

## **Dawlish Town Council**

Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Town Council

Held at The Manor House, Dawlish on  
Wednesday, 10 January 2018

### **Present:**

Councillors Martin Wrigley (Mayor), Lisa Mayne (Deputy Mayor), Howard Almond, Pauline Bloomfield, Humphrey Clemens, Greg Fenne, Alison Foden, Terry Lowther, Val Mawhood, Noel Nickless, Rosalind Prowse, Judith Robins, Carole Tamlyn and Gary Taylor.

### **In attendance:**

Andrew McKenzie (Town Clerk), a representative of the press, Serjeant Jonathan Ross of Devon & Cornwall Police and 12 members of the public, none of whom wished to speak.

### **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Urgent Items**

The Mayor advised that four urgent items would be considered relating to security lighting at The Manor House, Sandylane Skate Park, a large horse chestnut tree on The Lawn and the Mayors of Dawlish board in the Council Chamber.

***The following minutes will be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Town Council and may be subject to change until that time.***

### **105 APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Councillor Angela Fenne for personal reasons.

**Resolved** unanimously to accept the apology.

### **106 DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE**

Sergeant Jonathan Ross of Devon and Cornwall Police presented the Police report for December as follows:

*During the month of December there have been 138 incidents reported to the Police for Dawlish town. Including 4 missing person reports.*

*There have been 39 crimes recorded including:*

*1 Aggravated Burglary*

*2 Arson*

*1 Attempt Burglary  
3 Assaults  
1 Burglary  
6 Common Assaults  
1 Pass Counterfeit Currency  
10 Criminal Damage  
1 Destroy / Damage Property  
1 Harassment  
2 Malicious Communication  
1 Possess Offensive weapon in Public  
1 Rape of a Woman 16 years or over (Domestic Related)  
1 Robbery  
7 Thefts*

*The festive period of December has been a quiet month with no major incidents to report. Both PCSO Tamzin CAMPBELL- MOSELEY & PCSO Gary CAIRNS have been actively patrolling hot spot areas to deter crime and anti-social behaviour at key times.*

*In the absence of a Neighbourhood Beat Manager (since the retirement of PC Ray FAICHNEY in October) 2 beat managers from Teignmouth & Teignmouth / Dawlish Rural are covering on a temporary basis until the position is filled. Both have been assisting with responding to 101/999 calls and dealing with certain crimes.*

*There have been 2 reports of Arson in the men's cubicle at Boat Cove Public toilets. On both occasions toilet roll has been set alight causing minor scorching damage.*

*In November we reported an increase of drug litter found in the Public toilets at Barton Hill Car Park, The Lawns & Boat Cove. A meeting was held with Teignbridge Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officer Rob Kingdon to discuss the issue. Ideas around the safe disposal of needles is still being discussed along with Increased uniformed & non uniformed Police patrols conducted in these areas where possible.*

*There were no reports of anti-social behaviour involving youths reported to Police for the month of December.*

*On 9<sup>th</sup> December Graffiti was sprayed on the on the wall and floor to the public conveniences on The Lawns. CCTV has been checked but unfortunately does not cover this area. This has since been removed by the Blitz team. External decoration to this building is scheduled for early 2018.*

*PCSO 30577 Tamzin Campbell-Moseley*

The Mayor noted that no antisocial behaviour had been recorded for the month of December 2017 and hoped it continued.

## 107 MINUTES

Members received the minutes of the previous meeting.

It was noted that that whilst minute 99 was correct as per the information available at the time, the current grass cutting contractor was Paul Carey and not Idverde as stated at the meeting. A quote was currently being awaited by Idverde before making any decision as to awarding a grass cutting contract for 2018/19.

