

DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Civic Amenities Committee
held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday 17 January 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present

Councillor Alison Foden (Chairman)
Councillors A Fenne, G Fenne, Terry Lowther, Val Mawhood, Judith Robins, Gary Taylor and Martin Wrigley

Apologies for Absence

Councillors Lisa Mayne and Rosalind Prowse.

Officer in attendance

Andrew McKenzie – Town Clerk

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Items requiring Urgent Attention

The Clerk advised of one urgent item – benches along King's Walk.

Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The following minutes will be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Civic Amenities Committee and may be subject to change until that time.

33 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Angela Fenne, Greg Fenne and Judith Robins.

Resolved unanimously to accept these apologies.

34 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensation.

35 MINUTES

Resolved unanimously that the minutes of the Civic Amenities Committee meeting held on 15 November 2017 be approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.

At this juncture, the Chairman took the urgent item as follows:

36 BENCHES – KING’S WALK

The Town Clerk advised he had met with two representatives of NetworkRail, the Town Centre Development Manager and Councillor Prowse, Dawlish Town Council’s representative on the CIC who would be continuing to lead the project of the benches upon the Town Centre Development Managers leaving the employment of the CIC at the end of the January 2018.

He advised that NetworkRail were content with 9 or 10 benches being installed along King’s Walk with each panel of fencing needing to be extended by the height of the bench. Fence extension works would be undertaken by NetworkRail.

It was envisaged that due to the design and material requirements of a prominent location exposed to the elements, the cost per bench would be in the region of £1,000 plus installation. The Clerk suggested the Electors’ Fund may be an appropriate funding mechanism to use for the purchase.

Members discussed the issue and agreed the project was an ideal candidate for the Electors’ Fund and were pleased to note that action was now being undertaken after nearly three years of no benches at the site.

Resolved that the Finance & General Purposes Committee be recommended to make an application to the Electors’ Fund for the purchase of 9 to 10 benches for installation along King’s Walk.

37 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM TOWN CENTRE REVIEW REPORT

The Town Clerk advised that no updates had yet been received from Teignbridge District Council. Further enquiries would be made.

Resolved that the Town Clerk direct enquiries where appropriate within Teignbridge District Council, to include advice on Sandy Lane Skate Park.

38 BROWN’S BROOK ALLOTMENTS

The Town Clerk advised that both actions identified at the previous meeting of the Civic Amenities Committee had been implemented.

39 MANOR HOUSE GARDENS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Members considered a proposal to request Teignbridge District Council to review the care plan for the Manor House Gardens to include the re-establishing of the riverbanks using large boulders, and whether a low level fence would help deter the public and animals from eroding the edge of the banks.

During discussion, Members were against canalising the brook within the Manor House gardens as it would detract from its natural state but did see merit in placing boulders to protect the edges of the Brook.

Resolved that

- (a) Teignbridge District Council be asked to investigate whether the placing of boulders would help protect riverbank erosion and if so for this work to be undertaken;
- (b) That a site visit be arranged with Mark Payne at Teignbridge District Council to discuss an appropriate maintenance plan with Councillors A Fenne, Foden, Mawhood and if available Councillor Wrigley.

40 LEA MOUNT

Members considered the current state of affairs at Lea Mount and noted the area was considerably overgrown and concern was given to the integrity of the cliffs.

It was an aspiration of Councillors to have the site cleared, benches reinstated and a heritage board put in place so the public could enjoy the views and learn about the mount's history.

Resolved that a site visit be arranged with Mark Payne and Graeme Smith of Teignbridge District Council to assess the extent of clear up operations needed and whether any works need to be undertaken the cliff side so as to protect the integrity of the cliffs.

41 FINGER POST SIGNS

Councillors considered a proposal that additional finger signs be purchased. It had originally been suggested that the Electors' Fund be used for this however, reference CAC minute number 36, it would no longer be possible.

Members considered an additional 3 signs would be adequate together with a town map and costings should be sought.

