

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting

6th July 2015

At the Guildhall, Dartmouth

Present

*The Town Mayor (Councillor R M Lyon) - Chairman

*The Deputy Mayor (Councillor R W I Cooke) - Vice-Chairman

*Cllr P F Allen

*Cllr M Baillie

*Cllr L M Barnes

*Cllr R E Chilcott

*Cllr G B F Coles

*Cllr A J C Fyson

#Cllr T de Galleani

*Cllr D M Gent

*Cllr F J Hawke

*Cllr I A Pritchard

*Cllr R F Rendle

*Cllr S Smith

*Cllr R Springett

*Cllr S Thomson

*County Cllr J Hawkins

*District Cllr H Bastone

*District Cllr R Rowe

*Denotes attendance

#Denotes apology for absence

Also in attendance 4 members of the public, 4 members of the Tourist Information Centre team and 2 members of the press.

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Pritchard declared a personal interest in minute 9 (page 4) of the Corporate Property Minutes of 16th June 2015.

60. REPORTS.

Police and District and County Councillors' Reports.

Inspector Tomlinson gave a report on the crime figures for Dartmouth for the month of June 2015; there had been a small fall in the total number of crimes compared with the same period in 2014.

Cllr Smith asked for an update on the sale of the Dartmouth Police station; Inspector Tomlinson explained that Devon and Cornwall Constabulary were still looking at alternatives.

Cllr Hawkins congratulated the new members of the Town Council on their election and asked all members to contact him through his email address Jonathanhawkins387@yahoo.co.uk

He reported that the Dartmouth and District Indoor Pool Trust had received permission from the District Council to commence work on the Indoor Pool and it was hoped that construction would start at the beginning of September 2015 and that the pool would open at the end of summer 2016. Following a question from Cllr Smith, Cllr Bastone confirmed that the District Council had set aside funds and land for the connecting corridor between the new indoor swimming pool and the Leisure Centre.

Cllr Hawkins reported that the Friends of Ivy Lane had now received a grant from the Hadley Trust to match the funding given by Dartmouth United Charities.

The new street lighting continued to be installed by Devon County Council along the embankment in Dartmouth.

Cllr Hawkins thanked Dartmouth Green Partnerships for all their hard work and efforts in the Royal Avenue Gardens together with the small team of gardeners from the District Council.

Cllr Hawkins requested that all the District Councillors hold an informal meeting with the Town Councillors in the near future; it was thought that after the summer recess would be most suitable.

Cllr Bastone reported that phase 1b of the T18 Programme had gone live on 1st June 2015.

Following the recent elections, the political composition of the District Council was now 25 Conservative Group Members and 6 Opposition Group Members.

At the Annual District Council meeting on 21st May 2015, Cllr John Tucker was appointed as the Leader of Council for the next four years. Cllr Tucker's first decision was to appoint Cllr Lindsay Ward as the Deputy Leader of Council. In addition, Cllr Ian Bramble was appointed as the Chairman of the Council for 2015/16, with Cllr Peter Smerdon appointed as his Vice-Chairman.

An event for Town and Parish Councillors had been arranged to take place at Follaton House at 9.15am on Monday, 27th July 2015. To enable the event to be planned successfully, Town and Parish Councils were asked to confirm up to two representatives before 5.00pm on Wednesday, 22nd July 2015.

Cllr Bastone informed the meeting that the success of the twelve month pilot whereby Town and Parish Council representatives had been able to utilise the Public Participation Scheme at Development Management Committee meetings was due to be considered by Members on Wednesday, 29th July 2015. If any Town and Parish Councils wished to comment on the effectiveness of this pilot (both positive and negative), they were asked to let Kathryn Trant know before 5.00pm on Wednesday, 15th July 2015.

From Monday 15th June 2015, the main entrance to the newly refurbished reception area at Follaton House was to be open each weekday from 9.00am.

£3.5 million had been awarded to invest in projects which would create jobs and benefit the rural economy. Town and Parish Councils were asked to encourage any businesses, particularly those that work in farming or forestry, to get in touch with the Devon Renaissance (DR) Company to discuss how to apply for funding via the DR

Company website (www.drcompany.co.uk) or by telephone (01837) 658643 or by email at info@drcompany.co.uk

Reports would be presented to District Council member meetings at South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council during July, which sought approval of the award criteria for the joint leisure service procurement project.