**Resolved** unanimously that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 6 December 2017 be approved.

## 108 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES FOR ADOPTION

**Resolved** unanimously that the minutes set out below, approved by the relevant Committee and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting, be adopted:

- Planning – 7 December 2017

## 109 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Martin Wrigley reported as follows:

*I'd like to start by welcoming our new Town Clerk, Andrew McKenzie. Andrew has come to us from Teignbridge where I'm sure he will be missed. However Andrew had an idea of what he was getting into since he has been helping on our Neighbourhood Plan steering group and recently acting as our Locum Clerk. I wish him a long and happy stay at Dawlish.*

*Before Christmas I attended the St Gregory's Christmas Tree festival which was an amazing collection of trees and a huge amount of imagination in their decoration. It's great to see this growing year on year.*

*I attended the annual RNLI carol service in Teignmouth which helps to highlight the life-saving service that so many people volunteer to provide – I am delighted to be able to help in a small way having chosen them as one of my charities this year.*

*As Christmas preparations gathered speed, I attended several carol services around the area, and on the last day of school term I was invited to lunch at Gatehouse Primary with members of their school parliament. In my suit I felt a little overdressed*

*on Christmas Jumper Day, but the children had some excellent ideas. They were concerned about traffic outside their school, especially as the construction traffic will be building up again when development moves forward. One idea they suggested was in the introduction of a school crossing patrol – a lolly-pop-person – and I personally think that is a good idea. This year I would like to see what we can do to make that happen at both Gatehouse and Dawlish Community College. And before Christmas I had another meeting with residents of Secmaton Lane and South West Water concerning the sewers in the area. The work that was going on there (closing the footpath at the top of the lane) was to re-lay an existing faulty sewer pipe. However the main discussion was around a plan to improve the system further down the lane. This is the fix needed to solve the local issue, but is still some time off – SWW are confident it could be in 2018...*

*I was however very pleased to see that SWW now have the full map of developments in planning in the DA2 area, and are considering what further improvements may be needed to support those extra houses too. I would wish that we could get the much needed link road in place as soon as possible too.*

*Christmas Day I went to visit the Christmas lunch at the Strand Centre, I was happy chatting to everyone there and so impressed by all the volunteers who produced Christmas Lunch for so many guests. I'd like to register my thanks to everyone who gave up their Christmas Day and helped make that happen.*

*On Sunday we had the delayed official Opening of the Country Park. It is in a superb location right by all the new houses and is being well used and enjoyed by local residents. From well before dawn until after dusk each day there are cars in the car parks and people and dogs enjoying the space. My thanks to everyone who made that happen.*

*Continuing the story of the proliferation of signs in Dawlish, we had meetings before Christmas with Teignbridge and Network Rail, and today we had a follow up meeting working out how we can rationalise and improve the signage. Some signs are clearly redundant and can come down, and detailed proposals for more positive signs will be coming before this council in the near future.*

*You may have noticed that the Environment Agency have started tidal flood prevention works in Cockwood and Starcross. The addition of flood gates on reconstructed slipways, fixing and raising some of the walls and adding pedestrian refuge area and rainwater catchment will hopefully ensure that high seas stay inside the harbour. However the local residents are worried about the disruption of the road closure for several months, and the traffic around Cockwood School will need to take great care.*

*Local businesses and hostelrys are still open for business, and I'd like to urge everyone to take extra care and drive more slowly through the village during the construction phase.*

*Now that we have our new Clerk on board we can start to work on a set of Terms of Reference for the Lawn Working group for consideration the February Council when we can appoint the initial members of the group. We have had several expressions of interest from members of the community, and I'd like to encourage others to let us know if you would like to participate.*

*And finally, the South Western Ambulance Service has thanked the Town Council for being part of the Defibrillator Accreditation Scheme with the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, and have automatically renewed Dawlish Town Council's Memorandum of Understanding for the next two years until 31 December 2019.*

