

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER**  
**OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: G Coles; A Fyson (Vice Chairman); D Gent; F Hawke; R Lyon (Mayor); F Pritchard-Tagg (Chairman and Deputy Mayor); R Springett

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Finance Officer: A McGrigor; Dartmouth Visitor Centre: Cllr H Bastone; K Perrow

**25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies

**26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at this point

**27. CORRESPONDENCE**

- Community Chest request to waver their fee for RAG hut  
The Chairman asked to move this item until after the agenda item for grant applications and all Councillors who were present were in favour.
  
- South Coast Championships 2019  
Cllr Bastone gave an overview of this event which will take place on 14th September, 2019 (Appendix A)  
The Chair confirmed that if this grant request was approved it would come out of next year's budget 2019-2020.  
**Proposal:** Cllr Hawke  
**Seconded:** Cllr Gent  
**Resolved:** To give a grant of £5,000 out of next year's budget and to host a reception in the Guildhall, to allow them free use of Coronation Park for the week.  
Cllr Springett said that moving forward we needed to charge for our assets. Cllr Lyon (Mayor) agreed that we needed to ensure that our assets generated an income and that he understood that the grant would cover the hire of Coronation Park and the Guildhall.  
Cllr Springett also said that they could come back  
**Amendment:** Cllr Springett had an amendment which was to remove the words 'free use' of Coronation Park or the Guildhall for the week.  
**Amendment Seconded:** Cllr Lyon (Mayor)  
**Resolved:** To give a grant of £5,000 out of next year's budget and to host a reception in the Guildhall and to allow them the use of Coronation Park for the week and that this would need to be discussed with the administrator. All Councillors who were present were in favour.

## 28. GRANT APPLICATIONS:

- **Deferred Community Chest from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 - £500**  
Chairman explained that this application was deferred from the previous Finance Committee meeting and was not declined as had been stated in the October Full Council meeting by a member of the public, the Chairman also confirmed that the additional documentation requested had been submitted. The total amount on the documentation came to £439.31.  
**Proposed:** Cllr Springett  
**Seconded:** Cllr Hawke  
**Resolved:** To approve this grant, and to pay the total amount of the accompanying paperwork that was submitted by Community Chest.  
Five Cllrs voted in favour  
One Cllr voted against
- **Youth Genesis - £4,000**  
Cllr Gent declared an interest in this item.  
There was a general discussion about this grant application.  
**Proposed:** Cllr Springett  
**Seconded:** Cllr Hawke  
**Resolved:** To grant Youth Genesis the amount of £4,000.  
Six Cllrs voted in favour  
One Cllr abstained.

Cllr Gent reported that Youth Genesis would be returning the £5,000 that was paid to them as an interim payment in the last financial year, very shortly.

The Finance Officer notified Cllrs that the grants budget has now been depleted and we can no longer accept any new grants for this financial year.

## 29. CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED

Community Chest request to waver the fee for the RAG hut  
There was a general discussion to do with how much the amenity hut costs us to hire out and that DTC do not allow their properties/assets to be let for free.  
Cllr Fyson also commented that our own finances need to show accurate cost centres and reflect how much income each property has produced.  
**Proposed:** Cllr Gent  
**Seconded:** Cllr Coles  
**Resolved:** To decline this request.

## 30. GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA

The Chairman spoke about the new Grant Application Criteria that had been put together by the Finance Officer and the Clerk, this includes a new application form, a grant criteria and a feedback form.  
A couple of changes were discussed and suggested.  
**Proposal:** Cllr Gent  
**Seconded:** Cllr Coles  
**Resolved:** To accept these documents once amended with the suggestions.  
All Councillors who were present were in favour.  
Chairman said these will come into play after the full council meeting in November.

### **31. FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-2019**

The Finance Officer explained that this item was to do with moving excess money from one area to another area.

It was agreed that any virements would be cleared at Full Council

### **32. EXTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT ON THE TOWN COUNCIL'S ACCOUNTS TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2018**

Cllrs looked at the external auditor's report and agreed that everything was in order.

**Proposed:** Cllr Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr Hawke

All Councillors who were present were in favour.

Cllr Gent wanted to give his thanks to the finance department.

Cllr Lyon (Mayor) said he wanted to give thanks to the whole office staff.

