

## **Dawlish Town Council**

Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Town Council

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

### **Present:**

Councillors Wirgley (Mayor), Mayne (Deputy Mayor), Almond, Bloomfield, Clemens, G. Fenne, Foden, Goodman-Bradbury, Lowther, Mawhood, Prowse, Robins and Taylor.

### **In attendance:**

Andrew McKenzie (Town Clerk), a representative of the press, Councillor John Clatworthy (Devon County Council), Councillor Ted Hockin (Teignbridge District Council) and 9 members of the public, two of whom wished to speak in respect of agenda item 12.

### **Declarations of Interest:**

Councillor Taylor declared an interest in agenda item 12 by virtue of living on a privately-owned street. Councillor Taylor advised he would not take part in the discussion or vote on the matter but would remain in the room.

### **Public Participation**

A member of the public, the county street map showed three lights on the street. She had lived there for the past 35 years and there had always been three lights. The County Council would repair them if needed. One of the lights provided lighting for 39 steps. The lights having been turned off were dangerous for members of the public.

The second member of the public highlighted the health and safety concerns and legality of the proposed County Council's decision to switch off the street lights on Sea Lawn and Riviera Terrace. It appeared to be a penny-pinching exercise with the proposed savings amounting to peanuts.

### **Urgent Items**

The Mayor advised there would be two urgent items for discussion, one relating to the Emergency Plan and Sandbag Store, and a Part II item relating to external funding.

***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.***

### **140 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from A. Fenne, Nickless and Tamlyn.

**Resolved** that the apologies be noted.

The Mayor acknowledged that the previous meeting had resolved to reconsider the way in which apologies were dealt with and had been advised by the Clerk that the most appropriate time to do this would be when the Council's Standing Orders were reviewed later in the year.

#### **141 REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There were none.

#### **142 DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE**

During the month of February there have been 137 incidents reported to the Police for Dawlish town. Including 10 domestic related and 5 missing person reports.

There have been 41 crimes recorded including:

- 2 Assaults
- 1 Attempt Theft
- 1 Burglary
- 11 Criminal damage
- 2 Common Assaults
- 1 Engage in Controlling / Coercive Behaviour
- 3 Harassment
- 1 Owner / Person in charge of Dog Dangerously out of Control
- 8 Malicious Communications
- 1 Non Accounting Fraud
- 1 Racial / Religious Harassment
- 1 Rape of Girl under 13 (Historic)
- 2 Sexual Assaults on Female
- 1 Theft
- 1 Threatening / Abusive / Insulting words / Behaviour
- 1 Theft of Mail
- 1 Landlord / Agent Harass occupier
- 1 Kidnap
- 1 Vehicle Interference

February saw an increase in the number of calls for Dawlish Town through 101 along with an increase in actual crime on the previous month.

There were 2 reports of anti-social behaviour for the month of February. 1 reporting young children stopping vehicles and requesting money from the drivers and another reporting issues from a neighbour.

Police have received a number of calls from residents reporting criminal damage to their vehicles in Dawlish. This has occurred in the area of Coronation Avenue, Third Avenue & Churchill Avenue and happened overnight on Friday 2nd February. 6 vehicles had tyres slashed with a sharp object. The offender(s) are still outstanding.

Update on the homeless in Dawlish. I'm pleased to say that 2 long standing homeless males in Dawlish have now been housed by TDC. These 2 males had previously been sleeping rough at Boat Cove / Lea Mount area up until recent months. To our knowledge we still have around 3 other males who are currently sleeping rough in Dawlish. These all attended Open Daws & United Reform Church where the staff are doing an excellent job in supporting these individuals especially during the cold weather.

PC 16815 Mark Hogan has been appointed the new Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Dawlish. A start date is yet to be established.

Members requested further information relating to the reported kidnap in the area.

**Resolved** that the report of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary be noted.

#### **143 MINUTES**

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7 February 2018 be approved.

#### **144 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES FOR ADOPTION**

There were none.

#### **145 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### Councillor Wrigley

I'd like to start by welcoming our new Councillor – Cllr Lin Goodman-Bradbury. Congratulations on your election and welcome to the Town Council.

It won't have missed your attention that last week we were hit by a cold snap and an outrageous amount of snow. A number of us were snowed in for a couple of days and the town was hit by flooding and Storm Emma.