## **110 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

### Councillor John Clatworthy:

- *Exeter Road - between East Cliff Road and Henty Avenue would be resurfaced towards the end of February with works lasting for approximately 3 weeks;*
- *Teignmouth Hill was scheduled to be resurfaced in March;*
- *Summerlands Close – the lower half of the road was scheduled to be resurfaced in March and the replacement hand rail had also been ordered;*
- *Pothole Action Fund - each member had pot of money and it had been agreed that patching would take place at Weech Road, Stonelands Park, Stockton Hill, Priory Road and hopefully East Cliff Road as well;*
- *A new seat had been ordered for the bus stop at Lanherne;*
- *New class rooms at West Cliff School were currently under construction which would take the roll up to 420 people;*
- *Carhaix way bollard and landscaping in place; confusion to traffic and visitors, would be useful if the road were renamed to Carhaix East and Carhaix West;*
- *The County Council's budget setting process was underway with the government's provisional settlement being received shortly before Christmas. The overall budget for 2018/19 would be £121.2M with the need to find savings of £20.8M having been identified. To date £287M had been removed from the revenue budget. If the County had received average funding it would have had an extra £211M to provide services;*
- *The Dedicated School Grant had been increased by £17.4M but was already overspent by £3.78M. The Devon Education Forum had agreed to roll monies forward into the ensuing year and this overspend was not thought to pose a problem;*

- *The trigger for a council tax referendum had been increased by 1% to 3%; this was on top of the social care precept which can also be levied up to 3%. No decision regards the level of council tax would be made until the government's final settlement had been received; and*
- *The County Council had been successful together with all Devon districts, Torbay and Plymouth Councils for business rates retention pilot for one year.*

The Mayor advised he had received enquiries regards the state of the road at East Cliff Road and asked if the County Councillor could raise this at County Hall. Councillor Clatworthy advised that he was aware of the situation and advised that street sweeping was a responsibility of Teignbridge District Council.

## **111 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

### Councillor Humphrey Clemens:

*13th Dawlish Warren Traders. Some concern was expressed about the Habitats Regulation Committee recommendation regarding alterations to parking charges in the Dawlish Warren car parks to reduce visitors to the nature reserve during winter months when there are 20,000 plus overwintering waterfowl present. I was concerned that false information was being spread via social media and suggested that there are other more direct ways of mitigation and suggested one which received overwhelming support from the traders.*

*18th Leadership, where Executive members meet with service leads do get updates on the Council's 10 year strategy.*

*Teign Estuary Partnership.*

*19th TDC Planning where Tucks Plot received planning permission for new mini golf provision.*

*21st Attended official opening of Dawlish Warren recharge scheme by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Gove MP.*

*Jan.*

*7th Cut the ribbon at the official opening of the new Dawlish Country Park.*

### Councillor Rosalind Prowse:

- *13 December 2017 – Chaired the Teignbridge Standards Committee where issues had been brought forward for updating after further discussion.*

- 19 December 2017 – Attended Teignbridge Planning Committee.
- 9 January – Attended Teignbridge Executive Committee and Railway Review Group

*As many people have had time off over Christmas there have been various matters to sort out and correction of misinformation to residents. I continue to visit Council offices to liaise with officers. Staffing shortages for various reasons have made things more difficult.*

*Members and staff were given a very interesting update by Dan Okey, Regional Development Manager of GWR. We looked at the last 12 months and this year as far as the amount of work to be undertaken by Network Rail. GWR and NR have an alliance on working arrangements but as there is a great deal of work to be done on the lines from Reading down we can expect similar disruption to last year. On the brighter side because the electrification from Paddington to Didcott was finished by 2 January there will be more trains made available over the next 12 months and many more carriages made available. Anyone who has travelled from Exeter to Newton Abbot/Paignton knows the problems of prams and wheelchair users. It was very interesting to learn that GWR have to work around the rail works and the system on which carriages are leased. Another bright moment was learning GWR have an agreement with the Union on working arrangements (resulting from strikes in the past) and we should not be experiencing the problems of other franchisers. This franchise has been extended to 2020 and hopefully to 2024 to give more time for financial support.*

*Stations were discussed, a new one at Marsh Barton and the possibility of Exminster which GWR are very keen to see happen. The new service 6.30 am Paddington to Plymouth arriving at 9.30 has commenced, an upgraded sleeper service from Penzance has taken place, and the improvements to Newton Abbot station have started and there are more plans afoot for a bridge etc. If you have travelled by train to Exeter St David's lately you will have seen the amount of work going on there with the station engineering section.*

*GWR are a very large employer across the South West with 6000 employees and are still recruiting. There are new high speed trains coming into service. The possibility of opening some of the previously closed branch lines was also mentioned. There is a consultation going on at the moment.*

*On the downside to get an effective smooth running service we will have to suffer further disruption this year but can expect better things in 2019.*

*The group asked to be included in any meetings that would have an effect on Teignbridge including the time tabling meeting which takes place twice a year.*

*A very productive meeting which gave further insight to the amount of traffic now using the railway and the amount of investment needed.*

*Further vandalism had occurred around the Community Transport premises over the Christmas period. It was suggested Dawlish District Councillors engage Teignbridge regards the lighting issues in the area, and the CCTV provision be examined by the Town Council's CCTV Working Party.*

## **112 TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

### Councillor Gary Taylor

Councillor Taylor's report was circulated prior to the meeting.