### **33. OVERVIEW OF BUDGET / EXPENDITURE TO 30/09/18**

The Chairman said that this had been previously seen and discussed at the scrutiny meeting.

The Finance Officer talked the Cllrs through both the current income and expenditure to date and the next financial year's budget.

The budget was scrutinised by all Cllrs and many questions and suggestions were put to the Finance Officer.

The Finance Officer said that she would make the suggested changes and bring the budget back to the next Finance Committee meeting in November.

The council also discussed a personnel report that had been produced by the Clerk and circulated to the Personnel committee, this report is regarding the staffing budget. Cllr Springett suggested allocating some additional funds to the staffing budget (around £6,000) but that the Personnel Report should be circulated to all Cllrs on the Finance Committee who wished to see it before a decision was made.

The Clerk said she would circulate the Report to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor in the first instance, but that it could be circulated to all Cllrs who wanted to see it.

There was a general discussion about GDPR and the impact on Cllrs emails being secure, the Clerk said that some neighbouring Councils are buying tablets for Cllrs to use and providing Council email addresses to all Councillors. It was decided to come back to this at a later stage, once costs had been researched.

Councillors allowances was discussed, and it was decided to discuss this at Full Council.

**Proposed:** Cllr Springett

**Seconded:** Cllr Lyon (Mayor)

**Resolved:** For the Finance Officer to make the suggested changes to the budget for 2019-2020 and bring back to the next Finance Committee meeting.

### **34. PREPARATION FOR 2019/2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

This was covered within the above agenda item.

### **35. SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR VARIANCES OR INCREASES IN 2018-2019 BUDGET:**

The Chairman asked for any specific requests.

Cllr Fyson spoke about the Neighbourhood Plan and asked that £10,000 be allocated in the budget.

Cllr Springett said that next year would be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day, we may have dignitaries etc... could we allocate £2,000 into the budget under Civic Events.

Cllr Hawke spoke about the Visitor Centre, and the difficulties they have had dealing with the planning department with regards to adding the extension onto the back of the Visitor Centre. Cllr Hawke asked that £5,000 be put into the budget to help with the planning application.

This would not be allocated via grants.

**Proposed:** Cllr Fyson

**Seconded:** Cllr Lyon (Mayor)

Resolved to allocate these funds into the budget

### **36. SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM ELECTED MEMBERS FOR ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN 2019/20 BUDGET**

Cllr Gent asked for a budget amount of £2,000 to go into income to Ivy Lane.

### **37. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Proposed:** Cllr Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr Hawke

**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.

## **IN COMMITTEE**

### **38. AGED DEBTORS REPORT AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2018**

The Clerk apologised and explained that due to the budget preparation, this was not produced, the Finance Officer said she would email this out to all Cllrs and that it would be deferred until the next meeting in November.

### **39. IVY LANE STUDIO – DEBT**

Cllr Gent explained the current situation with the tenants from the music studio who would be vacating the premises at the end of this month, there was a question raised as to whether we should claim the money if the rent arrears was not received and a discussion ensued.

**Proposed:** Cllr Hawke

**Seconded:** Cllr Coles

**Resolved:** To start proceedings for county court judgement / summons to claim back the arrears.

To write a letter to explain that the debt is still owing, post this to both parties and attach it to the summons.

#### **40. DINGHY PARK PRICES**

The proposed dinghy park prices were circulated and discussed. All Councillors who were present agreed the new pricing structure and to get rid of the casual spaces. The boatfloat was also discussed because the Council would like to bring the boat float and the dinghy parks more inline with each other and the new prices were agreed.

**Proposed:** Cllr Pritchard-Tagg

**Seconded:** Cllr Coles

**Resolved:** To get rid of casual spaces.

**Proposed:** Cllr Hawke

**Seconded:** Cllr Pritchard-Tagg

**Resolved:** To accept the amended prices for Coronation Dinghy Park

**Proposed:** Cllr Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr Pritchard-Tagg

**Resolved:** To accept the amended prices for Warfleet Dinghy Park

**Proposed:** Cllr Lyon

**Seconded:** Cllr Pritchard-Tagg

**Resolved:** To accept the amended prices for the Boat Float

All Councillors who were present were in favour.

Cllr Gent asked for thanks to go to the Receptionist who had worked on this.

