said that she was arranging a phone call with Unity Trust Bank to find out further information.

Proposed: Cllr G Evans

Seconded: Cllr A Edsall

Resolved: To take this to Full Council for a vote following on from the RFO's conversation with Unity Trust Bank.

Majority vote

7. TO CONSIDER THE NEW BOAT FLOAT BANNER POLICY (Cllr Edsall)

Cllr Edsall explained that had come about because there seemed a need to clarify how many and for how long banners could be erected onto the boatfloat railings. Cllrs discussed the specifics of the Boat Float Banner Policy and it was agreed to allow up to 4 banners at any one time, and they should all measure the same to cover two wide and two deep spaces on the railings.

It was noted that the example in the policy for the market banner was perfect.

It was also noted that the Regatta banner wouldn't meet this criteria and Cllr Campos said she would ask them to have another one made.

Proposed: Cllr A Edsall

Seconded: Cllr G Evans

Resolved: To approve the new Boat Float Banner Policy ensuring that 4 banners could be erected at any one time and they all meet the specified measurements.

Majority vote carried

ADDITIONAL ITEM

It was agreed that an additional item that did not make it on to the agenda could be discussed no decisions would be made.

Cllr Yardy said that the aim was to get some feedback from the Finance Committee regarding the Dartmouth Visitor Centre grant for £5,000. This had originally been discussed at Full Council and further information was requested from the Dartmouth Visitor Centre.

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District Cllr Hilary Bastone as a representative for the Dartmouth Visitor Centre thanked Cllr Yardy for all his help and showed a PowerPoint presentation.

Cllr H Bastone said they would like to invite Cllr Yardy to join as a Director of the Dartmouth Visitor Centre, it was agreed that this would be put on the next Full Council Agenda.

Cllrs discussed this grant application, and it was agreed that this decision would come back to the next Finance and General Purposes meeting on Monday 22nd March 2021 for a decision.