**19<sup>th</sup> December 2017:** *Attended Teignbridge District Council Planning Committee to speak in objection to planning application at Tuck's Plot, on behalf of DTC Civic Amenities Committee (subsequent to attendance for same purpose on 21<sup>st</sup> November).*

#### **Representation as below:**

*Ref 17/01944/FUL Adventure Golf, Tuck's Plot, Dawlish*

*I am speaking again in objection to this application on behalf of Dawlish Town Council's Civic Amenities Committee - and on behalf of local residents and business-owners who have contacted me.*

*Also, as no invitation was received for the recent site visit, I should remind Members of the position of Dawlish Town Council's Planning Committee, which recommended: "REFUSAL due to the size of the kiosk... and [the size of] its retail offering" which - as a Class A5 Hot Food Takeaway - would be largely unaffected by any proposed reduction in table numbers.*

*The main objections are as follows:*

*The excessive footprint of the proposed new kiosk (30 sqm, ten times that of the original);*

*The extent of the retail & food offering;*

*The degradation of local visual amenity;*

*The placement of a railings in front of the site perimeter stone wall (per document 'Cross Section – Proposed' refer Section A and B);*

*The lack of limitation on hours and conditions of opening;*

*And the rather lax wording suggested for the sale of refreshments and merchandise.*

*Turning to context: Tuck's Plot is an important Conservation Area gateway to Dawlish - forming the principle setting for the Listed Jubilee Bridge. Originally laid out as pleasure gardens, the site now benefits from special status in Plan Teignbridge under Dawlish Regeneration Policy DA12.*

***Policy DA12 is specific in supporting enhancement of Tuck's Plot as a civic space.***

*It was community-led ambition - channelled through Dawlish's 'pilot' Neighbourhood Plan - that helped bring about this regeneration policy - and it would be a gross planning injustice if this settled policy aspiration was permanently swept aside without good cause or remedy.*

*This Committee will already be well aware of the many members of the public who have either written to Teignbridge, or who have added their names to the petitions in objection to the negative impact it is feared the scheme will have on the town. Indeed, similar views by Members of this Council have also been expressed here.*

*What will be news to most Members today however, is that Dawlish Town Council is embarking on a wide-ranging review of town centre facilities and amenities (both current and 'pipeline') - and while this review will focus primarily on potential sequencing options for The Lawn, what happens at Tuck's Plot will also be of consequence.*

*I would therefore urge Members to REFUSE this application, as being both contrary to Local Plan Policy and below the high standard of design required in a Conservation Area, thus allowing better, more appropriate plans for Tuck's Plot to come forward.*

Councillor Taylor noted the first two plans submitted showed a fence height of 4.9m and the third and final plan showed a fence height of 6.1m. He suggested there needed to be greater transparency with planning applications being processed by Teignbridge.

Councillor Mawhood noted the site was on top of a sewerage tank which had a 20 year life span with not many years left.

The Mayor advised that South West Water (SWW) required the applicant to obtain further approvals from SWW to do anything on top of their assets even with planning permission.

Councillor Foden advised that the proposals for Tucks Plot came before the Civic Amenities Committee in March 2017 and the proposal that was accepted by the Committee in Part II of the meeting was not the proposal that went before the Teignbridge Planning Committee.

**Resolved** unanimously to note the Mayor's Announcements, County, District and Town Councillors' reports.

### **113 DAWLISH CELEBRATES CARNIVAL**

Members considered a report which detailed how the Town Council's support and funds had contributed to the key spend areas leading up to and over the week of the Carnival.