All Councillors who were present voted to come out of committee

#### **Appendix A**

##### **HISTORY OF DARTMOUTH AMATEUR ROWING CLUB 2019**

DARTMOUTH'S oldest club celebrates its 150th anniversary with reminiscences of a proud history.

Dartmouth Amateur Rowing Club was established on Monday, 22nd March, 1869.

Rowing races had been held on the river Dart for half a century prior to the Rowing Club being formed and the first recorded races were held in the 1820s which led to Dartmouth Regatta being established in 1834.

A report at the time of the formation of the rowing club concluded, "Dartmouth has long felt the want of a rowing club which want we hope will now be supplied. The club has been formed by a few energetic young men of the town, who did not see why this town, which possesses such advantages, should be so far behind other places."

"They held their first meeting on Monday, 22nd March, when they came to the conclusion that it might easily be formed, and maintained if the public would come forward with voluntary subscriptions and otherwise assist them in the support of the same. A deputation was formed to wait on Mr C. Chalker to invite him to stand as Captain, which he kindly consented to do, and no doubt with such a Captain as Mr. Chalker, the club will be in a position to compete for several prizes at the forthcoming Regatta."

By June 1869 the club had purchased a 40 foot fine four-oared gig and had paid on account £6 for a 36 foot gig. The club entered their new 40 foot gig, Star of the Dart, in 'The Dart Purse of Ten Sovereigns' race at the 1869 Dartmouth Regatta winning the event but not without protest. Gazelle, the second boat to finish the race, lodged a protest that Star of the Dart had not rounded the course

properly. The Regatta committee decided that the two boats should row half the course for the first prize which Star of the Dart won easily.

When the West of England Amateur Rowing Association was formed in 1896 Dartmouth was one of the eight founding clubs, three of which no longer exist. Dartmouth also provided the first Chairman and Secretary of the Association.

The club has spawned some incredible rowing crews down the years and has a proud record of results second to none in the West of England but the golden era was without doubt during the 1930s. In 1933 the club won the West of England ARA Championships for Senior, Junior and Under 20s but an even greater achievement was to follow. The Senior and Junior crews combined to form an eight to take on other crews from around the country and went on to win the National ARA race for Champion eights of England, rowed annually on the river Thames, to lift the Lord Desborough Cup. Two years later in 1935 the Senior four became the National ARA's Champion four of England winning the Daily Herald Cup.

The amalgamation of the national associations to form the ARA also saw the inception of the South Coast Championship Regatta in 1957 with Dartmouth hosting the third Championship Regatta in 1959. This brought more success for the club with the Senior crew winning the South Coast Championship at that 1959 regatta and repeated the success at the 1962 Championship Regatta. The year 1969, the club's centenary, was eventful with the Senior crew winning all eight West of England ARA regattas to win the Association's Championship with the club's B crew runners-up. The club also staged the South Coast Championship Regatta for the second time.

Through the 1970s women's rowing became the fastest growing sport in the country and again the club had its share of successes at Senior Ladies both at West of England level and at the South Coast Championships with wins in 1980 and 1982.

It is estimated that over the years Dartmouth Amateur Rowing Club has won over 2,000 trophies which includes the West of England ARA Men's Senior coxed fours Championship on 35 occasions. There have been many other landmarks such as becoming the first club to win all of the West of England ARA Men's Championships in 1994.

Junior (Under 18) rowing has come to the forefront in this century and Dartmouth has had its share of West of England ARA Junior Championships and with the inauguration of the South Coast Junior Regatta at Dartmouth in 2006 success on a wider stage. In 2006 the club won four events and in 2007 at Dorney Lake, the venue for the 2012 Olympic rowing events, they went one better with five wins. These successes were surpassed in 2008 at Plymouth with the Juniors winning six events and the newly installed points trophy for the South Coast Junior Regatta. These successes at Junior level have continued and at last year's South Coast Rowing Championships the Girls Under 16 coxed quadruple sculls crew won their event in their first outing in a coastal boat at Deal.

The club has staged the South Coast Rowing Championships on three occasions, 1959, 1969 and the 50th Championships in 2006 as well as assisting the Royal Regatta on two occasions stage the Championships to celebrate their 150th anniversary in 1984 again for their 150th Regatta in 1994.

Hilary Bastone.