

Present

*Cllr S E Thomson – Chairman

*Cllr R M Lyon (Town Mayor)

*Cllr R W I Cooke (Deputy Mayor)

#Cllr P F Allen

*Cllr A J C Fyson

*Cllr D M Gent

*Cllr F J Hawke

*Cllr R F Rendle

*Cllr R Springett

Observers: Cllr L M Barnes
Cllr G B F Coles
Cllr T de Galleani
Cllr I A Pritchard

*Denotes attendance

#Denotes apology for absence

Also in attendance 1 member of the press.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Gent declared a personal interest in the consideration of a grant to Dartmouth Pre-school for Southford Road Schoolrooms.

2. CORRESPONDENCE – GRANT APPLICATIONS

a) TIC – additional grant of £3,000

Members discussed the running costs of the Tourist Information Centre and it was noted that South Hams District Council charged rent of £6,000 for the building. Chris Brook at South Hams District Council had declined the Town Council's suggestion that they take over the ownership of the building.

Members requested that they receive more information before any further grants could be considered.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

Recommended: That a decision on additional grant funding to the TIC be deferred until further information has been received to facilitate a decision.

b) Devon Young Carers

A request for funding towards the cost of a trip had been received from Devon Young Carers, it was noted that they helped 22 young people in the Dartmouth area.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett
Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Recommended: That a grant of £660 be made to Devon Young Carers from the major grants budget.

3. CLARIFICATION ON THE CLERK'S AUTHORITY TO SPEND.

Cllr Rendle explained that the Clerk's Authority to spend under Standing Order 41 needed clarification and he gave details of the rules governing Council spending for members. The meeting agreed that a small working party would be set up to review the Town Council's Standing Orders.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr R M Lyon

Recommended: That a working party be set up to review the Town Council's Standing Orders.

4. REPORT ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE 7 MONTHS TO 31ST OCTOBER 2015.

A copy of a summary of income and expenditure to 31st October 2015 had been circulated. Noted.

Cllr Fyson arrived at 6.40 pm

5. BUDGET FOR 2016/2017

Members reviewed a draft budget for 2016/2017. Professional advice would be sought on the clearing of mud from the Boatfloat.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Recommended: That a 2% increase be made to the salaries budget to cover the 2016 National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay awards.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

Recommended: That the budget for minor grants be increased from £1,200 to £2,000 for 2016/2017.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett

Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Recommended: That the budget for major grants be increased from £13,650 to £14,000 for 2016/2017.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr R Springett

Recommended: That the budget for the Guildhall in major works be increased from £50,000 to £150,000 for 2016/2017.

Proposed: Cllr A J C Fyson

Seconded: Cllr R Springett

Recommended: That £6,000 (an increase of £3,000) be included in the major grants budget for 2016/2017 for a grant to the TIC, provided that the Town Council receive the requested additional accounts information.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett
Seconded: Cllr R F Rendle

Recommended: That £6,000 be added to the major grants budget for 2016/2017 for improvements to pathways in the Orchard, only to be used should the Friends of the Community Orchard not receive grant funding to cover this.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr R W I Cooke

Recommended: That a grant of £5,000 be made to Dartmouth Green Partnerships from the 2016/2017 major grants budget.

Proposed: Cllr R F Rendle
Seconded: Cllr R Springett

**Recommended: That the grounds maintenance budgets for 2016/2017 be increased as follows:-
Longross Cemetery and St Saviours from £12,000 to £18,000
Orchard from £1,500 to £3,000.**

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr R Springett

Recommended: That £2,000 be included in the budget for 2016/2017 for the Sister City status.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr R Springett

Recommended: That £500 be included in the budget for 2016/2017 for Mayflower 400.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr R Springett

Recommended: That £2,000 be included in the budget for 2016/2017 towards a new bus shelter at Norton Park.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett
Seconded: Cllr A J C Fyson

Recommended: That the Town Council's precept for 2016/2017 be increased by 4% from £180,680 to £188,094.

6. REPLACEMENT OF THE OFFICE FRANKING MACHINE.

This item was considered as an item of urgent business. The Clerk explained that the office franking machine was not working and a replacement was required as soon as possible. The cost of the replacement machine was £2,500.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett
Seconded: Cllr R M Lyon

Recommended: That the Clerk be authorised to purchase a new franking machine for the Town Council offices.

Cllrs Cooke and Lyon left the meeting at 8.00pm

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

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.

Cllr Barnes left the meeting at 8.05 pm

7. REVIEW OF THE AGED DEBTORS REPORT AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2015.

A copy of the aged debtors report as at 30th September 2015 was laid round the table. The Book Keeper explained each of the items on the aged debtors report for members.