On June 6th 2015 a service had been held at the D-Day Memorial to commemorate the 485 vessels from the LST & Landing Craft Association, unfortunately due to the demise of the Landing Craft Association the event had been poorly attended this year, Cllr Bastone hoped that the Town Council could take over the organisation of the event; Cllr Rendle advised that the Old Dartmothians already had this in hand.

Cllr Bastone repeated his concerns regarding how dangerous the local roads were becoming due to lack of repairs by the County Council. He asked the Town Council to work with the District Councillors to ensure the situation improved. There were large potholes on Slappers Hill, Kingswear and on the South Embankment outside the Crab and Bucket public house.

Cllr Bastone gave details of the litter bin collections for Dartmouth; in total there were 104 bins with 56 in the town centre collection round. Collections were made 3 times a day at 10am, 3 pm and 5pm; Cllr Bastone would provide a map of the bins to the Town Council.

Cllr Hawke raised concerns about potholes and weeds in Townstal, both Cllr Hawkins and Cllr Bastone would ensure that the weeds would be tackled as soon as possible.

Cllr Smith asked for an update on the West Dart Development; Cllr Bastone reported that the District Council had refused the current application because of the low level of affordable housing and the developer was taking this to appeal.

Cllr Allen enquired as to which District Council Committees the Dartmouth Councillors were part of; Cllr Bastone was on the Executive, Cllr Hawkins was on Scrutiny and Cllr Rowe was on the Planning Committee.

Cllr Allen raised concerns over the hoarding on the new Sails development at the bottom of College Way which would cause chaos in the busier summer months. Cllr Hawkins reported that a Highways Officer had attended the site each week and it was hoped that the hoarding would be taken down before Regatta.

Cllr Barnes was extremely disappointed that the Planning Committee at South Hams District Council had appeared to ignore local objections concerning a planning application in Sandquay Road; Cllr Rowe explained that there had been no statutory planning reasons to refuse the application.

Cllr Fyson raised the problem of weeds on slopes and steps around Dartmouth which were a hazard to pedestrians; the Clerk would raise this with the County Highways officer.

Cllr Gent asked the District Councillors if they could confirm that some South Hams District Council planning applications were being dealt with by planning officers at Plymouth City Council; Cllr Bastone explained that this was only the case with minor applications such as porches and conservatories.

Cllr Rowe directed the Town Councillors to report potholes directly through the Devon County Council website and reiterated Cllr Bastone's comments concerning minor planning applications being dealt with by Plymouth City Council.

Cllr Springett had been shocked by the District Council's decision to raise the price of the residents parking permit which allowed use of the Park and Ride, from £21 to £100. Cllr Bastone added that this would be the subject of further consultation and counter proposals should be formulated for the next season. This would be discussed at an informal meeting of the District Councillors with the Town Council in September.

61. PRESENTATION BY DARTMOUTH TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE.

Angela Cairns-Sharpe the Chairman of the Tourist Information Centre, together with Lesley Turner and Sue Stone the joint managers of the TIC, gave a presentation on the work of the centre.

Their presentation covered:-

- TIC Statistics for 2014/2015
- Working with other organisations and Dartmouth BID
- Dartmouth Every time website and mobile site
- Self-funded organisation
- Finance Report
- Programme for 2015

The TIC cost £120,000 annually to run. There were 5 volunteer directors, 1 full-time member of staff and 3 part-time staff and 13 volunteers. These volunteers provided over 4000 hours of work per annum.

There had been 143,000 visitors to the centre in 2014 compared with 115,000 in 2013.

Their website had received 114,000 hits via desktops, 69,000 via tablets and 22,000 by mobile users and there had been over 250,000 visitors to the main site which they had worked on with the BID.

It was noted that the TICs at Totnes and Ivybridge both received large grants from their Town Councils; £33,000 and £37,000 respectively, and that 55% of businesses in Dartmouth were linked to Tourism.

