

Dawlish Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the
Town Council

Held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday, 7 February 2018

Present:

Councillors Wrigley (Mayor), Lowther, Mawhood, Nickless, Prowse, Tamlyn, and Taylor.

In attendance:

Andrew McKenzie (Town Clerk), a representative of the press, Councillor John Clatworthy (Devon County Council) and five members of the public, one of whom wished to speak to agenda items 10 and 13.

Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

Public Participation

A member of the public referred to agenda item 10 and submitted that the Chamber of Trade had concerns regarding the impact the vacant Town Centre Development Manager's post would have on both Dawlish and Teignmouth and tasks not being undertaken could result in the loss of volunteers for future projects. In reference to agenda item 13, the Chamber of Trade wished to be involved in The Lawn Working Group and had a willing volunteer should that be acceptable.

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.

128 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Almond, Bloomfield, Clemens, A. Fenne, G. Fenne, Foden, Mayne and Robins.

Members were minded to change the practice of the Council with regard to the handling of apologies; this would be an agenda item at the next meeting of the Council.

129 DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE

No report received.

130 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 31 January 2018 be approved.

131 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES FOR ADOPTION

Resolved 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:

- Events – 8 November 2017
- Civic Amenities – 15 November 2017
- Finance & General Purposes – 23 November 2017
- Planning – 14 December 2017

132 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Starting my last quarter as mayor makes me realise how fast this last year has gone...

Talking of past years, I think it fitting to acknowledge the 100 year anniversary of "Votes for Women". The Representation of the People Act 6th February 1918 gave over 8 million women a vote and for the first time included practically all men too. Just goes to show that people can make difference in politics.

Talking of making a difference, I'd like to say how sorry I am personally to see the departure of Tracy Scranage our Town Centre Development Manager of the past few years who has done many good things for the town, and also the loss of Rosie Dawson from the Strand Centre. They will certainly be missed, and I wish them well in their future endeavours.

Reading today's Dawlish Gazette, I'd like to welcome the breaking news of the Government funding to help develop the vital link road. I am sure this council would agree with me on the importance of this link road. An important factor in winning this grant has been the voice of the community crying out to relieve the traffic in Elm Grove Road and past the two schools. I hope that this funding will enable our local authorities to unlock other benefits for the town and its communities, and that the funds will not simply replace the already promised funding from Devon County Council for the Link Road Bridge.

The tidal flood prevention works around Cockwood Harbour and Starcross are progressing but look like they will continue to cause major disruption for some months yet, and the alternative and diversionary roads are suffering some major

potholes and disruption. Devon County's Jamie Hewett is being a great help in getting these sorted out.

It is the season of road-works and potholes. Mamhead road is currently closed and the sewerage works on Exeter road near Cofton all combine to make life difficult for motorists. And works are soon due on Exeter road between Warren Road and Elm Grove Road, roll on the link road!

133 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Clatworthy:

- Resurfacing works at Exeter Road would commence on 19 February for 3 weeks between the hours of 7am and 10pm. They would be dealing with the contaminated materials on site which would save in the region of £80K;
- The County Council's estate's strategy had been running from 2012-2017 with three main objections;
 - to reduce the area occupied to date by 35%, to date 29.8% had been achieved and with the completion of a further 9 sales would take the Council over its objective;
 - reduce running costs by 29% - 39% had now been achieved saving £3.92M;
 - reduce the maintenance budget by 32% - a reduction of 34.2% had been achieved which had resulted in a notional saving of £13m;
- capital receipts had amounted to £57.7M;
- a forecast underspend of £2.6M had been suggested which equated to 13 hours of funding – Children's Services had overspent by £3M;
- the final figures had been received from government on 6 February which meant the net revenue budget stood at £510.338M. The recommended council tax rise was 4.99% at a time when RPI was 4.1%. The social care precept would be increased by 2% which would allow for a 1% rise in 2019/20;
- he had approved 17 grants from his Locality Grant with the last three going to Cofton Village Green, Dawlish Arts and SW youth Games;
- the cycle path signs at the Warren were hoped to be in place by the end of March;
- Secmaton Lane / Roscoff Road roundabout would have solid kerbs so as to prevent vehicles cutting across the centre of it;
- The County Council had submitted pre-application material to Teignbridge District Council in respect of the proposed link road;
- The Ratcliffe and Oaklands Park Schools would merge to have provide a single educational provision in August 2018;

- He had been disappointed that the County Council had decided to switch off the street lights at Sea Lawn Terrace which was a private street. He had twice asked for the lights to be retained and had supported an appeal to the Ombudsman. The lights had been turned off with indecent haste on 26 January having been made aware of this on the 29 January. He had contacted the Chief Executive of the County Council and the lights were reconnected on 31 January and would remain connected until 31 March to give residents time to consider taking them on. 59 residents had been contacted by letter with one offering to be the main point of contact. The County Councillor admitted this had not been the County Council's finest hour.

134 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Councillor Prowse:

I was very pleased to get the information about the link road, this was good news for Dawlish; Teignbridge had put in with the County Council a bid and had received a great deal of monies available.

Open Daw – she supported this charity monthly and they would be grateful for any assistance should anyone wish to volunteer.

135 TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Mawhood:

- Substituted for Councillor Almond at the recent Teignbridge Association of Local Councils (TALC) meeting. She sought further information from the Clerk in regard to the Councillor Advocate scheme which was aimed at improving the communication between local councils and the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Teignbridge would cease to receive its support grant by 2020 and this meant Dawlish Town Council would cease to receive its Council Tax Support Grant; and
- Teignbridge had been awarded 100% business rates retention for a year in a government pilot, the results of which would be known in due course.

