



Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting of the Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta held in The Guildhall on Friday, 26th January 2024, commencing at 7.30pm.

Present were:

Mayor of Dartmouth – Councillor David Wells

Committee:

Hilary Bastone (President)
Ed Botterill (Chair)
John Lagdon (Deputy Chair)
Karl Stone (Vice Chair)
Mel Botterill (Secretary)
Peter Boote
Lucy Wallace
Steve Wallace
Karen Perrow
Matt Theaker
Beth Theaker
Dot Sheppard
Linda Howard
Yorkie Lomas
Phil Langman
Marc Alderman

Members of the Public:

Dave Biss (Steam Boats)
Richard Rendle (Honorary Steward)
Les Ellis (Town Cryer)
Liz Ellis (Town Cryer Consort)

1. The Mayor, Cllr David Wells said *“What a fantastic Regatta we had. It was all about community spirit on the river and the land. This year sees an amazing achievement, the 178th Regatta, an amazing achievement. Thank you to all the committee. Without all of your hard work Regatta would not work. The Royal Marines band were fantastic, and all*

the rowing puts Dartmouth on the map. On behalf of Dartmouth Town Council, thank you very much."

2. Apologies were received from:
Jenny Pichowski (Treasurer/Vice Chair), Phil Pichowski, Jim Cocker, Kevin Pyne, Cathy Campos, Carlos Minto, Ben Cooper, Ben Theaker, Jonathan Hawkins, Sophie Rennie, David Kelland (past Chair), Laura Campbell.
3. The minutes of the 2022 Annual Public Meeting held on Friday, 27th January 2023 were taken as read and approved.

Proposed by Yorkie Lomas, seconded by Dot Sheppard.

4. In The Honorary Treasurer's absence, Ed Botterill presented the financial statement of the 2023 Royal Regatta.

Reporting on the accounts, The Hon Treas said:

"Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta Annual Public Meeting, Friday 26th January 2024 Good Evening Deputy Mayor, Regatta Committee members, Ladies and Gentleman, please can you accept my sincere apologies for not being present this evening. Last year was, as I thought, my last year as Treasurer, however, due to unexpected circumstances I'm back again, just not in person. Thank you for coming along this evening to our annual public meeting as we report on the 178th Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta. This is my third, all be it unexpected year as being Treasurer and I can honestly say the event really is a bit like riding a roller coaster, you come out the other side feeling a huge sense of relief, and pride amongst many other things. As usual, the committee were, are, always up against it doing everything in their power to not only make the event a success, but to endeavour to cover costs to ensure that the committee can bring it back year on year, better, stronger, anything we can to make it a better experience for everyone. 2021 saw a huge loss, no surprise, 2022 presented a profit, thankfully, making up at least for the loses of 2021. To summarise (please note that this is a draft copy of the accounts): 1st November 2022 - 31st October 2023 Turnover: £143,502.34 this was down by £270.16 compared to the turnover of 2022 Our costs of sales and overheads for the year 22/23 in the draft accounts sit at £138,072.05. Whilst our turnover for the last 2 financial years has been very similar, our costs increased by over 14% on last year's event. Taking operational and running costs into account, last years event was on course at best to break even, however, due to what can only be described as quite a catastrophic administration error with the traffic management company, as a result of good will on their behalf and a credit of £4,953.78, the PODRR 2023 will have covered costs and made a profit of approx £5,000. The exact figures will be available to everyone and published in the coming weeks once I have met with the accounts to discuss and submit. Our income primarily comes from Sponsors and Traders, and a significant amount of these are local traders and businesses, thank you very, very much. On a side note, it is hard not to listen to the negativity of our event. With my Treasurer's head on, I would just like to point out the following: Whilst we charge for parking on Coronation Park at £12.50 per vehicle which includes VAT, this by no means covers the costs of hiring the park, providing the provision of mats, barriers, staffing, security, etc. This provision is put in place to allow us to provide the event that we do. As I go into the 179th PODRR as Treasurer, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who supports the event one way or another, big and small. Once the accounts have been submitted and signed off, if anybody would like to receive a copy, please let Mel know at the end of the meeting. Thank you."

