



DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the
Annual Town Meeting
held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday 12 April 2017 at 7 pm

Present: Chairman: Councillor Angela Fenne (Mayor of Dawlish)
Together with 17 Councillors representing the Town, District, and County Council, a member of the press and 35 members of the public.

In attendance:
Ann Tipper, Town Clerk

Before the meeting was declared opened, The Town Mayor explained the rules of the meeting and the evacuation procedure in case of emergency.

1 ***Minutes***

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at the Manor House, Dawlish on Wednesday 13 March 2016 were approved for signature by the Chairman.

2 The Interim Annual Report for the financial year 2016-17 was received.

3 **Report on his term of office by the retiring Mayor of Dawlish Councillor Angela Fenne**

Councillor Angela Fenne reported as follows:

I initially wanted to become a Cllr because I was worried about the Town I live in being turned into a building site and felt I needed to do something, be involved and find out how certain decisions are made and why. You can't complain about something unless you are willing to put your head above the parapet and be prepared to be shot at. I wanted to represent the people of the town that couldn't do it for themselves, at meetings and to pass on their concerns and opinions.

I had no idea that in my first year of being a Cllr I would become Deputy Mayor and then go on to be Mayor in my second year. That said, I am very glad that it did happen that way as it has enabled me to learn a lot more about things in a short space of time, and I have gained a lot of knowledge and experience that I can hopefully not put to good use as a Cllr.

My year as Mayor has been a fantastic one, I have thoroughly enjoyed it! I have met some absolutely amazing people along the way and some very inspirational people, some of whom are here this evening. I do not realize how difficult it was going to be to juggle a full time job as a Traffic Officer with being a wife, mother, nanny and The Mayor.

We started last year with the cancellation of 3 big events here in Dawlish, however that didn't stop us. The Town came together and we managed to put on the biggest carnival and had the Red Arrows flying over us once again and all organized in a very short space of time.

I can remember walking The Town with my grandson Alfie and Vanessa from A Piece of Cake during carnival week trying to decide on the best dressed window competition and I was approached by a couple who had only come to Dawlish for the day, they told me that as soon as they had arrived, they could feel the community spirit, everyone was happy, friendly and there was a buzz around The Town that they had never experienced before. It made me feel very proud and honoured.

The Queen's 90th Birthday saw the Town decked out in red, white and blue and a very well attended street party that was enjoyed by all. Lunch with four 90-year olds was one of the highlights of my year as Mayor and a memory I will treasure.

I was also very privileged to be invited to attend the birthday parties of two very special ladies that had reached their 100th birthdays.

Dawlish is a fabulous place to live and the Community Spirit here never ceases to amaze me, and long may it continue.

The Manor House has been busy to the point that at one point we were turning people away. It is now paying for itself and is due to be redecorated soon.

The council took over the Hedley Way Centre which created us more space for lettings, not only at The Manor House but now also the newly named Riverside Centre. The old car park was not fit for purpose and underwent a huge transformation and now serves The Riverside Centre as well as The Manor House and their paying guests.

I would like to finish off by saying thank you to my Chaplain Rev Dallas for her support and prayers since her arrival here in Dawlish. Thanks also to my Cadet, Rosie, and her family.

Thanks to Ann Leigh for your support during the year and your prayers.

Thank you to The Town Clerk for her patient support and guidance, Alison, Yola and Bob for all the work they do behind the scenes to keep the wheels turning smoothly.

Thank you to all Cllrs for your words of advice and support.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family, Greg my husband for being my Consort / Mayoress, hand bag carrier my mother Margaret for standing in for him when he wasn't available and to my 7-year-old grandson Alfie who also attended many events with me and did a fantastic job! Thanks also to my daughters Amanda, Leah and Jordann and my son Peter, for their support and understanding during this last year, I haven't always been there over the past 12 months but that's all about to change. Watch out, the wife, mum and nanny is back!

4 Report on his term of office by the retiring Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Councillor Humphrey Clemens.

Councillor Humphrey Clemens reported as follows:

The Interim financial report sets out the Council's financial projections for the end of the financial year and the grants supporting various groups across the parish. Also events supporting the business community as well as supporting key organisations within Dawlish regarded as part of the social infrastructure of the town.

The finances of the Council are in a healthy state which has allowed us to generously support the community as well as invest in our structural assets.

We have been able to apply a nil increase in a band D property precept for five consecutive years, however this situation has been helped by Teignbridge District Council passing on a Council Tax Support Grant of #53,350 for which we are very grateful as there is no mandatory requirement for them to do so.