I'd like to thank everyone who was out and about, helping residents, fishing debris from the drains (including amounts of plastics), heaving sandbags and shovelling snow, including those round the table here and also Councillor Dave Matthews from

Teignmouth Town Council who delivered sandbags to some of our residents from their store.

The damage to the rail line due to flooding, debris and the breaking of the fence along Kings Walk also brought out the orange army once more.

I'm sure the whole council and indeed the whole town would join me in expressing our gratitude and thanks for the Network Rail Orange Army getting out in the atrocious conditions and fixing the problems so rapidly. Although it is always a massive team effort, I'd like to pick out one person – Steve Hawkins – a local resident of Cockwood, of Dawlish, who is always there and orchestrates the teams working to fix the track. Steve is usually the one who also explains to the news what had been broken, and how the team is fixing it. He has responsibility across a large portion of the South West but I know that he keeps a special eye on Dawlish. Thank you Steve, and thank you to the whole team.

Prior to the snow and storms, I attended the annual Teign Estuary Management group forum. At that event another Network Rail representative told us to expect work to start on investigations on Kings Walk in the next couple of months. This will establish the state of the foundations and the structural integrity of the wall, prior to a project to re-enforce that wall, adding both height and a return curve for the pounding waves. This is start of the next stage of the long anticipated work building resilience into the track. However this is just investigative work – the actual build is likely to be a little while yet...

The storm and snow did however cause us to postpone a wide variety of events, including the mayor's charity event, and new dates are being sought for these – please keep an eye out for the new dates.

One thing that we should now examine is whether our Emergency planning was effective. I have asked for a late item on tonight's agenda to consider creating a working group to review our plans and if necessary update them. Whilst I don't expect snow to the same levels in the Town again soon – I am sure that we will be hit by more storms.

I'm also sure I am not alone in suffering the Exeter road works at present. The unfortunate coincidence of works across the whole area have made some feel very frustrated. I don't know if problems with Exeter road traffic lights but has been bad over the last few days. I am sure the County Councillor has it in hand and can give us some insight.

And finally we had sad news at the end of February of the death of Mr John Voysey, former Councillor and Chairman in the mid-seventies. I'd like to express my condolences to his family, and to take this opportunity to express our thanks for his services to the Town.

Thank You.

*At this juncture, Members stood in a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the late and former Councillor and Chairman John Voysey, who had recently passed away.*

## **146 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

### Councillor Clatworthy:

Councillor Clatworthy began by congratulating the Mayor for being elected as a District Councillor.

- Exeter Road – works had been delayed by a further week and will be completed on 18 March;
- Dawlish Town bus, a revised timetable from 3 April with additional buses for Elm Grove Drive. There would be no reduction in service;
- Regards the rail line, he had contacted Anne Marie Morris MP who was awaiting details from government. Peninsula Rail taskforce disappointed with Minister's comments – consultants will be engaged in the spring; Sarah Wollaston MP asked the question at Prime Minister's Questions regards investment for the rail line and £2.5M was made available right away;
- County Budget – found an extra £6.5M going into highways and hoping some of that will resurface part of East Cliff Road; additional £2.2M in adult social care. Each County Member would get £10K to spend from the locality budget and an additional £10K to go towards capital projects; continuing with the £1 Elector Fund which would now be known as the Communities Together Fund;
- Teignbrigde had asked the County if they would deliver the link road and the bridge for the new development; a condition has been applied to the application whereby the infrastructure had to be delivered before houses were delivered. It was believed the funding had to be spent by December 2019;
- The junction at Secmaton Lane and Roscoff Road had drop kerbs in place;
- the handrail was now in place at Summerland Close;
- 3 cycle stands had been agreed to be placed by Teignbridge at Brunswick Place.

Councillor Taylor thanked the County Council for providing the double yellow lines at the entrance way to the Manor House but two other sites at Hospital Hill / Stockton Hill and others on Elm Grove Road. Councillor Clatworthy advised he would investigate and report back.

The Mayor thanked the County Councillor for the works to get the link road built.

At this juncture, Councillor Taylor moved that agenda item 15 – Sea Lawn & Riviera Terrace be brought forward in the interests of members of public attending the meeting.

Members were in agreement.

#### **147 SEA LAWN & RIVIERA TERRACE**

Councillor Taylor declared an interest, not because of where it is but because he lived in a private road which did have a street light that is fully provided by the County Council and would therefore not take part in the debate or vote.

