

DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Civic Amenities Committee
held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present

Councillor Foden (Chairman)
Councillors Lowther, Mawhood, Prowse, Robins, Taylor and Wrigley.

Other Members in attendance

Councillor Goodman-Bradbury.

Apologies for Absence

Councillors A. Fenne, G. Fenne and Mayne.

Officer in attendance

Andrew McKenzie – Town Clerk

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Items requiring Urgent Attention

The Clerk advised of one urgent item – Decorative Lighting.

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.

48 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Fenne, G. Fenne and Mayne.

Resolved unanimously to note these apologies.

49 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensation.

50 MINUTES

Resolved unanimously that the minutes of the Civic Amenities Committee meeting held on 17 January 2018 be approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.

51 BENCHES – KING’S WALK

The Town Clerk advised that the Council had been successful in its application to the Elector’s Fund for the provision of benches along King’s Walk. Teignbridge District Council would release the funds when in receipt of the appropriate invoices, however with recent intimations the works may be imminent by Network Rail around King’s Walk, a decision on when to purchase the benches may need to be made at a later date.

Councillor Prowse advised she would be substituting for the Leader of Teignbridge District Council at the Devon County Locality Committee where an update was to be received from Network Rail; she would report back to the Town Council on the outcome of these discussions.

Councillor Wrigley advised that whilst Network Rail would commence exploratory works probably next month for a period of approximately four weeks, it was then likely to be at least 18 months if not 2 years before major works were to start. If benches were installed Network Rail advised they would restore them after the major works and put them back.

Resolved that the update be noted and a report be brought to the Town Council meeting in May regards the discussions at the Devon County Locality Committee.

52 MANOR HOUSE GARDENS AND LEA MOUNT

Councillor Wrigley advised that a recent site visit with officers from Teignbridge District Council had been a success who had noted Members’ concerns with the areas and suggestions for improving the visual amenity of the areas.

Further discussions would take place regards the cutting of Lea Mount which currently took place once every three years at a cost of £1,000 per cut. He had a meeting with Lorraine Montgomery – Business Manager, Environment & Leisure and would raise outstanding matters accordingly.

It was noted that the land surrounding the Riverside Centre was owned by Teignbridge Council however they were content for turfing the island in the path and were happy for Councillors to plant in the raised bed fronting Brook Street.

Members had found the meeting useful to understand the constraints upon Teignbridge and that Teignbridge Officers were now aware of the aspirations of Dawlish Town Councillors for the Manor House Gardens and Lea Mount areas.

Resolved that the update be noted.

53 FINGER POST SIGNS

The Town Clerk submitted that the fingerpost signs were last installed 6 years ago at a cost of £200 and would now likely be in the region of £250-300. Members were advised that installing additional fingers on posts that already accommodated a number of signs may have a detrimental impact on those currently present due to their orientation.

It was suggested that the current signage be reviewed before any purchasing commitments are made.

Resolved that photographic evidence be sought to establish the current inventory of signage with the resulting information being compared to the town shopping map to determine the precise need prior to submitting a case to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

54 SECTION 106 MONIES IN DAWLISH

The Clerk circulated a summary of Section 106 monies still available to be spent within the Parish of Dawlish against a number of budget headings.

It should be noted that it was not for the Town Council to say an amount of monies should be spent on a specific project, but in conjunction with Teignbridge District Council.

Resolved that the information be noted and the Clerk to circulate the document to Members of the Committee.

55 PLAY PARK AT CARHAIX WAY

The Clerk advised that he had made enquiries of Teignbridge District Council who had confirmed they would no longer be taking on a maintenance role for any newly constructed play parks across the district. It would likely be provided by a resident's group or a maintenance company established by the developer.

Members confirmed that the play park in question was now open to the public.

Resolved

That the Clerk investigate whose responsibility it was for ongoing maintenance of the play park at Carhaix Way.

56 DAWLISH IN BLOOM

Councillor Foden advised Members that this year's competition would be going ahead with the support of Dawlish Garden Society and others and would be held in the middle of June with the closing date being the start of June. Posters would be made available and entry forms would be available from the Manor House and on the Town Council's website.

Resolved

- (a) That Councillors Lowther and Mawhood proof read the documents prior to being displayed at The Manor and online.

57 WATERFOWL

The Clerk advised Members that sadly a dog slipped its lead and had attacked one of the Black Swans; the injured swan was able to make it to the Brook however it was now missing and was presumed deceased. The swans were susceptible to dying from shock or if wounds existed, they could quickly succumb to septicaemia.

The Clerk submitted he had contacted Teignbridge District Council as land owner of The Lawn and reminded them of the bye-law that exists which states that "No person shall, without reasonable excuse, permit a dog to enter or remain in the ground unless the dog is held on a lead and is restrained from behaviour giving grounds for annoyance".

The response from the Legal Department at Teignbridge was to advise that in addition to the bye-law, the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 stipulated that it was an offence to allow a dog to be dangerously out of control and went on to state that a dog did not need to bite someone and included a dog that was considered to be acting in a threatening manner.

As a result of this, the Clerk advised the Committee he had reported the incident to the local Police Community Support Officer who, after taking initial details and speaking to the three eye-witnesses, had passed the matter on to her superior to take forward.

The Clerk would update the Committee and Members as and when further information was available.

Resolved

- (a) That the update be noted;
- (b) That a regular report as to the numbers of Waterfowl in the Council's ownership be made to the Committee at each meeting.

58 DECORATIVE LIGHTING

The Clerk advised that Teignbridge had submitted that the decorative lights along Dawlish Water had been historically switched off in early January and then turned back on usually just before the Easter period. This year the plan was to turn them back on from 29 March 2018.

The Clerk circulated Teignbridge's decorative lighting schedule for reference:

Easter Period / Spring Only (all sites)

Switch on from Thursday, 29 March 2018 until switch off on Tuesday, 8 May 2018

Summer Period (all sites)

Switch on from Friday, 25 May 2019 until switch off on Monday, 1 October 2018

Christmas & New Year Period Teignmouth and Dawlish only (not Dawlish Warren)

Provisionally switch on from 1 December depending on when Teignmouth and Dawlish Christmas light switch on is, until Wednesday, 2 January 2019.

Following discussion it was

Resolved

- (a) That enquiries be made of Teignbridge District Council to keep the lights around the brook illuminated all year round;
- (b) That enquiries be made of Teignbridge District Council to provide additional lighting where it is absent along the lower brook.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Councillor Alison Foden
CHAIRMAN