At the start of the last financial year Dawlish faced a very gloomy prospect of losing the Air show, the Triathlon and the failure of the Carnival Committee to be able to support the 2016 carnival. The council had a budget line for each event and we were fortunate enough to be able to divert funds to a community supported carnival week full of events and entertainment. Thanks should go to so many people that made it happen but special thanks to Alison, our Projects Officer, the events committee and Trevor Stratford who stepped in the breach as Chairman of the Carnival.

Following on from the improvements to the Manor over recent years we have spent in the region of £30,000 improving the parking arrangements, removing the old toilet block to improve access, resurfacing the car park, fitting new kerb stones around the centre piece lawn and fitting the new gates. All of which are making the Manor a more desirable place to book for events, particularly weddings, making its viability more secure for the future.

At the end of 2016 the trustees of the Hedley Way Centre were struggling against vandalism of the building and financial pressures and offered the Town Council to take over the building. After a condition survey we agreed to take it on. The only

immediate work needed was a new floor suitable for the dance school that started using the building in early January.

After a lot of soul searching the Trustees changed the name of the building to the Riverside Centre before the takeover. Bookings for the building are looking very positive and vandalism is not the problem it was as it is being used daily.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bob Baker for his help as finance officer and all the staff we have at Dawlish Town Council, both indoors and out that help make it a progressive and successful Council and Dawlish a pleasant place to live.

And finally I would like to thank the members the of F&GP committee for their efforts and in particular Clls. Terry Lowther and John Petherick for their part in the budget setting sub-committee.

5 Report on her term of office by the retiring Chairman of the Civic Amenities Committee, Councillor Alison Foden.

Councillor Alison Foden reported as follows:

The second year of my role as Chair of the Civic Amenities Committee has been an interesting one, with both achievements and challenges.

Id like to start though by saying thank you to all of the office staff and the outside team, without whom we wouldn't be able to function, and they have worked through the year supporting everything that the committee does.

At the far end of the Lawn, the Brunel Trail information board has been re-erected on display on the outside wall of the tourist information centre. Also replaced on the Lawn this year was the basket-ball hoop. A brand-new flag pole has been installed, most recently used this year on Commonwealth Day last month.

A big thank you to the waterfowl wardens and outside services staff for the verdant and floral hanging baskets in the waterfowl enclosure, which also proudly displays a painting from last year's Paint Jam event. We welcomed David as the new waterfowl warden, with his extensive knowledge of avian and animal management, and thanks are due to him for introducing the weekend afternoon talks at the aviary.

Also at the waterfowl enclosure, has been the agreement for Dawlish Museum to use one of the notice-boards there to publicise the museum and its opening times. This notice-board is used too to publicise local community events.

The Dawlish War Memorial has this year been assessed by Historic England, and I am happy to report that the Memorial has been listed as a Grade II building and has been included in the Imperial War Museum War Memorial Record. We will

hope that Dawlish Town Council decides to renew the lease of this asset for Dawlish for the next five years.

My thanks once again this year to go Val Mawhood and her team of volunteers for their sterling work, time, and planning for the upkeep of the Dawlish War Memorial Garden.

It was great to see the Swan lights that we'd ordered in the last council year, were finally fitted and switched on in December, in time for Christmas. These lights look brilliant when illuminated, and I hear lots of good comments about them. A thank you to the council office staff for making this happen.

Earlier this year the Civic Amenities Committee issued a statement to Stagecoach expressing disappointment in the reduction in the number 2 bus service. Last July a statement was issued to Stagecoach stating disappointment in the reduction in the number 22 bus, which serves Dawlish Warren.

This has been a good year for the committee with the Browns Brook Allotments. We have established a good working relationship with the Allotments Association, and have this year come to an agreement with the landowner's agent that the allotment-holders can have small sheds on their plots. Agreements have also been established for routine maintenance and a rental increase, among other things.

One of the challenges for this year was the play-park proposal for the lawn, which attracted mixed reactions from both councillors and members of the public. The proposal now rests with Teignbridge District Council to make a decision.

Another challenge was to the existence of the Civic Amenities Committee itself, with some councillors and staff questioning whether its work was actually necessary or a waste of council time.

I am, however, very pleased to report that the Civic Amenities Committee will continue to exist as a Committee of Dawlish Town Council, and that the Committee will meet every two months in the next year, with extra meetings as and when required.

Finally, a working group was established to look at the possibility of re-starting and revitalising Dawlish in Bloom as a simple competition encouraging publicly visible displays of flowers, making the town beautiful. We will be reporting on the proposal at the committee meeting this month.

I would like to thank the councillors who support the Committee's work, and again thank the outside services staff and office staff their support this year.

Thank you

6 Report on her term of office by the retiring Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Pauline Bloomfield.

Councillor Pauline Bloomfield reported as follows:

I would like to start by saying that the Planning Committee is only a consultee committee and we use our local knowledge and comments from the general public to try and put forward our comments in a fair way to TDC. It must be remembered that we are not qualified planners.