Following a question from Cllr Allen, Angie Cairns-Sharpe explained that the TIC had a 5 year business plan which was available for inspection.

Cllr Springett suggested that the £6,900 paid in rent to South Hams District Council each year could be saved if the District Council were to give the TIC building to the Town.

The Mayor thanked the TIC staff for their informative presentation.

62. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.

Mr Harris asked the Mayor if he knew the origin of the painted yellow and white numbers on the embankment.

Through the Mayor Cllr Bastone explained that these were part of the on-going survey of the stability of the embankment by the District Council.

Mr Harris asked the Mayor if a dropped kerb could be added by the coach and bus drop off point on the embankment, as there was a dropped kerb on the Royal Avenue Gardens side of the road at this point but no corresponding dropped kerb on the embankment side of the road.

The Mayor replied that the Clerk would raise this with the County Council Highways Officer.

Mr Boughton asked the Mayor if the Neighbourhood Plan meetings were advertised to the public.

Through the Mayor Cllr Fyson replied that these were advertised on the Town Council's website and the working group were now moving into the public phase and meetings would be more heavily publicised.

Mr Boughton asked the Mayor if he was aware that at the Patient Participation Group public meeting held recently at the Townstal Community Hall, the future of the health service in Dartmouth was not being pursued nor was the matter of a health centre. Could the Mayor ask the Neighbourhood Plan group to send out an invitation to the Torbay Health Commissioner.

Through the Mayor Cllr Fyson replied that Pierre Llandell-Mills from the Patient Participation Group was a member of the Neighbourhood Plan group.

Mr Boughton thanked the Deputy Mayor for the documents he had sent on the 1857 Burial Act and he asked the Mayor if the Town Council had taken legal advice on its liability for the repairs and maintenance of St Saviour's Churchyard, particularly in relation to possible future costs of wall repairs.

Through the Mayor Cllr Cooke replied that he had reviewed the various burial acts and had read a letter from the legal advisor to the National Secular Society on the matter but he was still of the opinion

that the Town Council was the responsible authority for the maintenance of St Saviour's Churchyard.

63. URGENT BUSINESS.

There was none.

64. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr R E Chilcott

Resolved: That the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 1st June 2015 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

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

Resolved: That the minutes of the Special Town Council meeting held on 29th June 2015 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

65. CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) An email had been received from Dartmouth Tourist Information Centre requesting the use of the Town Crest on merchandise, particularly on a bone china mug.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett
Seconded: Cllr R F Rendle

Resolved: That permission be granted for the Tourist Information Centre to use the Town Crest on Merchandise providing they acknowledge that the Town Council has copyright of the image.

- b)** A letter of thanks had been received from the charity Cool Recovery who were closing due to lack of funds but wished to thank the Town Council for their support during their time meeting at the Guildhall.
- c)** An email had been received from South Hams District Council giving details of the installation dates for a pay on entry system at the public conveniences in Royal Avenue Gardens i.e. at the end of June 2015.
- d)** Details of a Town and Parish Council event at Follaton House on Monday 27th July had been circulated to members. Places were limited to 2 per council and replies concerning attendance should be sent to the Clerk prior to 22nd July 2015.
- e)** A letter of reply had been received from South Hams District Council concerning affordable housing in Dartmouth; this had been circulated to members.
- f)** Following complaints concerning the length of the grass on the green in Church Road, an email had been received explaining that the grass had previously been cut under contract from Devon County Council, and this contract has now been terminated.
- g)** An email had been received from Dartmouth Massachusetts seeking a date for a visit to Dartmouth in 2016; June or September had been suggested. This would be referred to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.
- h)** An email had been received from South Hams District Council about a possible visit to a future Town Council meeting by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the District Council. The Clerk had supplied the dates of future meetings and was awaiting a reply.
- i)** Details of the latest costs and funding of the Dartmouth Indoor Swimming Pool had been received and had been circulated to members.

