



DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of a Meeting of the *Finance and General Purposes Committee* held at The Manor House Dawlish, on **Thursday 18TH MARCH 2010**

Present: Councillor H. Clemens – Chairman
Councillor G. Wills – Mayor of Dawlish
Councillor Mrs. H. Humphries – Deputy Mayor of Dawlish
Councillor Mrs. H. Wills
Councillor Mrs. P. Bloomfield
Councillor W. Protheroe
Councillor G. Price
Councillor Mrs. J. Garland

Other Members Present: None

In attendance: John Winchester, Town Clerk, together with six members of the public.

Declaration of Interests:

Cllr. Mrs. H. Humphries (Deputy Mayor) declared a prejudicial interest in item 3.2 on the Agenda as she is a member of the Twinning Association and a signatory to the grant application.

Urgent Items:

The Town Clerk informed Councillors present that there was an item regarding advertising the Annual Town Meeting which required discussion by the Committee. Councillors agreed that the item should be taken at the end of the meeting.

Public participation

Mr. T. Cameron, a local elector and Vice-Chairman of the Town Twinning Association, delivered a short briefing to Members present regarding the reasons why twinning association were set up.

Mrs. V. Mawhood, a local elector addressed Members present regarding booking of the Manor House on Sundays and requested that Councillors overturn their policy in this respect.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Cllr. H. Clemens at 7.12p.m.

114. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following Councillors:

- *Cllr. Mrs. C. Payne* had a family commitment and was unable to attend the meeting
- *Cllr. E. Hockin* had a family commitment and was unable to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that the apologies be accepted.

115. Minutes

Members present received the minutes of Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18th February 2010.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that this Committee approves the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee dated 18th February 2010 and the Minutes be signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

116. Multiple Sclerosis Society – South Devon Branch

Members present received a letter from a Committee Member of the MS Society enquiring whether the Council is able to rent office accommodation to them.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that this item should be deferred until the Town Clerk can make contact with the organisation to arrange a meeting to view the rooms possibly available. The Town Clerk to make a further report.

At 7.15p.m. Cllr. Mrs. H. Humphries left the debating chamber.

117. Dawlish Twinning Association

Members present received a request for grant aid from Dawlish Twinning Association to assist with funding of the visit to Dawlish by representatives of the Carhaix Twinning Association in April 2010.

RESOLVED by the majority of the Members present and voting that a sum of £450.00 be made available by way of a grant to the Twinning Association for this purpose.

At 7.22p.m. Cllr. Mrs. H. Humphries returned to the debating chamber.

118. Teenbridge Project – grant funds

Members present received a letter from the Project Co-ordinator requesting that Councillors donate any residue of their Councillors' Community Grant Funds to Teenbridge Project to fund the purchase of an air hockey table.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that the Town Clerk contact by email those Members who still had funding available to them and inform them they have until the 31st March 2010 to donate money to community interest groups making a claim.

119. 34 Park Road, Dawlish – Access for the disabled

Members present received a letter from a local elector regarding access for the disabled at 34 Park Road, Dawlish.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that the Town Clerk should write to the elector thanking him for his observations and informing him that advice will be taken from a buildings surveyor before opening the building to the public.

120. *Roger's Cleaning Service Ltd.*

Members present received a letter from Roger's Cleaning Service Ltd., requesting permission to rent space on the outside of the boiler room as a store.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that this request should be denied. However, the Town Clerk should liaise with Roger's Cleaning Service to investigate whether any alternative space is available to them.

121. *34 Park Road, Dawlish – Request for information*

Members present received a letter from a local elector requesting that information about the above address is made available.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that the Town Clerk should write to the elector and, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, supply whatever information is held on file.

122. *The Manor House – alteration to the 2005 rating list*

Members present received a notice from the Valuation Officer informing Councillors that an alteration has been made and a summary showing how the rateable value has now been calculated.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that this item be noted.

123. *Request to book Manor House on Sunday 28th March 2010*

Members present received a request from a local elector on behalf of the Save the Manor group to book the Manor House for an event on the 28th March 2010.

Councillors were reminded regarding the current Council policy which does not permit bookings, apart from Church bookings, on a Sunday.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that permission should be given on this occasion and should any further requests for Sunday bookings be received, they should be brought to the attention of this Committee for approval.

124. Waste Collection Service – Biffa Ltd.

Members present received notification from Biffa Ltd., that an increase in legislative landfill tax will take effect from 1st April 2010 and this Council's bill for waste collection will increase by 42p per cubic metre from that date.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that this item be noted.

125. Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee meeting 24th February 2010.

Members present adopted the notes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 24th February 2010 as part of the workings of this Committee.

RESOLVED by the majority of the Members present and voting that the Sub-Committee notes of the meeting held on the 24th February 2010 should be adopted by Committee.

126. Draft Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2009 (year 2008-2009)

Members present considered the contents of the draft Annual Report for the year 2008-2009, ending on 31st March 2009 for production at the Annual Meeting on the 14th April 2010.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that this item will be noted and any additions, deletions, corrections and alterations should be presented to the Town Council offices as soon as possible.

127. Accounts for payment and financial reports

Members present received the following:

- Accounts paid in February and March 2010

RESOLVED by the majority of the Members present and voting that the accounts be approved by Committee and the front sheet of the accounts for payment be signed by the Committee Chairman.

- Financial report to the end of February 2010

After a discussion, this item was deferred until the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Sub-Committee.

128. Late Items

Members were reminded that the following items are brought to the attention of Committee Members by the Chairman as a matter of urgency. Members are reminded that they have not received the statutory notice of this business to be transacted and should therefore recognise that any decision made may be taken to be unlawful if challenged in the future

a) Advertisement of the Annual Meeting

The Town Clerk informed Members present that it had been the custom in the past to advertise the Annual Town Meeting for Dawlish in the local newspaper. Investigations made revealed there would be a cost of £119.00 plus VAT for an advertisement the same size as last year's. However, it may be possible to reduce this cost to £76 plus VAT for a smaller advertisement. The advertisement was considered by Members present.

RESOLVED unanimously by the Members present and voting that the Town Clerk ensures that the Annual Town Meeting is advertised in accordance with his briefing.

129. Press Release

The Committee Chairman, Cllr. H. Clemens, stated that if Mr. Cameron was willing to share his briefing with the Town Clerk, Town Council staff would issue the reasons for the Twinning Associations throughout the country to be turned into a press release which may benefit the Twinning Association and the Town Council.

The meeting was closed by the Committee Chairman, Cllr. H. Clemens at 7.45p.m.

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Cllr. H. Clemens
Chairman.