

**DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBER OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON**  
**MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: R W I Cooke (Mayor); A J C Fyson (Dept Mayor);  
Cllrs: M Baillie; G B F Coles; T de Galleani; D M Gent; B T Harriss;  
R M Lyon; F R Pritchard-Tagg; S Smith; R Springett; S E Thomson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Town Sergeant: R Lambden;  
Devon County Cllr.: J Hawkins; Sgt. Iain Simons, Community Police  
Officer; SHDC officer, Helen Dobby and two members of the public.

**1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced the standard emergency evacuation procedures. He requested that mobile phones and other devices be set on silent or turned off. Anyone intending to record any part of the meeting was asked to declare this.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs: P Allen; F J Hawke; D Kelland; I Pritchard.  
District Cllrs: H Bastone; R Rowe.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were none

**4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES.**

Members reviewed the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 2nd October 2017. It was noted that the date was incorrect and should be changed from September to October before being signed.

**Proposed:** Cllr D Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr T Galleani

**Resolved:** That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Town Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017, once corrected, be confirmed and signed as a true record.

**5. REPORT FROM POLICE**

The report from Sgt. Iain Simons, Community Police Officer was circulated to all Councillors. (attached)

- Cllr de Galleani reported that white vans are often parked for long periods of time on Newport Street and others around the market, often blocking the road for hours at a time whilst they work. Also there are often cars driving too fast around the market. Sgt. Simons replied that if people contact him at the time with the number plate and/or vehicle description they would be able to do something about it.

- Sgt. Simons also mentioned that you can contact him directly via his email address 16176@dc.police.uk which is his badge number or by leaving a message for him on 101.
- Cllr Gent said that PCSO's used to call in on a Thursday night at Youth Club and could this happen again? Sgt. Simons responded that there is currently only one PCSO in action as the other two are off work with ill health, and there wasn't a plan to replace them.
- Cllr Smith reported that he'd been to a meeting at Follaton House on Policing in the community and he spoke about the importance of PCSO's. Sgt. Simons replied that Rebecca Walley is the remaining PCSO and again he stressed that there is a need to know about things going on as they are going on, so that they can respond to it. He added that he believed there was no plan to increase the numbers of PCSO's in the future, but that more Police Officers were being recruited.
- Cllr Fyson asked what weight was given to photographs taken by the public as evidence in relation to CCTV footage, and Sgt. Simons replied that it was given the same weight as other evidence.
- Cllr Springett reported that boy racers often use the overflow carpark up at Townstal which creates an intimidating and antisocial environment. He also said it is hard to get the number plate in this instance. Sgt. Simons responded that just a description of the car is often enough to identify people.

## **125. HELEN DOBBY FROM SHDC / SWDEVON TO GIVE REPORT ON WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Helen Dobby introduced herself as the Group Manager for Social Services for Dartmouth and apologised for not coming earlier on in the summer.

Helen Dobby talked about the following:

- There has been an improvement in the recycling rate recently.
- SHDC officers are currently compiling a list of where litter bins are sited, they will continue to work with DTC on the replacement of damaged bins, Helen said that she would put the Clerk in touch with the Locality Officer Emma Widdicombe.
- The manual workforce are supervised by team leaders (supervisors) who schedule the operational work and then carry out spot checks. The locality team staff also pro-actively look at the public realm cleanliness and report any issues back to be dealt with.
- It was explained that routes covered by the mechanical sweeper and the street sweepers is designed to be delivered by output. All streets and public areas are 'zoned' or classified by type under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. There is industry guidance which sets out a recommended frequency for cleaning each zone. The Council works to the suggested frequencies. For example a town centre is a Zone 1 area and is given daily attention, whereas a rural interconnecting road might be cleaned on a 3 monthly basis or as necessary. The Council will prepare some guidance on our cleaning frequencies to help town and parish councils to understand the system.

- Monitoring that trade waste aren't using residential waste collection - SHDC are constantly monitoring the collections to ensure that this doesn't happen, however to enforce successfully we need to witness instances of abuse or have witness accounts.

Where names and addresses are disposed of and can be traced SHDC are able to take enforcement action.

SHDC also try to work hard with letting agents and companies to ensure that visitors are educated as to the refuse and recycling arrangements during their stay. SHDC will continue this work for the next holiday season.

- Seagull sacks – Helen explained that as above SHDC will continue to work with other parties to ensure sacks are available and used appropriately.

Cllr Smith asked what grade Bayard's Cove was and Helen Dobby said she would confirm via the Clerk.

Cllr Smith reported that some of the waste up by the Park & Ride was caused by foxes and not the kids and Helen Dobby responded that perhaps Pest Control would be a better option, and also said that she would investigate whether the right rubbish containers were up there.

