

Dawlish Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the
Town Council

Held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday, 4 April 2018

Present:

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

Absent:

Councillor G. Fenne.

In attendance:

Andrew McKenzie (Town Clerk), a representative of the press, Councillor John Clatworthy (Devon County Council), 2 Police Officers from Devon & Cornwall Police and 6 members of the public, none of whom wished to speak.

Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

Urgent Items

The Mayor advised that there would be one urgent item to take in respect of approving the calendar of meetings for 2018/19 as previously circulated.

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.

158 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Bloomfield and A. Fenne.

Resolved that the apologies be noted.

159 REQUEST FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

160 DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE

Sergeant Jonathan Ross introduced PC Mark Hogan who would be taking over as Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Dawlish as from 1 May.

During the month of March, the following crimes were reported:

- Theft of a motor vehicle - 1
- Theft – 9
- Assault – 14
- Exposure (mental health hospital) – 1
- Drink drive – 1
- Damage – 7
- Dog out of control – 2
- Child photos – 1
- Threatening letter – 2
- Harassment – 3

Total 41.

In relation to the one of the dogs out of control, one incident related to a Black Swan on The Lawn. A dog chased and attacked the Swan and subsequently the Swan died – it had been put before Police Dog Legislation Control Officer, but the evidence trail was not sufficient to pursue a complaint of a dog dangerously out of control as death could not be evidentially linked (body was missing). He did however advise that there was a bye-law on The Lawn regards dogs on leads and that could be pursued through the civil courts if deemed to be appropriate.

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

161 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.

162 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:

- Civic Amenities Committee – 17 January 2018;
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 25 January 2018;
- Planning Committee – 8 February 2018 and 27 February 2018.

163 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Wrigley

I think I speak for most of the Town in that I am very happy to see the completion of the Exeter road works. It turned out to be a somewhat longer than anticipated wait, but let's hope that everything is smooth from here on.

Although I almost dread to make any predication since the last time we were here I said we weren't expecting more snow anytime soon, but we got that, and a messed up rubbish bin and recycling collection schedule to boot. It is only this week that the collections are beginning to catch up from the missed rounds due to snow and ice. The other casualty of that snowfall was the planned Mayor's charity event - sadly it proved impossible to re-schedule and so we reluctantly had to cancel.

I went to a Cockwood school celebration event where the children performed valiantly despite heavy rain. It was good to see so many people turn out in such weather to support the school and the children.

I took part in the Fix Fest held here in the manor, organised by Cllr Foden. This regular event allows people to bring along their things for repair – and this time we saw everything from bicycles to table lamps, and from coats that needed sewing to mobile phones and devices that needed software fixes. The event raised funds for the Friends of Dawlish Hospital.

I attended the quarterly meeting of the Teign Estuary and Coastal partnership steering group, held in the meeting room at the top of the Barton Surgery. The railway resilience work featured large in the agenda, and we wait to see what the exploratory work on Marine Parade turns up.

As agreed last month, a group of us met with representative of Teignmouth Town council to discuss how we go forward with the CIC and the TCDM role. We had a mandate from this council to discuss immediate issues, and found that the directors of the CIC have most things in hand. Teignmouth were keen to discuss longer term options, which is why that is on our agenda tonight.

Also, as agreed last month I have been working with the Dawlish Against Plastic committee. They are looking at several schemes to progress this, the first of which being to eliminate plastic straws in Dawlish. Along with going to the daytime shops and cafés three of us visited every pub, club and takeaway in Dawlish Town Centre to sign them up to the cause. And I'm happy to report back that we had a 100% take-up with every business either already taking action or volunteering to do so. I'd like to thank them all and also the local LVA that has also been putting this message out to their members.

The Dawlish Transition group held a sustainable tourism forum that I unfortunately missed, but heard good reports from, and talking of tourism I understand that congratulations is in order to one of our local businesses. On 16th March Lady's Mile won three awards, two golds and a silver, in the Herald Express South West Business Awards, - very well done to the team there.

Rounding off the month was the kick-off for a fundraising event for the Strand centre, Frank Smith will be walking the Camino pilgrimage – some 500 miles in northern Spain – to raise funds. Later that day was the Cockwood Mariners Easter egg hunt where dozens of youngsters went searching for clues in the area and spotting hidden rabbits – with big smiles all round as they returned and claimed their chocolate eggs.

I'd like to finish off with a message that I have received from the WWI group. They are continuing their series of services this year, and have a list of the forthcoming dates for you. They would like to see more councillors at the services if at all possible.

I know we all support and applaud their continuing efforts, and I am sure we will all do what we can to attend.

