

DARTMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER OF DARTMOUTH GUILDHALL ON MONDAY 13TH JANUARY 2020

PRESENT: Cllrs: N Bodinnar, A Edsall, T de Galleani, R Lyon, M Webber (Vice Chair), D Wells (Chair)

IN ATTENDANCE: Town Clerk: C Pritchard-Williams; Properties Administrator: K Brown; DTC Groundsman: R Harkness, Reporter: Emily Baker Representative of the Dartmouth Public Slipway group; Headley Piper and one member of the public.

PART I - Open to the Public

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were given by Cllr S Hibbert & G Webb.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R Lyon declared an interest in point 43 - To discuss and approve a way forward regarding the proposed license from SHDC concerning the Dartmouth Mayflower 400 statue, information boards and trail markers on SHDC land.

41. PRESENTATION FROM THE DARTMOUTH PUBLIC SLIPWAY TRUST WITH REGARDS TO TRAILER PARKING.

Headley Piper, a representative of the Dartmouth Public Slipway Trust gave a presentation about trailer parking.

42. REGULAR UPDATES

- a) Groundsman's regular report
The Groundsman gave a verbal report (Appendix A)
- b) Dartmouth Green Partnerships report
Cllr T de Galleani gave a verbal report (Appendix B)
- c) Friends of the Orchard report (Appendix C)

43. GENERAL

- a) **To discuss and approve a way forward concerning the land at Jawbones from SHDC**

There was a brief discussion about the land, where it is located and what it could be used for. DTC have received an email from SHDC regarding what this piece of land could be used for. It was agreed to set up a meeting with the leading officer from SHDC for further discussion.

- b) **To discuss and approve a way forward regarding the proposed license from SHDC concerning the Dartmouth Mayflower 400 statue, information boards and trail markers on SHDC land.**

There was a discussion about the license suggestion from SHDC concerning the Dartmouth Mayflower 400 statue, information board and trail markers. As the items concerned are placed on SHDC land, it was felt that DTC have no

responsibility for them and should not be asked to enter a 100-year license for them.

Proposed: Cllr T de Galleani

Seconded: Cllr M Webber

Resolved: That DTC reply to SHDC stating that they will not enter into a license regarding the Dartmouth Mayflower 400 items on SHDC land and that SHDC have further discussions with Dartmouth Mayflower 400 about this issue.

One Cllr abstained R Lyon

All other Cllrs were in favour

44. ROYAL AVENUE GARDENS

- a) **To discuss and approve a way forward concerning the anti-social behaviour that is centred around the shelter behind the Bandstand.**

There was a discussion about the anti-social behaviour that is ongoing around the shelter behind the bandstand and the resulting damage to The Royal Avenue Gardens. It was suggested that DTC write to the Police to highlight this as a hotspot that needs patrolling after dark.

45. CORONATION PARK

- a) **To discuss and approve a way forward regarding placing vehicle stop posts around Coronation Park**

There was a discussion about the current condition of Coronation Park and how its condition will worsen if vehicles gain access to it. It was put forward that vehicle stop posts are reinstated and only vehicles that have gained permission from DTC be able to enter Coronation Park.

Proposed: Cllr R Lyon

Seconded: Cllr T de Galleani

Resolved: To approve the proposal for vehicle stop posts to be reinstated at Coronation Park.

All Cllrs were in favour

- b) **To discuss and approve a way forward regarding purchasing new 'No Vehicle' signs for the Dinghy Park**

There was a brief discussion about 'No Vehicle' signs. It was felt that these were needed to compliment the new stop posts that are to be added to Coronation Park.

Proposed: Cllr T de Galleani

Seconded: Cllr M Webber

Resolved: To purchase new no vehicle signs for the Dinghy Park

All Cllrs were in favour.

- c) **To discuss and approve a way forward regarding scalping's for the Dinghy Park**

There was a discussion regarding the different types of scalplings that could be used on the Dinghy Park, limestone or tarmac burnoffs from DCC.