Proposed by Ed Botterill, seconded by Marc Alderman.

5. To receive the Chairman's report on the 2023 Royal Regatta. Ed Botterill, Chairman, read out the following statement:

"Good Evening, and welcome to you all, Mr Mayor, Mr President, Honorary Stewards, Fellow Committee Members, Ladies, Gentlemen, everyone, Members of the Press and in particular those of who are visiting our Annual Public Meeting for the first time, thank you all for joining us this evening. This evening I have the honour, as your Chairman, of reporting to you on the 178th, 2023 Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta and outlining some of our plans for the 179th.

But first I must mention more sombre circumstances. In the past 12 months we have experienced several losses from our extended Regatta Committee and Family:

Our Hon Stewards:

*Chris Parr Ferris
Pam Norton
Wendy Rendle
John Bowden*

and much-loved Committee member Lynne Leader;

All left us in the past 12 months and are much missed, lovingly remembered by our Ctte, and will be remembered in their continuing legacy to the Royal Regatta.

I really don't need to add anything to Jenny's report apart from to say how grateful we remain that she stepped back into the breach as both Vice Chair and Treasurer when the Tres Position of Tres didn't work out for Paul.

As she says - a final financial statement and full accounts will be available once signed off by the Accountant and as always through the Secretary, Companies House and the Dartmouth Town Council.

As a Ctte, we were very happy with our 178th PODRR, we delivered:

- Through the local Rowing Ctte our entries and variety of competition increased.*
- The JRSC delivered new races, increased entries - back to pre-pandemic levels, and additional entries this year as part of the Combined Services competition.*
- The DAAC produced a fine road race back into the programme.*
- The outdoor pool and swimming gala, back..*
- Pavement Artists competition back around the Boatfloat..*
- Kontiki and Tug of war in the Boatfloat back on Regatta Saturday..*
- A very well received Adult Crabbing competition..*
- More free children's entertainment, and more music - in two areas for 2023.*
- Medical resources tested to the limit on Regatta Saturday. If you know, you know!*
- And, as I'll continue on a theme later, more local businesses and stall holders actively taking part, and thriving, than ever before, yet fewer food stalls..*

*I'd like to also offer Thanks to **Phil Geen** who retires from the finishing cannons this year after years of participation, service to the town and Regatta.. but continues I hope, to offer safe advice and wise counsel.*

But, as ever, room for improvement in 2024.

Slightly different this year, I will offer you the names of those already doing the hard work for your 2024, 179th PODRR:

***Hilary** will continue to increase the wide and nationally unrivalled offering of rowing at our event.*

***Peter** and the JRSC continues to increase sailing entries, slightly amend days to bring sailing events yet further into the Royal Regatta.*

***John** has already consulted and submitted our traffic orders (more about that later) and is meeting with waste and traffic companies next week.. having already secured PAS for (I think?) their 51st year of sound and radio provision.*

***Jenny and Mel** are expanding our free Family Fun weekend to include the Bank Holiday Monday. We also have had 3 new Friends of Regatta sign up in the last 48hrs.*

***Laura** is working hard across the board to secure sponsorship and has already secured both new and returning sponsors and organising the River Parade celebrating boatbuilding in the Dart this year. Also, as co-chair of the new Dartmouth and District Chamber of Commerce, ensuring that we, as Community members of the new Chamber, working ever more closely with local businesses.*

***Matt and Beth** have already secured more local TQ6 businesses to trade at the Regatta than ever before. Not to mention the huge tasks of our Security, First Aid provision and continued rock-solid liaison with **Neil** and his team.*

***Sophie** has accepted the huge task of sourcing our free music offering across 2 stages all week (Bandstand and Embankment)..*

