

**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 CLIFTON ROOM AT THE GUILDHALL, DARTMOUTH AT 7.00 PM, ON MONDAY,
30TH MAY 2022.**

Present: Cllrs: D Wells (Mayor), M Webber (Deputy Mayor), A Cates, N Davies, G Evans, M Rowley, D Shepherd, G Webb, Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams;
Senior Administrator: R Searle and 2 members of the Public

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR OF DARTMOUTH

Cllr Wells 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 Meeting of the Council. 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 26th May

Proposed: Cllr G Webb

Seconded: Cllr M Rowley

Resolved: to approve these minutes as read.

3. MAYOR'S REPORT ON COUNCIL BUSINESS

The Mayor read out the following report

Report By Mayor David Wells

I would like to welcome everyone present to this 2022 annual parish meeting. It has been a turbulent year recovering from a national pandemic and with the easing of restrictions by the government.

Covid has not gone away and as a new Mayor I would like to thank all the organisations and individuals that worked hard to support the town and get us through this difficult period.

The Council has endeavoured to support the town and local community through this difficult period and are now looking forward to getting the town planning for the future and welcome back tourists which will bring a welcome injection of income for our local business.

We are going into another difficult period with high inflation and rising fuel costs, as a Council we are reviewing our own outgoing and endeavouring to see how we can support the town and local residence.

There has just been a fantastic music festival and going forward the planning for other events such as the Jubilee celebrations, the Royal Regatta, the Food festival, Candlelit and all the other key events that support the town.

A lot of projects planned by the council were put on hold due to the Covid pandemic and now your council staff team are driving these projects forward. Some of these have been started and are coming to fruition, which is really good news.

These are projects that have been completed or coming up to fruition:

- Town CCTV system is up and running
- Coronation Park toilets and public shower

- Defibrillators around the town
- Dartmouth orchard gaining 'Village Green' status
- Five a side goal post in Coronation Park for community youth to use
- Installation of CCTV cameras at the dingy park

These are projects that have been agreed and will now be actioned as soon as possible:

- Renovation of the wall behind the Butterwalk
- Renovation of the old market external walls
- Renovation of the Coronation Park tennis courts
- Maintenance of the Boatfloat moorings
- Refurbishment of the Guildhall flooring
- Installation of CCTV cameras in Townstal

The Neighbourhood Planning group have been working with the community for future planning within the town, detailing how the town wants to proceed in the future. This has been a major success and I would like to give a big thank you for the community support and the hard work of all the members of the team, helping to bring this to fruition.

It is really good to see local community organisations using Coronation park to support health and wellbeing, a big well done to the Dartmouth walking rugby team. We have given grants to many organizations and events in the town, and started a sponsorship scheme for, initially the larger, more established events, this has been successful in supporting the town.

As Mayor I would like to say welcome to Sarah Oakley the new BRNC Captain and Paul Britton the new Harbour Master. I hope they enjoy working in Dartmouth and taking the town forward after Covid.

The council are very grateful to Liz Moseley and the committee for launching the new youth group to utilise Ivy lane for bringing together the local youth.

The council negotiating team are still working closely with the NHS for the protection and interest of the community hospital to ensure it can become an asset for the town.

As a council we are reviewing how to improve bus transport with a proposal being prepared for a Dartmouth Area Bus and connections to Torbay. Parking is an ongoing issue within the town, which we are always trying to review and work with South Hams and Devon County Council to resolve. Ongoing, EV points within the town is slowly happening to make the town an environmentally better town.

We have a new gardening team and our head gardener, Matt has started to put his individual stamp on the gardens. We are coming into the summer period and it will be good to see the colourful and bright gardens enhancing the towns appearance.

Graham Webb the new chair of Council Assets is a great asset to support the gardening team with his knowledge.

The Old Dartmothian's have done another great project and completed refurbishing the RAG pond railings and this has enhanced the gardens. Thank you very much to them.

A big thank you to all the volunteers within: Dartmouth Caring; Dartmouth Foodbank and Dartmouth Community Chest for all the support they gave and continue to give to the people of Dartmouth. Especially during the pandemic. Thank you

Our communications team on the council have been working hard to improve the communication lines and a newsletter is planned for the future to be posted through every letterbox.

The Jubilee celebrations planned by the council and local residents should be spectacular. I would like to say my congratulations to the Queen on her long reign and steering the country through the difficult past few years.

Thank you to my fellow Cllrs for all your hard work and diligence over the last year and supporting the town and residents of Dartmouth.

A big thank you to Charlie, Ruth and Jools and all the council team for all your hard work, I also must commend the entire office team and maintenance 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

Ali, once again you have kept this council on a sound financial footing, thank you.

A special thank you to Richard for putting up with my nagging emails about getting the Pétanque area approved on Coronation Park, we will get there in the end.

A very special thank you to Ron my Town Sergeant for supporting the last Mayor and guiding myself in my position as mayor.

Finally, I would like to personally thank Cllr Graham Webb for his dedication as Mayor over the last few years, especially the last twelve months which have been personally tough for him and I would also like to thank Cllr Graham Evans for stepping in for Cllr Webb and supporting the Council where needed.

Cllr Wells spoke about how important communication was within the community moving forward. Cllr Rowley asked for the DUC to be added to the Mayors report.

4. TOWN CLUBS & ORGANISATIONS

The Town Council welcomed clubs and organisations to come forward to give everybody a little bit of background knowledge about themselves and to answer any questions from members of the public.

Neil Stravens from Dart Sailability gave a brief outline of what his organisation did with access for all.

UTAH 237 spokesperson explained what his group did, and their aspirations to mark the 80th Anniversary in 2023. Cllr Webb suggested that the group apply to DTC for a grant.

5. OPEN FORUM

To discuss matters of interest to the community.

A member of the Public asked about parking and the lack of enforcement, especially with motorhomes parking up overnight, and with cars being dumped during the winter months. The Park and Ride facility was discussed in respect of it being kept open during the winter.

The meeting ended at 19.45