Action: Quotes for both options were asked for to be presented at the next meeting.

- d) **To discuss and approve a way forward regarding extra trailer parking**

There was a discussion about what the old Pitch and Putt area of Coronation Park could be used for. It was suggested that it could be used for extra trailer parking for boats, as a games park or as an adult gym.

It was suggested that all Cllrs are contacted to ask for ideas for the space and for the ideas to be presented at the next meeting.

Action: Cllrs to come up with ideas for the old Pitch and Putt area.

e) To discuss and approve a way forward regarding the placement of the kayak rack

This was not discussed as a decision needs to be made regarding the Pitch and Putt area of land.

f) To discuss and approve a way forward regarding the ground near the manhole covers

There was a discussion about the sunken area of Coronation Park, by the drains which has been caused by heavy vehicles driving onto the park, the area needs filling in with soil.

Cllr R Lyon left the meeting at 19:35pm

Proposed: Cllr T de Galleani

Seconded: Cllr D Wells

Resolved: To go ahead with the work needed in Coronation Park and for the Clerk to investigate where the funding for this can come from.

All Cllrs were in favour.

g) To discuss and approve a way forward regarding access to the Tennis Courts

The Cllrs looked over two proposals regarding access to the Tennis Courts.

There was a discussion about the merits of both proposals.

Proposed: Cllr T de Galleani

Seconded: Cllr A Edsall

Resolved: To go with proposal two, using a combination padlock.

All Cllrs were in favour

46. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- a) Address email from a member of the public about the Castle Estate – AE
- b) Investigate if it is SHDC responsibility to take out the parking meter at the Castle Car Park – MW
- c) Cllrs ideas for the Pitch and Putt area at Coronation Park – AE
- d) Tree Planting and hedge planting policy review - TdG

PART 2 – Confidential

None

Meeting closed at 8pm

Appendix A

Open Spaces Trio Update

Period from October to January

Royal Avenue Gardens

- Christmas Tree taken down and chipped
- Base of statue sprayed
- Rose garden, gold and silver bed mulched
- Rebuilt raised shrub beds on Newcomen Plaza (waiting to dry out for planting)
- Trees lifted by the Boatfloat
- Leaves raked and removed 3 times per week
- Litter collection 7 days per week
- Hedges cut
- Moved Royal Naval Association plinth
- Boats cut up and removed

Boatfloat

- Boatfloat walls sprayed to prevent weed build-up

Coronation park

- Sand topped up in play area
- Play areas inspected on a weekly basis
- Final cut on dinghy park completed
- Removed fallen Pittosporum
- Banking strimmed and sprayed ready for replanting
- Plants near first entrance cut back

Orchard

- Conservation work carried out reducing coverage of bramble in Eastern Paddock
- Whips to be planted Jan/Feb to establish hedge on Southern boundary
- Help from cadets and Volunteers to rake up arisings from Autumn cut this is to allow for sowing of plant species in spring which parasitize grass slowing, growth.
- Assisting Orchard Community Group to prune Apple trees

Castle Estate

- Windblown tree removed
- Gunfield hotel wall vegetation cut back
- Areas around Warfleet and top of Lime Kiln cut
- **Next project, opening up the view from Sugary Green**
- Footpaths trimmed back on Coast Path

Cemetery

- Currently working in the old cemetery to free up headstones and remove limited areas of scrub
- Trimmed shrubs at entrance to old cemetery
- Cut hedge over private garden on Western Boundary

- Lifted trees over Cremation Area
- Attended to damaged trees

St Saviours

- Wildflower area and wall to be cut and raked up

College Way

- Removed dangerous tree which would have blocked mowing next year

Appendix B

Report update from Dartmouth Green Partnerships **January 13 2020**

Volunteers have now planted out all the spring bulbs and plants in the troughs, planters and boats around the town.