Resolved that the Town Clerk investigate the cost of 3 additional finger signs and a town map with such information being reported back to the next meeting of the Civic Amenities Committee.

42 SANDYLANE SKATE PARK AND LITTLE WEEK GARDENS PLAY PARK

The Town Clerk advised that no response had been received from Teignbridge District Council since the last meeting of the Civic Amenities Committee.

Members considered other actions and suggested three quotes be sought for groundwork's at Little Week Gardens Play Park to include the disposal and replacement of existing equipment.

Regards the Skate Park, Councillors Lowther and Mawhood had attended the site to inspect damage to the fence and ramps. It was noted that solid fencing would not be appropriate going forward and suggestions were made to replacing with more substantial metal fencing or no fencing at all.

Resolved that

- (a) ROSPA be asked if there was a requirement for fencing around skate parks;
- (b) advice be sought from Teignbridge District Council be sought as to who best to ask to provide quotes for remedial work at the play parks; and
- (c) three quotes be obtained for groundwork and landscaping including the disposal and replacement of existing equipment at Little Week Gardens Play Park.

43 COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARDS

Members considered whether to place notice boards at locations throughout the new developments within the Parish of Dawlish.

Resolved that the Town Clerk establish the amount of remaining Section 106 monies available to Dawlish and provide an update to next meeting of the Civic Amenities Committee on monies spent to date in Dawlish.

44 PLAY PARK AT CARHAIX WAY

Members wished to understand why the recently completed play park at Carhaix Way was currently not accessible to the public.

Resolved that

- (a) the Town Clerk write to the developer and Teignbridge District Council asking for an explanation as to why the play park was currently inaccessible; and
- (b) the Town Clerk ascertain whose responsibility to maintain the play parks going forward.

45 DAWLISH IN BLOOM

Members considered this year's Dawlish in Bloom competition and whether the project should be administered under the auspices of Dawlish Town Council.

The Chairman advised that feedback from last year's event was positive but greater advertising was necessary. It had been suggested that the Town Council's logo be used on documentation to show the Council's support for the scheme and be covered by the Town Council's insurances.

Councillor Lowther suggested the group was looking for endorsement by the Town Council with it offering minimal administrative support rather than the Council taking ownership of the scheme. He submitted the group would be wise to submit an application for grant funding to the Town Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Resolved

- (a) that the Town Council endorse in principle the Dawlish in Bloom Group so that it may use the Town Council's logo on posters and application forms etc;
- (b) that minimal administrative office support be offered to the Group; and
- (c) the Town Clerk investigate whether the Town Council endorsing the Dawlish in Bloom Group would require the Council to cover the scheme under its insurance policy or not.

46 TOWN CENTRE SIGNAGE AND NOTICE BOARDS AT THE LAWN AND BARTON HILL CAR PARK

The Mayor advised he had attended a working party with officers from Teignbridge District Council, the Town Centre Development Manager and Town Council office staff regards the proliferation of signs in Dawlish.

Officers from Teignbridge had agreed that a number of signs could either be removed or condensed into a more positive, single sign to be located at entrances to the brook. The Mayor advised he would circulate Teignbridge's response to the Clerk when available.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

47 SECURITY LIGHTING

Members considered a letter received by a constituent regarding the security lighting at the Manor House and the disturbances it was causing due to its level of brightness.

It was suggested that a review of security lighting at The Manor House be instigated to include the Riverside Centre and in particular whether motion activated sensors could be fitted to these lights, incorporating into the CCTV system.

Members noted that the Council's CCTV Working Party should soon meet and these issues could be investigated as part of the wider remit of the group. The membership of that group comprised Councillors Clemens, Lowther and Mawhood.

Resolved

- (a) that the Town Clerk seek clarification from the Council's insurers whether the security lighting needed to remain on at all times or whether it could be set to a timer;
- (b) that the CCTV Working Party be convened in due course to investigate longer term solutions to the provision of security lighting at the Manor House.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.59pm.

Councillor Alison Foden
CHAIRMAN