

Present

*Councillor R E Chilcott – Chairman

- *Cllr R M Lyon (Town Mayor)
- *Cllr R W I Cooke (Deputy Mayor)
- *Cllr D J Cawley
- *Cllr A J C Fyson
- *Cllr D M Gent
- *Cllr F J Hawke
- *Cllr R Springett

Observers: Cllr S Smith

*Denotes attendance

#Denotes apology for absence

Also in attendance one member of the public and one member of the press.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Gent declared a personal interest in agenda item 3a) Southford Schoolrooms.

Cllr Hawke and Cllr Cawley arrived at 6.05 pm

2. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) A letter had been received from Dartmouth Preschool asking the Town Council to make a donation towards the redevelopment of Southford Road Schoolrooms. An additional £70,000 was required for the works; £100,000 had been raised so far. Members agreed that the preschool was a great asset to the Town and supported their application in principle but required further information.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr D J Cawley

Recommended: That the Town Council support the application by Dartmouth Preschool in principle but seek a meeting of Councillors with representatives from the Preschool together with the Parochial Church Council and those responsible for the building to look at their business plan, costings and details of funding from other sources.

- b) A request from Dartmouth Community Boat Store had been received, seeking assistance in funding surveys and start-up costs for the new boat store totalling £9840 incl. vat; this had been referred from Full Council. Members were concerned that no decision had been made concerning the land for the boat store, which belonged to South Hams District Council; security issues at the site were also raised.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke

Seconded: Cllr R Springett

Recommended: That a meeting be arranged with the Community Boat Store, District Councillors and officers from South Hams District Council to look at the business plan, costings, land ownership and details of funding from other sources.

- c) Following an item at the Townstal Community Partnership meeting of 30th March 2015 members considered funding the provision of rubbish skips 4 times per year (£220.00 +vat each). Cllr S Smith explained that the Townstal Community Partnership had run an event at which skips had been available to the social housing residents of Townstal and skips had been sited at the Townstal Community Hall; this had been very successful. County Councillor Hawkins would be asked if he would contribute to future skip provision following the removal of this service at Jawbones by Devon County Council. Members felt that van transport to the skip should also be provided if possible.

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

Recommended: That the Town Council support the provision of skips at Townstal Community Hall for the removal of large items of household rubbish and initially hold discussions with the Housing Associations, the Townstal Community Partnership, South Hams District Council and Devon County Council to draft a system for the provision of rubbish collection.

3. REVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT.

Copies of the Town Council's Financial Risk Assessment had been circulated to Members. Members reviewed these and noted that there had been no significant changes during the year. Noted.

4. REVIEW OF THE AMOUNT GIVEN UNDER THE TOWN COUNCIL'S SMALL GRANTS SCHEME.

Members reviewed the value of the small grants given by the Town Council to local organisations (currently £200).

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr R Springett

Recommended: That the value of small grants made by the Town Council to local organisations be increased, up to £300 maximum.

5. ANNUAL RETURN STATEMENT FOR 2014/2015 AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2014/2015.

Members reviewed the draft copy of the Annual Return Statement and the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/2015. It was noted that the final statement would be presented to Full Council on 19th May 2015.

Proposed: Cllr D J Cawley
Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Recommended: That the book value of the Town Council's assets be reviewed in one year's time.

6. DRAFT YEAR-END INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FIGURES.

Members reviewed the draft income and expenditure figures for 2014/2015. Cllr Gent requested that the Youth Council item on page 4 be re-headed Youth Services. It was noted that the final figures would be presented to Full Council on 19th May 2015. Noted.

7. REVIEW OF 2015/2016 BUDGET FIGURES.

Members reviewed the 2015/2016 Budget figures. Noted no changes.

8. PURCHASE OF A NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES.

A BT quotation for a new telephone system for the Town Council offices had been circulated to members. The Clerk advised that the current BT versatility phone system in the Council offices was no longer supported by BT. Members considered that other quotations be sought.

Proposed: Cllr D J Cawley

Seconded: Cllr R Springett

Recommended: That the Clerk to the Town Council seek further quotations and make the decision to replace the Town Council's telephone system herself.

9. INTEREST ON MONIES HELD BY THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE INDOOR SWIMMING POOL

Following a question by a member of the public at Full Council on 13th April 2015, members considered the payment of interest on the £150,000 held by the Town Council for the Indoor Swimming Pool for Dartmouth, to the Trustees of the Indoor Swimming Pool. Members felt that this was not appropriate given the small amount of money involved (c. £250.00).

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr R Springett

Recommended: That the Town Council fully supports the Indoor Swimming Pool for Dartmouth.

10. RELEASE OF GRANT FOR OUTDOOR POOL

Proposed: Cllr R Springett
Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Recommended: That £3,500.00 be released from the budget in respect of a contribution towards the upkeep and maintenance of the Outdoor Swimming Pool.

11. RELEASE OF GRANT TO THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE.

Members discussed the release of the grant to the Tourist Information Centre (currently £3,000). Cllr Cawley raised concerns over the large amount of money that had been spent on the new TIC website, with the change of name from Discover Dartmouth to Dartmouth Everytime leading to the brand “dropping down” the ratings of internet searches. Members agreed it was essential to encourage closer working between all groups in the Town, and to cut down on the proliferation of websites. It was agreed to continue the Town Council’s support and to ask the TIC to make a presentation to the Full Council meeting in June 2015.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett
Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Recommended: That a grant of £3,000 be made to the Tourist Information Centre.