Consideration was given to whether the Town Council should write to Devon County Council asking it to reconsider its decision to cease lighting the three street lights at Sea Lawn and Riviera Terrace from 31 March 2018 immediately, in the interests of public safety.

Councillor Foden advised she had been contact by two residents who were concerned about the safety and security implications turning the street lights off would have on residents, of which there were 59 properties along the two terraces. She advised that the County Council's website stated that there was no statutory duty to provide street lighting but where the authority has provided street lighting there is a duty to maintain. The street lighting policy is no longer available on the County Council's website. Another search reveals that the policy has been replaced with policy revision one, which makes no reference to a duty to provide street lights.

Following discussion, it was

#### **Resolved**

That Dawlish Town Council write to Devon County Council asking them to reconsider their decision to cease lighting Sea Lawn and Riviera Terrace from 31 March 2018 in accordance with their policy document on street lighting that was in force at the time, which stated that where lighting was provided, there was a duty to maintain.

#### **148 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

##### Councillor Clemens

9 February – attended GESP meeting – planning up to 2040 for 5 authorities working together to develop sites for development and looking at the HELA Housing Employment Land Availability Assessment, where landowners were asked to put land forward to be included in this plan. The GESP committee are only looking at

sites that can accommodate 500 properties or more. Sites smaller than that would be considered under the review of the local plan.

19 February – attended leadership where Executive members consider upcoming issues;

20 February – attended Planning Committee we were pleased to get through the employment land at Peamore Garage; important for us to supply employment sites as we are falling short on this.

22 February – Council budget meeting – Teignbridge taking option of £5 increase for the second time which amounts to 3.12% increase on a band D property. If you go back to 2010/11, the government support grant was close to £10M, next year that would be nil.

#### Councillor Prowse:

I have attended the following Teignbridge committees:

Planning  
Full Council  
Regulatory & Appeals  
Overview & Scrutiny

Most time spent on the Standards Committee where a consultation is currently ongoing in reviewing the standards regime

Attended Teign Estuary partnership meeting; asked if the Network Rail representative would speak to the Railway Review Group which he said he would. I was disappointed to hear another feasibility study was to be undertaken when this work had been previously completed.

There would be a lot of train disruption to trains from Paddington between March and November due to electrification of the line further north of Devon. It would make a difference to us down here but there might not be a timetable of any note during 3 weeks in July and this should be borne in mind.

#### Councillor Wrigley

I attended the full council Budget meeting and spoke about the level of maintenance spending in Dawlish, and how the town needs more attention. This was the final budget meeting, but I will be working to see what we can do to improve our town.

I have had meetings with various Teignbridge staff, and have several more set up in the next week or so. I will be taking forward issues asked of me from this council and also issues that have come up from residents.

One thing that did come up when discussing car park issues – lighting, pot holes and what we could do to help local residents with parking issues was the existence of an off-peak off-road permit that allows parking in most Teignbridge car parks from 4pm to 10am for £36 annually.

## **149 TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

### Councillor Bloomfield

Informed by residents that some users at the new country park were not clearing up after their dogs; the message needs to be that dog mess was removed from the site as there were adequate bins available for the disposal of such waste. She hoped the press would report on the matter.

### Councillor Almond

#### **CIC**

To bring you up to date on what's happening with the **CIC in Dawlish**.

Since the resignation of our Town Centre Development manager the first priority has been to ensure that the ongoing 'tasks' like, the Town Map, the Events guide and the Love Dawlish Web-site are brought to completion or as in the case of the web-site, continued – for Dawlish a lot of the work has been taken on by Vanessa Riley, the chairman of the Traders Association, and also Angie Weatherhead of Open Daw, who was already working on the web-site, and keeping the various notice boards and community screens updated.

The Events guide which has been very well received by both visitors and townsfolk over the last couple of years is being produced with the help of Angie Weatherhead and Ann Leigh. This guide covers Dawlish and Teignmouth events. This may be distributed with the Town Crier to Dawlish households especially on the new estates, as well as the outlets used previously.

There was a meeting arranged last Friday evening between working parties from Teignmouth Town Council and Dawlish Town Council. Cllr Prowse and I were supposed to be at the meeting but hadn't been informed. I only found out about it by accident when it was postponed. Still waiting to hear an alternative date. The new date will be held next week.