At the end of my second year as Chair of Planning it has been busier than ever. We have had 18 meetings this year with an average of 10 applications a meeting.

The main administrative event this year was TDC advising that from April 2017 they would not be providing any paper copies of planning applications like the remainder of the country. After a brain storming session and a visit by our Clerk, Yola, to TDC we now have a PowerPoint presentation that adequately shows the title, location and plans. It is up to each and every councilor on the Planning Committee to visit Teignbridge planning and peruse the remainder of the paperwork and understand all the issues.

I have been very lucky as Chair that the attendance to Planning has been excellent and I would like to thank everyone for their support, particularly when I was hospitalised last year.

Cllr Gary Taylor as Vice Chairman has in his imitable style helped me to ensure that the committee understand the applications in question.

Cllr Graham Price has once again been giving us the benefit of his wealth of experience over the years.

I will not list all the applications that have had this year but say with the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan in its infancy I hope that note is taken of comments put forward re the new "green town" at Cullompton where they stressed to their MP that infrastructure needs to be put in place and there needs to be some rural protection prior to decisions being made by local councils or government and are correct for the local area. It is a pity that these comments were not used in Dawlish as the increase in the amount of building can only but alter the culture of the area in the future.

The biggest concern for many of us has been SWWA – no comments have yet been received from TDC because they cannot get answers from this company – this is not just for Secmaton but for the whole Parish.

My thanks go to the Manor House staff in particular Yola Mitchell who has clerked our meetings and has found that it has taken more time to set up the new PowerPoint system.

I reiterate that we do meet every two or three weeks and the residents of Dawlish are welcome to attend these meetings, from tis you would probably learn a lot about developments which are proposed in the Parish and be allowed to voice your opinions on applications which are in the current agenda. Hope to see you?

Thank you

7 To receive a report from the Chairman of the Dawlish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

The Mayor read the report from Councillor Rosalind Prowse as follows:

Firstly I should like to thank members of the working party who have worked hard on the policies as set out in my Annual Report of 2015-16.

“A sustainable, thriving and prosperous place that supports a high-quality life for all its residents”.

It has been a year of challenges and these have come in following forms:

1. The very unexpected death of our Vice Chairman, Chris Swanwick who was a man of great knowledge and enthusiasm. He is a very sad loss to our community.
2. Sickness has played a large part on our output with 2 members being unsbale to attend for sometime and another who has been on long term sick absence;
3. For me the greatest challenge has been that this is a very large Parish with a cariyety of settlements within its boundaries and very different needs, and the other that this was one of the first 17 in the country to be examined and then failed but if that examination had gone before an examiner today the Nieghbourhood Plan would be made. It has not been made easier by seeing our fellow smaller parishes achieving made Neighbourhood Plans. They naturally deal with smaller settlements whereas Dawlish is the third largest town in Teignbridge with over 14,000 residents and set to grow.

However, we all realise the importance of a made Neighbourhood Plan being accepted into the Teignbridge Local Plan.

To this end with the very large amount of work needed it was decided to have smaller working parties specializing on the certain policies which link into each other. In fact all the policies link.

We have had enormous help from the new Teignbridge Neighbourhood Planning Officer, David Kiernan who took up post during the last 12 months. His support has been invaluable and I thank him for his hard work. At this point I should like to thank Andrew McKenzie for being our secretary and the time and effort he has put into helping.

We are now at the stage when it has become necessary to have further professional help in policy writing ready to go out for consultation. We have consulted many groups and had a stall on the Lawn during last summer asking the opinion of visitors and locals. We have sought the opinions of the young members of Dawlish as this is set to last for the next 20 years and therefore their future. We have gathered evidence to back up the policies. A hard and in some cases tedious job but is necessary to pass examination.

We have taken the advice of the Portfolio holder Cllr John Goodey and this council has approved the finance needed to apply for a grant to pay for the necessary professional. The grant forms are long and complicated and the work is being undertaken by Andrew.

I think I must once again emphasise that this work and its cost is of no importance unless the Community take ownership and oversee that the policies are adhered to. A setting up of a committee led by residents and backed by town councilors will be the way forward.

On a personal note I should like to thank Cllr Bloomfield for taking the Chair on the occasion I was not able to attend. As we did not have a member of the public to take over the office of Vice Chairman it was felt that this post would be filled as and when by the Chair of Planning.

At the moment we are not meeting until after the County Elections on 5 May.

I look forward to a Made Plan during the next council year.

8 Annual Civic Awards 2016/2017

Following nominations, the Mayor of Dawlish Councillor Angela Fenne, presented the winners with certificates in recognition for their outstanding service to the community.

9 Residents' Participation

There had been no requests by residents to participate in the meeting.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.05 pm

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Chairman