66. REPORTS

a) Planning Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 3rd June 2015 were reviewed.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr R E Chilcott

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 3rd June 2015, be received, approved and adopted.

b) Personnel Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 9th June 2015 were reviewed.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr I A Pritchard

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 9th June 2015, be received, approved and adopted.

c) Corporate Property Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 16th June 2015 were reviewed.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett
Seconded: Cllr S Smith

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Corporate Property Committee held on 16th June 2015, be received, approved and adopted.

d) General Purposes Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 23rd June 2015 were reviewed. It was agreed at the suggestion of Cllr Hawke, that item 5 - Provision of a skip service for large items of household rubbish would be referred back to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

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

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 23rd June 2015, as amended, be received, approved and adopted.

e) Planning Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24th June 2015 were reviewed.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent
Seconded: Cllr S E Thomson

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 24th June 2015, be received, approved and adopted.

f) Personnel Committee

The Report and Recommendations of a meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 1st July 2015 were reviewed.

Proposed: Cllr F J Hawke
Seconded: Cllr R E Chilcott

Resolved: That the Report and Recommendations of the meeting of the Personnel Committee held on 1st July 2015, be received, approved and adopted.

67. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

The Clerk presented a report on payments made under Standing Order No. 56 (b). It was noted that a payment had been made to Dartmouth in Bloom for the grant to Dartmouth Green Partnerships, as their bank account name had not changed.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent

Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

Resolved: That the Clerk's actions in paying accounts totaling £40,915.37 for the month of June 2015 under Standing Order No. 56 (b) be endorsed.

68. REPORTS.

Representatives on Public Bodies and Associations.

Cllr Springett reported that he had met with 4 officers from the American Battle Monuments Commission concerning the possible siting of a new monument on the embankment in Dartmouth; sites at Brixham and Slapton were also being considered.

Cllr Gent reported that the Friends of Ivy Lane still had no bank account and he hoped that the Youth Club would not close for the summer; it was later confirmed that there would be a summer recess. Dartmouth United Charities were to reconsider the grant to FOIL at their meeting on 22nd July and the Town Council representatives would meet in advance of this with Father Will Hazlewood to agree a policy.

Cllr Coles reported that as the Port of Dartmouth Regatta preceded a bank holiday weekend it was believed that the number of visitors would be much greater. The Regatta Committee had won the tender for the use of the Mayors Avenue car park for the fun fair. HMS Somerset a type 23 frigate would be the Regatta guard ship this year and would receive members of the public on Saturday and Sunday 29th and 30th August 2015. Extra buses had been arranged for the Regatta week.

Cllr Smith reported that the Patient Participation group meeting had confirmed that the Minor Injuries Unit at Dartmouth Hospital would be open for Regatta week.

Cllr Pritchard reported that at the Dartmouth and Area Public Transport Group meeting Cathy Aubertin from South Hams District Council had requested a response from the Town Council concerning the future tender for the park and ride service for Dartmouth. The return of the bus service to Victoria Road had also been discussed.

69. QUESTIONS TO THE MAYOR.

Cllr Springett asked the Mayor if a letter could be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner requesting information on the future of Dartmouth Police station.

The Mayor replied that a letter would be sent.

Cllr Pritchard asked the Mayor if Councillors who were not members of Committees attending meetings could be asked to sit in the public seats.

The Mayor replied that the Chairmen of the relevant Committees would ensure that this was so.

Cllr Barnes asked the Mayor if the public questions to the Mayor could be more formal with questions being addressed through the Chair and not addressed to other Councillors.

Through the Mayor, Cllr Hawke replied that under Standing Order 21(b) the Mayor had the power to delegate another person to answer on his or her behalf.

Proposed: Cllr D M Gent

Seconded: Cllr F J Hawke

Resolved: That Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow the meeting to continue after 9.30 pm.

Proposed: Cllr R Springett
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.

70. NOMINATIONS FOR THE AWARD OF HONOURED CITIZEN AND CITIZEN OF THE YEAR.

Members discussed the proposal from the General Purposes Committee meeting of 23rd June 2015 concerning the award of a Citizen of the Year and the award of Honoured Citizen. It was noted that the Rotary Club of Dartmouth already awarded a Citizen of the Year. Members considered that neither of these awards was appropriate at this time.

Proposed: Cllr S Smith
Seconded: Cllr D M Gent

Resolved: That no award of Citizen of the Year or Honoured Citizen be made by the Town Council.