#### **Dawlish Community Transport**

There was supposed to be a committee meeting last week but it was postponed because of holidays/illness till the 13<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Coastal Engagement Group meeting**

I was at the recent Coastal Engagement group meeting last week, where voluntary organisations involved with health, the CCG and Patient groups at surgeries in Dawlish and Teignmouth are represented. Apparently, it is the intention to invite representatives from the local councils to attend these meetings as well – this is just a heads up. It is about providing services to promote the health and wellbeing of our residents.

### Councillor Foden

Advised that Dawlish in Bloom would be going ahead; she had received confirmation from volunteers at Dawlish Garden Society would be happy to assist. It had been decided that the judging dates would be earlier than last year; 2<sup>nd</sup> half of June with a closing date on the 1 June.

### Councillor Mawhood

Attended the Teign Estuary Partnership Forum – there appeared to be discrepancies about what was promised and what would actually happen; she specifically tried to clarify facts and figures and was informed the funds had been made available and contracts awarded for the priority section simply for exploratory works and should be happening soon. The next section would be awarded in the middle of the month, with the final section being awarded in the middle of April. It was only for exploration. It was still hoped the main funding would soon be received and works would commence in the next 2-4 years.

Councillors had attended a site visit with Teignbridge officers and we went along the sea front. We mentioned Lea Mount and how important it was as a potential tourist attraction. They are now thinking as part of an overall plan for the area would include the break water, encourage boat trips to land at Boat Cove etc. It was reassuring to know these issues were in Teignbridge's mind.

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

## **150 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group advised that no responses had yet been received from planning consultants; she would update Members as soon as information was to hand.

### **Resolved**

That the update be noted.

## **151 COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

Members considered the two Committee vacancies that existed on Finance & General Purposes and Planning Committee following the resignation of former Councillor Price.

It was suggested that newly elected Councillor Lin Goodman-Bradbury be appointed to those Committees until the end of the municipal year.

### **Resolved**

That Councillor Lin Goodman-Bradbury be appointed a Member of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee until the end of the current 2017/18 municipal year when Committee places will be reconsidered.

## **152 WWI GROUP**

A request had been received from the WWI Group to seek approval in principle to place an additional plaque on the War Memorial to commemorate the names of those persons not originally listed.

Members congratulated the WWI Group for their work and commemorative actions undertaken over the past four years.

The Mayor advised that he had a meeting with Chris Smith at Teignbridge on 9 March to discuss the lease of the Memorial and Gardens.

It was proposed that the decision be deferred until the outcome of the meeting at Teignbridge was known. This proposal was not seconded and the proposal was withdrawn.

### **Resolved**

(a) That agreement in principle be given to the WWI Group to place an additional tablet in the empty section on the west face of the memorial, to be unveiled on 11 November 2018 by the Mayor of Dawlish; and

(b) That the WWI Group be thanked for their efforts.

## **153 PARK RUN**

The Town Council considered a request from the Dawlish Parkrun Steering Group (DPSG) regards the principle of the Town Council supporting its efforts to establish a Park Run at the newly opened Country Park.

The Mayor advised Members that the Country Park was owned by Teignbridge District Council and any final decision was ultimately for the District Council to make.

Councillor Lowther, Chairman of the Events Committee advised that a representative from the DPSG had attended a recent meeting of the Events Committee. Teignbridge were not currently favourable with the country park being used and instead suggested it should take place at the playing fields at Sandy Lane.

*At this juncture, Members resolved to suspended Standing Orders to enable a representative of the DPSG to address the meeting.*

The representative advised that the Teignmouth Park Run had been turned down by Park Run because the plan was to involve a short route on the road which was not acceptable. However informally the Mayor of Teignmouth was looking to change the route.

After the Events Committee acknowledging it was in the hands of Teignbridge, we were concerned that Teignbridge was relying on the views of Natural England; they have declined to the group to comment either in support or objection and have referred it back to Teignbridge District Council. They would like us to use the leisure centre recreation grounds. The purpose of the park run is to provide a communities and peoples of all ages with exercise, social benefits, physical improvements in pleasant, pleasing and natural environments. We are not sure that that would be fulfilled at a recreation ground but would leave that to her others to determine. As a group of people, we are happy to work with Park Run to set a run up, but it was a matter of democratic decision as to the benefit of the community to help against the potential costs that might be involved.