Cllr T de Galleani reported:

- The big grey bins in the lower end of town are used by holiday makers so that they are overflowing.
- In Bayards Cove syringes have been found down there, Helen Dobby responded that she would arrange for extra cover there.
- Dogs waste has been left in the flower beds.
- An elderly neighbour of hers cleaned up some steps from weeds but then unfortunately didn't know what to do with the green waste.
- Helen Dobby responded that she would like Councillors to tell her about these things so she can do something about them.

Cllr Springett reported that he had seen a decline in waste management recently, but SHDC's response to Regatta and Food festival was a lot better this year.

He also wanted to pass his thanks on for recent issues that he has reported that have been dealt with promptly.

Helen Dobby stated that SHDC wanted to deliver a good service.

Cllr D Gent asked whether businesses could be forced to clean up after themselves, eg: cartons and paper from a fast food outlet. Helen Dobby replied that she would rather do it informally.

Cllr. Jonathan Hawkins, County Cllr. & District Cllr. gave his report. Stagecoach bus company is proposing to withdraw the no3 bus from Kingsbridge to Dartmouth and negotiations are continuing. This could affect 80 pupils who use this service.

Cllr Smith said that a local business man up at the garage offered to sponsor the bins, but it never happened. Helen Dobby said that she would follow up on this.

Cllr B Harriss said that there were no bins in the market and asked if we could have some, Cllr J Hawkins said that the market belongs to DTC so a discussion needs to happen between DTC and Helen Dobby.

Cllr Hawkins thanked her for the work she has done. He also asked:

- When the mechanical sweeper which has been out of action, would be back in service. Helen Dobby said that she would check as she suspects it has been replaced.
- Was there a route of where it goes so that it could be monitored?
- The mechanical sweeper was loosening cobbles down Bayards Cove.
- He had seen trolleys and beer cans up at the Lidl's carpark, so it's not just foxes causing rubbish.

Helen Dobby from SHDC left the meeting at 8pm.

Sgt Iain Simons then left the meeting at 8pm.

## **126. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM AND PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Jonathan Hawkins explained that the other two district Councillors had gone to a meeting at Follaton House.

Cllr Hawkins then gave his report which touched on the following:

- Weeds growing on the steps in Dartmouth - he has asked for a costing to spray them twice a year and he asked whether DTC would like to add a third spray in per year at cost.

Councillors then asked him various questions about the One Council consultation and Cllr Hawkins answered, questions covered were:

- How much did the consultation cost and would the cost be spread over both councils?
- Why were 80% of people ignored in their vote to reject it?
- Cllr Springett was delighted that West Devon voted against this merger.
- Cllr Fyson commented that he had asked Cllr Rowe last month if this was a mandatory or advisory consultation.
- Cllr Coles asked how much SHDC have squirrelled away?
- A lively discussion followed, during which Councillors expressed disappointment that their opposition to the merger proposals had not been reflected in SHDC Councillors actions.
- Cllr Springett gave thanks to Cllr Hawkins for coming along tonight

Cllr Jonathan Hawkins left the meeting.

## **127. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A member of the public asked about the Dartmouth Visitor Centre financial reports and whether they would be available at this meeting.

The Mayor responded that if Cllrs wanted more reports from the DVC that it could be actioned.

The member of the public then left the room

## **128. CLLR D GENT TO TALK ABOUT THE RESTORATION OF BUS SERVICE TO TORBAY HOSPITAL**

Cllr Gent spoke about the necessity to reinstate the bus service from Dartmouth to Torbay Hospital.

**Resolution:** This Council fully supports the aspiration for the bus service between Dartmouth and Torbay hospital to be reinstated.

**Proposed:** - Cllr D Gent

**Seconded** - Cllr S Smith

All Councillors agreed

**129. TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE TOWN MAYOR**

a. Harbour Authority - The draft of the Joint Local Plan for Plymouth and South West Devon that encompasses all the parishes on the navigable part of the River Dart has been submitted to the secretary of State for approval (31<sup>st</sup> July 2017). However the Harbour Authority is aware that some of the parishes continue to develop their own more intimate planning documents as the basis of their future decision making. The Harbour Authority would like to make Councils aware of their Strategic Plan that is available for download on the Harbour website ([www.dartharbour.org/strategic-plan](http://www.dartharbour.org/strategic-plan)) for use as a source of information regarding the future efforts of the Authority. If further guidance or clarification is required, they hope DTC will not hesitate to contact them.

b. Colin Wilson from the Dartmouth Rugby Football Club has written in. The club is looking to sign an initial 3 year license prior to taking the lease on the playing fields alongside the Leisure Centre from SHDC.

The club is doing well and has recently won both the league and Devon Junior Cup. Having its own facilities is seen as essential in recruiting new players and re-starting the mini rugby. As well as the pitch the club will be looking for planning permission to put lighting around the training area and to build a clubhouse for the use of members and the local community. It is hoped that the Dartmouth Town Council would be supportive in their intentions and back the club when the planning application is submitted.

