

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR DARTMOUTH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, CONVENED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PART II, AND
HELD IN THE BALLROOM AT THE GUILDHALL, DARTMOUTH
AT 7.00 PM, ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH MAY 2021.

Present: Cllrs: Graham Webb (Mayor), Graham Evans (Deputy Mayor), Martin McGowan Scanlon, David Wells, Dawn Shepherd; Andrea Cates.
Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Administrator: R Searle; representative from the Old Dartmothians: Richard Rendle (name supplied with permission) and two members of the public

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR OF DARTMOUTH

The Mayor, Cllr G Webb welcomed those present to the meeting and explained that: “This was an open meeting of the Parish and not to be confused with the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Parish Council traditionally facilitates the meeting and creates an agenda to include current matters known to be of interest to the community. However, any relevant matters can be raised for discussion within the open forum section by any elector of the parish community”

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 18th March 2019

It was agreed to resolve to note these minutes as read.

Proposed: Mr R Rendle

Seconded: Cllr G Evans

Resolved: to note these minutes as read.

3. MAYOR'S REPORT ON COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Mayor read out his report:

Annual Parish Meeting

Mayors Report.

I would like to welcome everyone present to this 2021 annual parish meeting.

It has been a long time since the last APM and in that time we have all experienced some extraordinary events that have affected the whole world and possibly every individual in our town.

The covid pandemic has touched our lives and influenced everything we have done over the last 14 or so months and will do possibly for many years to come.

It has shaped the way we shop, travel, work and play and it has affected the way we govern.

Dartmouth Town Council has played a small part in keeping everyone safe and ensuring our community has been able to reach the various help they needed.

At the height of the pandemic and indeed throughout lockdown and after lockdown, one person was an ever constant here in the office, Jools has manned the phone everyday answering questions, dealing with the problems and difficulties our townsfolk met liaising with SHDC, DCC and the various organizations in and around town dishing out refuse sacks and many many more things, thank you.

We facilitated Dartmouth Caring and Dartmouth Foodbank in the Guildhall and Ivy Lane and allowed them to use the premises at no charge.

We allowed Health Care Professionals to use the showers in RAG so they could shower and sanitize between visits and at the end of shifts.

Our Gardening and Maintenance Teams have worked very hard in keeping the council's buildings, the Market Square and the gardens and grounds in a very good state while suffering staff shortages due to self-isolation issues so a big thank you must also go out to them.

Despite everything DTC has been remarkably busy, over the last 2 years Cllrs have organized 2 highly successful fiver fests encouraging people to shop locally with over 50 businesses taking part, with a 3rd planned for the next month or so.

Working with the community the NP is nearing the preliminary completion of the doc and the pre-consultation doc.

Once completed the NP it will give the council powers to guide the way forward of how this towns future is planned and implemented, and how we wish to proceed.

Cllrs have set up the Dartmouth Recovery Forum with SHDC Cllrs Tourism experts and business leaders to help our towns recovery post covid.

We are on the verge of being awarded VGS for the community orchard protecting it for future generations from development.

We have also set up the Manor Gardens Working Group to protect this much-loved community space with the hope of getting full protection in the near future.

We have reworked the Market policy and helped bring a hugely successful new farmers market to the town.

Our communications have improved with residents including Facebook posts about council activity and decisions.

Cllrs have resurrected the defunct sports forum to look at ways to use S106 money to possibly include a new skate park a 2G hockey pitch upgrades to existing facilities and the building of a clubhouse as a hub for all to use.

We have given grants to many organizations and events in the town, and started a sponsorship scheme for, initially the larger, more established events.

We are hoping to have the remaining 3 sites for defibs up and running before the summer season which I believe will give us a total of nine in dart and Townstal.

The HWBC has its groundbreaking ceremony at the end of this month which will lead to improved health care for all.

However, the protection of Dartmouth interest in the community hospital is still forefront to ensure it can become an asset for Dartmouth.

We were able to ensure there was no loss of parking spaces at the HWBC which would have had a huge impact on visitor numbers.

Ongoing is the campaign for improved bus transport with a proposal prepared for a Dartmouth Area Bus and connections to Torbay.

Staying on the theme of transport the lack of forward planning for EV charging points has been highlighted by Cllrs and members of the public and we have had site surveys at 4 locations to see about substantially increasing EV charging points.

And we working with SHDC and others to make it a reality.

We are in the final steps to initialize and bring online the CCTV system for the town with a view to extending it up to Townstal at a future date, The system installed at present is looking to be fully operational within the next few weeks.

There are other, more administrative things that have been done and are being done to make the council run more efficiently now and in the future.

At the council we have welcomed 3 new members of staff Jools, Richard and Ryan and have said farewell to Dave 'Whiskey' Walker who has retired, and I can bear witness personally, is happily tending his asparagus up at the allotments.

A big thank you to Charlie who, as well as loads of other especially important things for this council has worked tirelessly both at home and in the office, to tailor the new scheme of delegation so it is fit for purpose.

I would like to thank Ruth who constantly and calmly steers me thru the sometimes-choppy waters of local government.

Richard, I have never seen so many post-it notes!! Testament to the amount of work involved in properties management Thank you.

Katie, is known as the child because of her age, and to avoid the virus risk has been coming in to the office at night to work thank you.

And Ali once again you have kept this council on a sound financial footing and one of the best in a financial sense in the entire country thank you.

In fact, I must commend the entire office team who work and support each other in a fantastic way and pull together to make sure the offices of DTC run smoothly and correctly.

Thanks also must go to DGP for their contribution to the great floral displays they provide every year that enhance the beauty of our town.

To Dartmouth Caring, Dartmouth Foodbank, Dartmouth comm chest and Karl and Deborah Stone of the Flavel Church for feeding and caring for our community both before, during and onwards in the days ahead.

To Capt. Readwin and BRNC for his unwavering support for the town and of myself personally.

Thank you to my fellow Cllrs for all your hard work and diligence over the last two years.

A very special Thank you to Ron my Town Sergeant always at my side, always a rock and support. despite my choice of shirts, his sense of humour is intact and he always keeps 'singing in the rain'!

Finally, my sincerest thanks must go to my long-suffering wife Jayne, the Mayoress, who has had to put up with, well, me.!!

We have enjoyed some lovely days out and about Mayoring
And we have been privileged to attend some lovely functions as representatives of our Town.

We wish all the very best for the future of Dartmouth and the many colourful and exciting things that the future holds.

Cllr Graham Webb (Mayor of Dartmouth)

4. TOWN CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

We welcome clubs and organisations to come and tell everybody a little bit about themselves and to answer any questions from members of the public.

5. OPEN FORUM

An opportunity to discuss matters of interest to the community.

A member of the public asked what the council's position was on residents parking schemes and Cllr Webb said that the Council were not investigating this at the moment. The member of the public then said that there had been a big meeting in the church. Cllr Evans said this has never been resolved, and once the neighbourhood plan is through (which doesn't include parking) but it could trigger off the back something to see a solution that people would be happy with. The member of the public said it was only for about four months of the year that it was a problem.

A member of the public said he was looking at the accounts and questioned the 39% increase, when there was surplus earmarked reserves and wondered why there was such an increase

Cllr Evans said that fundamentally and legally the Council has to keep a percentage of the reserves, that the Council had to cover the cost of the reducing income from the assets that came over from SHDC, and there were a number of works that needed to be done on council buildings in town post pandemic.

Richard Rendle asked about virements and said that they needed to be out in the open, and Cllr Evans said that all virements are done at Full Council in the public section of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 19.27