In answering questions, the representative advised that:

- Park runs were weekly, weather depending;
- There was a circuit that is designed within the country park that if approval were given would be implemented;
- There were no membership costs – only set up costs for the equipment but the principle is it is free to anyone of any age to participate;
- There would be a parking issue at the country park and submitted that Sainsbury's would be approached to see if their car park could be used. Throughout the country they have been happy to accommodate as it could sometimes lead to increased footfall for their stores, although they acknowledged this was not a given;
- The objections go back to the purpose for which the park was originally set up; using monies to relieve the pressures on the Warren and the cliffs, the

concern was that dog walkers would be discouraged from using the park and would go back to using the Warren and surrounding cliff walks;

- There were over 500 runs across the country which operated in places where dog walkers were frequent users, and this posed no problem; and
- There were no requirements to provide toilets or other amenities for run users.

*At this juncture, Members resolved that Standing Orders were resumed.*

It was proposed and seconded that the Council support the principle of establishing a Park Run but have concerns about using the Country Park as the only area for it.

### **Resolved**

That the Council support the principle of establishing a Park Run but have concerns about using the Country Park as the only area for it.

## **154 PLASTIC FREE COASTLINES**

Members considered a request received from Dawlish Chamber of Trade and Commerce as to whether the Town Council should sign up to the Plastic Free Coastlines scheme.

The Mayor advised that a representative of the Chamber of Trade had submitted that *“I have now been accepted by Surfers Against Sewage as a community leader for Dawlish. There are five objectives that have to be met to qualify for plastic free status. One of these is based around local governance. To achieve this objective a local council has to pass a resolution to support plastic free coastlines, commit to plastic free alternatives and support initiatives. A representative of the council must be named on the Plastic Free Coastlines steering group”*.

They were seeking an endorsement from the Council to go plastic free in Dawlish, it did not imply any cost involvement on the Council, nor any other obligations that we have identified.

### **Resolved**

- (a) That Dawlish Town Council support plastic free coastlines, commit to plastic free alternatives and support initiatives;
- (b) That Councillor Wrigley be appointed to the Plastic Free Coastlines Steering Group for the remainder of the current municipal year;

- (c) That the Plastic Free Coastlines Steering Group be added to the list of external organisations Dawlish Town Council appoints representatives to and that appointees for the 2018/19 be made at the Annual Meeting in May.
- (d) That the Council's hiring agreements have included in them a discouraging of external users bringing plastic cups, plates and the like to events at the Manor House and Riverside Centre.

#### **155 EMERGENCY PLAN AND SANDBAG STORE**

It was proposed that a working group be established to review the Council's current emergency plans and update as necessary, having originally been established in 2012.

Dawlish Town Council had been approached by the District Council to have a sandbag store, provided by Teignbridge, in the Barton Car Park. It would initially be filled by Teignbridge, but ongoing maintenance and refilling would be the responsibility of the Town Council.

Councillor Mayne advised that she and Councillor G Fenne had been appointed as Snow Wardens last year but had not received any training or information from Devon County Council. This had now been addressed and training dates were awaiting publication.

#### **Resolved**

- (a) That the offer of a Sandbag Store from Teignbridge District Council be accepted and offers of persons acting as key holders be sent to the Town Clerk;
- (b) That a working group be established to review and update where necessary the Emergency Plan for Dawlish.

In considering the membership of the working group, it was agreed that Councillors G. Fenne, Goodman-Bradbury, Lowther, Mawhood, Mayne, Robins and Taylor be appointed.

#### **156 PART II EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS – THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of The Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960, and having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was

#### **Resolved**

that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business:

**157 EXTERNAL FUNDING**

The Clerk provided an update on funding bids made in September 2017 as to funding for a play park on the Lawn by consultants who were appointed by the Council in July 2017.

One bid had been successful, and the proposed level of grant funding was tabled. The Clerk advised that, as requested by the funding organisation, the information be embargoed for up to 6 weeks or until final confirmation from the organisation and the Department for Transport, whichever was the sooner.

**Resolved**

- (a) That the update be noted;
- (b) That the consultant's application on the Town Council's behalf be asked to provide copies of the bid to the external funder;
- (c) That the Dawlish and Teignmouth Community Interest Company be asked to provide the Clerk with copies of the project notes held by the former Town Centre Development Manager; and
- (d) That clarification be sought on the deadline as to when the Town Council must decide to accept grant funding if approved, or not.

*The meeting was closed by the Mayor at 9.30 p.m.*

.....  
Cllr Martin Wrigley  
MAYOR OF DAWLISH