***We** will also be hosting a small (first year!) market for local food producers in the Old Market over the Bank Holiday weekend to continue to draw our visitors through town throughout the week.*

***Paul**, we couldn't do this without your team and I'm very excited about activities already planned during Regatta 2024.*

***Beamer**, lovely to see you back in the BRNC chair and I'm tremendously excited about meeting Captain Bray on Monday. Great things ahead.*

***Mr Mayor, Cathy, Ged, Jonathan, and Ben** (SHDC I know) continue to see all, hear all, contribute widely and report back to DTC and SHDC monthly all of our progress, meetings, thoughts and issues. It's very much a two way street and we thank both you and SHDC for your continued and unwavering support to the largest free Community Event in the South Hams. In the year that we were awarded our Platinum accreditation for Sustainability by Sailors for the Seas it has been wonderful to see that DTC are pursuing an agenda to have The RAG registered as a Green Space - an ongoing process that we are excited to already be a part of.*

***And all of your Cttee members** will be playing their part in repeating, increasing and improving the offering at Regatta, always mindful of feedback..*

I say feedback.. from visitors, stall holders and sponsors it has been overwhelmingly positive.

Feedback from town business was varied as it always is, but uniformly they have asked for more loading and unloading areas (which we have added to the plan) and spreading events more evenly over the week which hopefully you will see from an event at the beginning of the week into the Bank holiday, and how we will fill Thu and Fri evenings.. We are also working with Devon and DTC for additional signage around town and we plan for each Regatta Programme to have a more detailed map of all businesses in town..

Final thoughts - we are considering, carefully, becoming a Community Interest Company. We are taking advice and will keep you all posted.

I commend your entire PODRR Committee to you everyone and look forward to an Opening Ceremony in 215 days time."

6. To confirm that a Royal Regatta will be held in 2024 and the dates be Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 29, 30 and 31 August, incorporating events throughout the week 24-31 Aug 24.

Proposed by Phil Langman. Karl Stone seconded.

7. To confirm the 2024 Port of Dartmouth Royal Regatta Committee, with power to add. Hilary Bastone, Ed Botterill, Jenny Pichowski, John Lagdon, Karl Stone, Mel Botterill, Kevin Pyne, Carlos Minto, Jason Aylett, Linda Howard, Karen Perrow, Yorkie Lomas, Jonathan Hawkins, Peter Boote, Lucy Wallace, Steve Wallace, Mark Green, Phil Langman, Peter Avis, Beth Theaker, Matt Theaker, Ben Theaker, Laura Campbell, Cathy Campos, Jim Cocker, Dot Sheppard, Dave Sharam, Phil Pichowski, Sophie Rennie, Yohann Bellanger, Ben Cooper, Marc Alderman, Mark Bannister.

Proposed by Yorkie Lomas, seconded by Marc Alderman.

8. To move votes of thanks to Devon County Council, South Hams District Council, Dartmouth Town Council, Britannia Royal Naval College, and the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority for the various privileges granted and to request similar facilities for 2024.

Proposed by Ed Botterill, seconded by Linda Howard.

9. Collector of the Year. Hilary said "Les and Liz Ellis have been long term Regatta supporters. Les has been the Town Crier for over 17 years and Liz his loyal consort. In fact Les has been a Town Crier for over 20 years having started out as Town Crier at Galmpton. During this period, they have both turned up in full costume to support our Royal Regatta events. In particular as enthusiastic collectors.
10. During this time they have collected in the region of £20,000 for Regatta funds and in recognition of this dedicated service to our Royal Regatta, and collecting box rattling, they are this years recipients of the 'Collector of the Year award'."

To receive any other business – none received.

11. Ed Botterill moved a vote of thanks to the Mayor and Dartmouth Town Council for the use of the Council Chamber – the APM is not an everyday occurrence, it is important and we are grateful to be here. Thanks were also given to Dave Biss and Richard Rendle for attending.

Proposed by Ed Botterill, Hilary Bastone seconded.

Close to the meeting.