Members suspended Standing Orders to enable Trevor Stratford, Chairman of the Carnival Committee to address the meeting.

Mr Stratford thanked the Town Council for their grant in the previous year and referred to the previously circulated report. He highlighted the many successes of last year's carnival and the aspirations for future events which he hoped would involve the Town Council. Prior to reinstating Standing Orders, Members thanked Mr Stratford and all those who contributed to making the event the success it had been.

Members reinstated Standing Orders.

Councillors expressed their thanks to the Carnival Committee for its work in delivering a successful event and putting Dawlish on the map, and looked forward to supporting this year's carnival.

#### **Resolved**

- (a) That report be noted;
- (b) That a future presentation be given to the Town Council outlining ways in which to maximise the Carnival 'Brand' and help build the reputation of the Town; and
- (c) That a practical relationship is developed between the Carnival and the Town Council for the benefit of residents, local business and tourism.

### **114 LETTER FROM TEIGNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

Councillors considered a letter received from Teignmouth Town Council regards the position of the aforementioned Council and the continued funding of the Dawlish and Teignmouth Community Interest Company (CIC) beyond September 2018.

The letter advised that Teignmouth Town Council had made no decision regards its role in the future of the CIC.

The Mayor noted that the minutes of a meeting between the Town Clerks of Dawlish and Teignmouth, the Chairman of the Dawlish Staffing Committee and the Mayor of Teignmouth, began with "*The Mayor [of Teignmouth] confirmed that he had*

*consulted the other Teignmouth councillors and was speaking on behalf of the town council".* The letter received suggested this was now not the case, and it was Dawlish Town Council's representative on the CIC Board, Councillor Almond advised there would be a board meeting next week to consider the issue. Whilst it was desirable to await the outcome of Teignmouth's working party, there were other factors that would have a bearing on Dawlish's decision.

**Resolved** that

- (a) the correspondence from Teignmouth Town Council be noted; and
- (b) further consideration of the funding for the Dawlish and Teignmouth Community Interest Company be deferred to the February meeting of the Town Council to allow for the outcome of the Teignmouth Town Council's working party to be known.

#### **115 Manor House Security Lighting**

A letter had been received about the security lighting at the Manor House.

During discussion, particular reference was made to the possibility of inexpensive short term solutions with longer term actions being examined by the Civic Amenities Committee.

**Resolved** that

- (a) That the letter be noted and a reply be sent detailing future action;
- (b) That the Town Clerk investigate short term, inexpensive solutions and take action as appropriate; and
- (c) The Civic Amenities Committee be asked to consider longer term solutions at its meeting in January.

#### **116 SANDY LANE SKATE PARK**

Members were advised that some of the fencing at the skate park had been brought down in recent winds and initial remedial works had been undertaken to make the site safe.

It was suggested that instead of replacing a like for like solid wooden fence, a chain link fence would be more appropriate.

**Resolved** that

- (a) That the skate park be inspected by Members of the previous working party and comments be reported back to the next meeting of the Finance & general Purposes Committee;
- (b) The Finance & General Purposes Committee consider the need for wider remedial works to the skate park and commit to funding as necessary.

**117 HORSE CHESTNUT TREE**

The Mayor advised that pruning works were required to one of the large horse chestnut trees on the Lawn; the tree nearest the Tourist Office. This would take place in the next two months. The routine inspection had identified a substantial crack that had developed on the main trunk. Further collapse was likely and pruning would be required to prevent a main branch from detaching from the tree. The extent of the pruning was likely to have a negative impact on the health of the tree going forward however, during last year's walking festival the arboriculturalist asked members of the public if they would prefer to see the tree retained, or removed and replaced. A clear message was received that it would be preferable to retain the tree.

**118 MAYORS OF DAWLISH BOARD**

The Mayor advised that the Mayors of Dawlish board currently displayed in the Council Chamber had reached capacity and Members were being asked whether an additional board should be purchased. The existing supplier suggested a like for like copy would be in the region of £500.

**Resolved** that an additional Mayors of Dawlish Board be ordered.

*The meeting was closed by the Mayor at 21.05.*

Cllr Martin Wrigley  
MAYOR OF DAWLISH