A discussion took place and Cllr Gent stated that the council could not support this application prior to planning committee as this would be predetermination, but that the Council supports the club.

c. Dartmouth War Memorial Cross, Royal Avenue Gardens, The Quay, Dartmouth, Devon – Awarded Listed Building Status - List Entry Number: 1449537  
The building is now listed at Grade II.

d. New Christmas lights for the Christmas tree in Townstal.  
We have had a request from the Townstal Community Hall Manager for some new Christmas lights for their tree as the old ones are no longer useable.

Cllr S Smith declared an interest, but also reported that the TCP have never had any Christmas lights.

**Resolution:** To take this request to the Finance Committee meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and if Finance agree then all Councillors support it.

**Proposed:** Cllr R Springett

**Seconded** Cllr B Harriss

### **130. TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **FINANCE COMMITTEE** - 10th Oct 2017  
The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Finance Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were reviewed and approved.  
**Proposed:** Cllr D Gent  
**Seconded:** Cllr R Lyon
- **PLANNING COMMITTEE** – 18th Oct 2017  
The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18th Oct 2017 were reviewed and approved.  
**Proposed:** Cllr D Gent  
**Seconded:** Cllr R Springett
- **PLANNING COMMITTEE** – 31st Oct 2017  
The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017 were reviewed and approved.  
**Proposed:** Cllr D Gent  
**Seconded:** Cllr R Springett

### **131. REPORTS AND QUESTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON PUBLIC BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS**

Cllr D Gent reported from the Patients Participation Group. The waiting time for appointments was down to 3 days in July, August & September.

Mayflower 400 - Cllr Lyon reported that a travel company in the US was planning trail trips (including Dartmouth) in 2020.

TCP Cllr S Smith reported that there was a meeting last week and the successful partnership was flourishing and he would report back to the Clerk.

Cllr R Springett spoke about the Air Training Corps and gave the Clerk a letter and his response.

TCP - Cllr Smith reported that at the recent Halloween Party it was very well attended. He also wanted to give thanks to Becca the PCSO for helping out as well as giving thanks to Sainsbury's for supporting it.

Cllr Baillie wanted to thank Heather Nesbitt for dressing up in a big dog costume.

Cllr Harriss said that Santa Claus would be in the Old Market on Sat 16th December from 11-3pm.

### **132. TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT OF FINANCIAL MATTERS FOR OCTOBER 2017**

The Clerk gave a report on payments made for October under Standing Order No. 56(b).

**Proposed:** Cllr D Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr T de Galleani

**Resolved:** That the Clerk's actions in paying accounts for October 2017 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be approved.

**133. DEEDS OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL.**

**Proposed:** Cllr D Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr T de Galleani

**Resolved:** That Deeds of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial be issued in respect of Grave No. D 118 at Longcross Cemetery, Dartmouth and the Town Mayor (Cllr. R W I Cooke) and Deputy Mayor (Cllr. A J C Fyson) be authorized to sign the Documents in accordance with terms contained in Minute No. 225 (3) 1975/6.

**134. REPORT BY THE MAYOR ON THE DEVOLVED SERVICE TRANSFER**

Dartmouth Town Council are currently waiting for South Hams District Council to finalise the contract packages. Once these are finalised they will be sent to the solicitors and to Dartmouth Town Council to assess.

**135. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS ASKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO 29**

Cllr T de Galleani asked whether a question could be put to Honey Fossett about how far SHDC have got with next year's planting of Royal Avenue Gardens. Cllr T de Galleani to liaise with Clerk.

**136. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS OF REPORT**

Cllr Springett mentioned that following a recent Ofsted inspection, Dartmouth Academy had gone from special measures to good.

Cllr D Gent mentioned that a previous Mayor and Councillor, Peter Norton had died just a few days ago in hospital and that the funeral would be on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017. He and the Mayor would attend.

**137. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Proposed:** Cllr. D Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr. R Springett

**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.

**138. TO CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT OF CARETAKER / HANDYMAN**

Cllr S Thompson spoke about the new candidate who has recently been employed and starts work on Monday 13th November for a trial period.

**Proposed:** Cllr. D Gent

**Seconded:** Cllr. R Springett

**139. YOUTH PROVISION IN DARTMOUTH**

A discussion took place with regards to the financial support for Youth Genesis who provide excellent youth provision in Dartmouth.

A number of Cllrs commented that this was vital for the area and that we should support Youth Genesis for the young people of the town.

The Mayor suggested that this could be referred to the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday 7th November 2017 to see if this can be supported during next year's financial year.

Cllr Baillie commented that Youth Genesis are keen to recruit new volunteers.

**140. MAYORS CHRISTMAS CARD**

The Mayor showed the Councillors his idea for a Christmas card this year which was an image of the Town Council Crest with snow.

All Councillors agreed that this was a good image for the Christmas card.

Cllr Lyon said that he considered it very appropriate.

**Proposed: Cllr. R Lyon**

**Seconded: Cllr. R Springett**

**Resolved:** That the Mayor should use this Christmas image as his Christmas card.

The meeting closed at 21.09 hours.