

**Present**

\*Cllr S E Thomson – Chairman  
\*Cllr L M Barnes – Vice-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 M Baillie  
Cllr G M B Coles  
Cllr B T Harriss

\*Denotes attendance  
#Denotes apology for absence

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

Cllr Gent declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 – Grant to Southford Road Pre-School.

**2. ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN.**

**Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke**  
**Seconded: Cllr P F Allen**

**Resolved: That Cllr L M Barnes be elected Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee for the remainder of the ensuing year.**

**3. CORRESPONDENCE.**

There was none.

*Cllr Cooke arrived at 6.04pm*

**4. GRANT TO SOUTHFORD ROAD PRE-SCHOOL.**

A letter from Julian Distin the Chairman of the Pre-school had been laid round the table. Members were concerned with the length of the lease to be granted to the preschool but felt that the Town Council could not fund the landlord's building works. The applicant would be asked to reapply for further funding for play equipment and holiday club and early years provision.

**Proposed: Cllr R Springett**

**Seconded: Cllr P F Allen**

**Recommended: That a grant of £2,000 be made to Dartmouth Pre-school in the current financial year from the Dartmouth Trust funds and that the applicant be asked to re-apply for further funding for play equipment and holiday club and early years provision.**

**5. REPORT ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE 9 MONTHS TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2015.**

A copy of a summary of income and expenditure to 31st December 2015 had been circulated. Members agreed that Civic events where ticket sales were made would be run on a cost neutral basis. It was noted that the event to celebrate the Sister City Status would be funded and run by the sister city group. The income and expenditure report was noted.

**6. APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR.**

The Clerk advised the meeting that following the cessation of the Audit Commission on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, External Auditors would be appointed on behalf of all smaller authorities by a company set up on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government by the National Association of Local Councils, the Society of Local Council Clerks and the Association of Drainage Authorities. All Town and Parish Councils with a turnover of less than £6.5 million would automatically be enrolled as part of this scheme. Fees for the external audit would be held at the 2014/2015 level (£1,000 for Dartmouth Town Council). Members noted Town Council's inclusion in this scheme and the appointment of the External Auditor.

7. **ADVERTISING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL PROPERTIES  
IN A LOCAL PUBLICATION.**

Members considered the advertising of the Town Council's details and properties in the By The Dart 2016 Business and Community Directory. The meeting felt that all the details were now available on the Town Council's website.

**Proposed: Cllr R Springett**

**Seconded: Cllr P F Allen**

**Recommended: That the Town Council decline the offer to advertise in the By The Dart 2016 Business and Community Directory.**

It was noted that the Town Council had already agreed to place an advertisement in the 2016 Discover Dartmouth Brochure which would shortly be published.

**Proposed: Cllr D M Gent**

**Seconded: Cllr P F Allen**

**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.**

8. **REVIEW OF THE AGED DEBTORS REPORT  
AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2015.**

A copy of the aged debtors report as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015 was laid round the table. The Book Keeper explained each of the items on the aged debtors report for members.