

Present

*Cllr T de Galleani – Chairman
*Cllr I A Pritchard – Vice-Chairman

#Cllr P F Allen
*Cllr M Baillie
*Cllr L M Barnes
#Cllr G B F Coles
Cllr R W I Cooke (Deputy Mayor)
*Cllr D M Gent
*Cllr B T Harriss
#Cllr R M Lyon (Town Mayor)
Cllr S Smith

*Denotes attendance
#Denotes apology for absence

Observers: Cllr R F Rendle

Also in attendance 1 member of the press

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were none.

2. MAYFLOWER 400.

Members considered a request by Dartmouth Mayflower 400 from Full Council, to use the Town Crest on their promotional material.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr M Baillie

Recommended: That the Mayflower 400 group be given permission to use the Town Crest on their material.

3. SAINT CHRISTOPHE 1 INCIDENT.

At the request of Cllr Barnes the Chairman allowed an additional urgent item. A copy of the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority Newsletter giving details of the incident had been laid round the table.

Cllr Barnes explained that since the incident on Thursday 11th March 2016 where the Saint Christophe 1 capsized and sank at its berth on the South Embankment, an exclusion zone had been placed around the vessel. This had led to several local businesses being unable to function and earn their livelihoods. Cllr Barnes asked that the Town Council write to the DHNA to ask if a jetty could be made available for these businesses to use or could they arrange to pay compensation.

Proposed: Cllr L M Barnes
Seconded: Cllr I A Pritchard

Recommended: That a letter be written to the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority to ask if a jetty could be made available for these businesses to use. To also ask that a member of the Harbour Board or the Harbour Master attend the next Town Council meeting to discuss the incident with members.

4. A- BOARDS.

The Chairman informed the meeting that it had been suggested that licenses be issued for the use of 'A' boards in and around Dartmouth. The A-boards together with a recent spate of flyposting in the Town had led to Dartmouth looking very "scruffy". Members discussed this option and were against any charging which would legitimize the placement of A-Boards which were a hazard.

Proposed: Cllr I A Pritchard
Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Recommended: That the Town Council put pressure on County Councillors Hawkins and Rowe to take action to have A-Boards removed.

5. SOUTH HAMS AND WEST DEVON PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY.

A paper from Cllr Hawke giving details of his review of the South Hams and West Devon Playing Pitch Strategy had been laid round the table.

Proposed: Cllr I A Pritchard

Seconded: Cllr L M Barnes

Recommended: That the report be noted and Cllr Hawke be asked to talk to this report at a future meeting.

6. ROYAL AVENUE GARDENS BYLAWS RE DOGS.

The Chairman informed members that there was currently a Bylaw for Royal Avenue Gardens governing the control of dogs (i.e. they should be on leads and not allowed to foul the grass, flower beds and pavements). The Clerk would check if the Bylaws were enforceable now that South Hams District Council did not have a member of staff present at all times in the Royal Avenue Gardens. It was noted that an officer from the District Council had recently placed new dog fouling signs in the Royal Avenue Gardens and the surrounding area. Cllr Baillie informed the meeting that the Townstal Community Partnership had held an event that day on dog fouling, part of which was to name and shame the dog owners; this could be extended to cover the Town centre. Several members were aware of local dog owners who used the Royal Avenue Gardens each day.

Proposed: Cllr I A Pritchard

Seconded: Cllr L M Barnes

Recommended: That the District Council dog warden be asked to attend the Royal Avenue Gardens at times to be specified by the Town Councillors as being used by dog owners.

The following two items had been referred from the Personnel Committee Meeting of 16th March 2016.

7. ADVERTISING POLICY.

Members considered whether the Town Council should have an advertising policy; it was noted that the Chairman of Finance had been tasked with promoting the Guildhall.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr B T Harriss

Recommended: That the Town Council rely on the website for advertising events and promoting its facilities and where other extenuating circumstances arose, advertising be used on an ad hoc basis.

8. CIVIC FUNCTIONS POLICY.

Members discussed a policy for Civic functions outside the annual functions which were already budgeted for. It was felt that each function should be dealt with on an individual basis and it was not necessary to have a policy.

Proposed: Cllr B T Harriss
Seconded: Cllr M Baillie

Recommended: That all Civic functions be agreed by the Finance Committee.