Resolved to accept the Mayor's Announcements, County, District and Town Councillors' report.

136 DAWLISH AND TEIGNMOUTH COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY (CIC)

In view of the recent decision by the current Town Centre Development Manager to resign from her post, consideration was given as to whether Members should meet with representatives of Teignmouth Town Council to discuss a strategy to determine how best to support the town centres of both towns.

Councillor Prowse advised she had circulated, to the Town Clerk, a dossier of works requiring attention up to the end of September and what needed to be done. The Town Clerk of Teignmouth was also in receipt of the document. There were many projects that would not occur due to time restraints on members of CIC and the lack of expertise. She reminded Members the post was originally intended to be over three years but had been over five.

Monies were still available to look after the work which had been agreed to be used to fund the post up until September 2018 from Dawlish, Teignbridge and Teignmouth Councils, however this would be a decision for the CIC.

The Clerk advised that at the Council meeting in early January, it was agreed Members would defer consideration of the item to allow the Working Party setup by Teignmouth Town Council to report its findings. He had been advised that the working party had not met since December, they were due to meet this week with their findings set to be published at their Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on 27 February 2018.

Following discussion, it was;

Resolved

- (a) That the Town Clerk write to Teignmouth Town Council to highlight the urgency of outstanding projects requiring attention to September 2018;
- (b) That Councillors Lowther and Wrigley, together with two other interested Members meet with representatives of Teignmouth Town Council as soon as is practicably possible to discuss the way forward with projects requiring attention over the next 6 months.

137 DEVON AIR AMBULANCE – NIGHT TIME LANDING FACILITY

Members considered a request from the Rotary Club of Dawlish for Dawlish Town Council to commit to funding annual maintenance costs for the servicing of the switch gear that allows the Air Ambulance to illuminate the football pitch at Sandy Lane for night time landing.

At this juncture, Members resolved that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Colin Timms, Secretary of the Rotary Club (the Club) of Dawlish to address the meeting.

Mr Timms submitted that the Club had been aware that the switch gear was needed for night time lighting and it had raised £1,200 for the purchase of it. In early January an invoice for maintenance of the switch gear had been received. This was discussed at the Club, and it was agreed that for continuity for this year, the Club would pay the first maintenance instalment of £95.94, which had been paid. When raising the money for the landing light, there had been no mention of a maintenance contract. This was a community project and the Club felt it was appropriate to ask the Town Council to ensure the maintenance of a community resource going forward.

The Mayor thanked the Rotary Club of Dawlish for raising the funds to establish the lights, it had been used between 7 or 8 times and was extremely important to the community.

At this juncture, Members resolved to reinstate Standing Orders.

Resolved

- (a) That the Town Council authorises payment of the second years' maintenance fee when the next invoice is received;
- (a) That the Town Council consider a further two-year commitment prior to the expiration of the current maintenance contract.

138 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group provided an update to Members.

Members of the group and Teignbridge were sent a copy of a proposed consultant's brief prior to it being sent to local consultants and no comments had been received. The brief was duly sent out to six local consultants and responses were awaiting to be received. Once received a meeting of the Steering Group would be called to consider appointing a consultant to undertake the outstanding work of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Resolved

That the verbal update be noted.

139 THE LAWN WORKING PARTY

Members considered the Terms of Reference for The Lawn Working Party.

The proposed terms were as follows:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

THE LAWN WORKING GROUP

The Powers, Duties and functions of this Working Group are as follows:-

1. Constitution

The Constitution of this Working Group shall be:

- *five (5) Members of the Council. The Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor are ex officio Working Group members;*
- *one (1) officer of Teignbridge District Council as landowner; and*
- *up to four (4) non council persons may be co-opted to the group.*

2. Attendance at meetings

Local Government Act 1972 s101, Local Government Act 1972 s102, Parish & community Councils (committees) Regulations 1990 (SI 1990/2476) s3 (1)(a) and Local Government & Housing Act 1989 s13(4)

All members of the authority may attend all meetings of the Council and speak thereat with the permission of the Working Group Chairman but may not vote unless a member of the Working Group. Co-opted members may speak but have no vote when making formal recommendations.

3. Purpose

In the light of the local plan, the ideas for a neighbourhood plan, the yellow book plans, the current Teignbridge plan and the potential projects for a Cycle path and play park; to consider the desired vision of the Dawlish Lawn.

To recommend

- 1 *whether a play park should be constructed on the Lawn*
- 2 *and if so where and at what size and purpose (age range, type, etc)*
- 3 *how other projects would impact the lawn*
- 4 *whether other projects should be brought forward.*

- *To deliver a desired end state vision of the lawn.*
- *To provide a list of projects and initial guidelines for each that would build to that end state vision. The list may include bandstand renewal, cycle path routing, playpark, and any extra facilities such as additional bridges that may be required.*
- *To identify and document any existing funds or budgets - including Section 106 or CIL - as may be indicated for spend within Dawlish Parish.*

4. Quorum of Committee

Three voting members of the Working Group shall constitute a quorum. If the number of Councillors present (not including those debarred by reason of a declared interest) falls below the required quorum the meeting shall be adjourned and business not transacted shall be transacted at the next meeting or on such other day as the Chairman may fix.

It was proposed that the Terms of Reference be approved, subject to amendments as listed in the resolution.

Following discussion, it was

Resolved

That the Terms of Reference be approved subject to the inclusion of

- (a) Lighting over the Brook be included in in Section 3 – Purpose
- (b) That the Working Group provide an interim report to Council within 3 months;
- (c) That the Working Group provide a final report to Council within 6 months.

The meeting was closed by the Mayor at 8.06 p.m.

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 Cllr Martin Wrigley
 MAYOR OF DAWLISH