In the Michael boat (sponsored by Pillars) we have planted the new daffodil variety bred and named to commemorate Mayflower 400.

The hanging baskets and (some of the) troughs have been planted for the Guildhall and are ready to be put in place when the Christmas tree has been removed.

This year we gave away many of our 'saved from the spring' tete a tete daffodils to various local groups. Quite a few nets were given away to the volunteers at the Indoor Pool, to plant out around the surrounding beds and banks.

Some nets of daffodils were also given to 'Sustainable Blackawton' for planting around the village and a similar number of nets were donated to St Petrox Church for their Garden of Remembrance, the renovation of which DGP have been helping with. Dartmouth Green Partnerships will continue to donate used bulbs and plants in this way, every year.

As mentioned in our previous report. This year we shall be planting most of our troughs, boats and planters, with more permanent plantings of 'nectar rich' plants, especially perennials, such as lavenders and verbenas. Continuing our theme of sustainability, we intend to keep our carbon footprint low, reduce water and compost usage and plant for pollinators and habitats.

All the plants for the summer planting schemes around the town, have now been ordered and are growing on. DGP is intending to make this year's displays even better than last years.

DGP obtained funding to provide an educational information board for the Community Garden next to the greenhouse site. This board is now in place attached to DGP's sponsored shed

As a reminder to the committee, DGP volunteers tend the raised 'capstan beds' along the Embankment, including the one with the Pilgrim Statue, even though these beds do in fact belong to SHDC. The volunteers took over this job when we obtained the funding and re-planted them a couple of years ago. We were at the time told by SHDC that they would only tend these beds once every 5 years. DGP believe that these beds are an essential part of the horticultural landscape of the town, hence our involvement.

DGP work to cut back the grasses and prune shrubs etc on areas we maintain, such as the 'Anchor Bed (at the bottom of College Way) and the periphery of the Coronation Park boat park, opposite the ferry, and the unadopted beds at the top of the town around the 'Welcome' sign and the roundabout, has begun. By the middle of February this should be complete.

Some questions

- At the last meeting DGP requested that we be given written agreement by DTC that we can use the area behind the tennis courts in Coronation Park, for our replica 'Plantation Garden' Also we need a written re-assurance from DTC, that this year's hanging baskets and troughs will be watered, without this re-assurance we shall not be able to put them in place.
- Again at the last meeting, we asked the committee to consider the state of the hanging basket pedestals around the boatfloat (owned by DTC), as these have not been painted for many years and are badly in need of renovation – especially now the new archway is in place
- DGP would also like to ask what provision is being made for tree planting around the town? Many other towns and cities in the country are taking the lead on this initiative, very often demanding that for any tree felled, at least 3 replacements are planted.
- DGP would also like to remind this committee that Coronation Park is one of the few Open Green Spaces in the town. It was created by an Act of Parliament which specified its recreational use as an open green space.

Appendix C

Orchard Report – January 2020

Despite some grim weather, Rob Harkness and his team have given the Orchard its winter strim and the BRNC Officer Cadets did a great job in getting the arisings raked up for taking off site. This will help restore the flower-rich meadow under the apple trees, which is a key part of the Orchard's ecology.

The work of keeping the Orchard in condition will continue during January and February. Groups of Friends will be doing pruning work during the next few weeks. Hedging plants donated by the Devon Wildlife Trust's Greater Horseshoe Bat Project will be planted along the boundary with College Way in the eastern paddock later this month. This is a known foraging path for the 10 species of bat that visit the Orchard. During spring, we also hope to re-introduce a beehive into the orchard.

During February, there will be a more general working party to carry out any remaining tasks before the breeding season starts. We will be asking for help!!

Our AGM will take place in March, but a date has still to be agreed. As soon as it is, we'll get back in touch. Meanwhile, we are looking for people who will be willing to serve on the committee.

Please get in touch if you are interested.