Thank you.

164 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Clatworthy:

- Delays for Exeter road were due to weather, temps under 3 degrees meant workers couldn't do stabilisation work. They hit a gas main. No contractor was sent off site, most work conducted by machines. Traffic management had been an issue as there was no alternative route, and one of the lessons learnt was that it should be carried out in spring to autumn and not the winter. As a result, Iddesleigh Terrace and Teignmouth Hill works were being postponed but would still be conducted this year and overnight when it happens.
- New govt pot hole fund so hopefully East Cliff Road would be resurfaced from Exeter Road to Strand Hill;
- Meeting between developers of Secmaton with Devon County Council and Teignbridge District Council and still awaiting outcome – a result was needed as the monies would be lost by December 2019;

- Attended Sea Lawn Terrace about access to Exeter Road. Another plan had been prepared resulting in withdrawing 2 meters back from stop line and staggered barriers. Still awaiting the safety audit but he had an opportunity to speak before it took place and would see what happens. It was important to slow traffic down;
- Three lights – emailed Chief Executive of Devon County Council and asked that lights remain on, and they are remaining on for the moment, whole issue of street lights in unadopted roads be reviewed as it applies across the whole county. The Chief Executive had instructed the three lights to stay on, and the County Councillor thought the policy should be that all existing lights in unadopted roads be retained if they are needed and it would only apply to existing lights in unadopted roads; and
- He had attended the county locality meeting last Friday presentation by network rail. There are no monies available to implement any recommendations that may arise from the feasibility study. He suggested the Town Council invite Julie Gregory of NetworkRail to give a presentation.

165 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Councillor Clemens

- 8th March Attended Right to Build Expos at Westpoint, Exeter.
- 12th Teign Estuary Partnership.
- 19th Leadership, a meeting between the Executive committee and service lead officers.

The usual regular meetings with officers regarding my Portfolio.

Councillor Prowse:

- Commonwealth Flag Raising;
- Planning Committee;
- Great Western Railway meeting at Exeter St David's station discussing the building works and the need for extra stations and rolling stock;
- Regulatory & Appeals Committee;
- Site visit for major application in Bovey Tracey; and
- Attended locality meeting having been substituted for the Leader of Teignbridge District Council.

Councillor Wrigley

- productive meetings with Teignbridge officers regards maintenance issues around the town;
- play park officer meeting on site regards replacement items at Little Week Play Park and advise on Skate Park;
- agreed a regular walkabout with Teignbridge maintenance staff should be revived to keep an eye on issues; and
- following up issues raised by the council and constituents.

166 TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

There were no Town Councillor reports.

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

167 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group advised that Alexis Marsh, Neighbourhood Planning Officer at Teignbridge had held a meeting with the Town Clerk last week. The Clerk would be writing to Teignmouth Town Council to pursue the fact they had managed to find a consultant.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

168 COASTAL LOCALITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

Members considered appointing a representative to the Coastal Locality Engagement Group that meets every two months at Barton Surgery, Dawlish and add the group to the list of external organisations Council appoints to annually.

The Group's purpose was to:

1. Provide a forum for the raising of awareness, discussion and coordination of matters of concern to the public stakeholders in the Coastal Locality;
2. Liaise closely with the Locality Clinical Commissioning Group (LCG) on how to develop services, pathways or ways of working;
3. Encourage stakeholder and patient involvement in the LCG; and
4. Liaise, as necessary, with Town and Parish Councils, and other stakeholders within the Locality.

It was confirmed that this group was not the Patient's Forum, which was a separate entity.

Resolved

- (a) That Councillor Mayne be appointed to represent Dawlish Town Council at the April meeting of the Coastal Locality Engagement Group;
- (b) That the Group be added to the list of external organisations that the Council appoints to at its annual meeting in May of each year.

169 OPEN DAW

Councillor Tamlyn updated Members on the efficiency of the Open Daw Rota system which involved Town Councillors attending the centre for monthly drop-in surgeries with the public on the first and third Wednesday of each month. A rota was prepared at the start of the Council year with Members being reminded by email a week before their allocated session.

There had been several occasions where Councillors had forgotten to attend which meant the public had had a wasted journey. She asked for comments as to how the system could be improved.

Following discussion it was

Resolved

That the rota system continues with Members who were unable to attend opting out at the start of the Council year, and that timely reminders continue to be sent to Members prior to their required attendance.

170 STANDING ORDERS

Members considered whether to amend Standing Order 1X so that meetings lasted a maximum of two hours for all Council and Committee meetings with the option to extend by 30 minutes, following a resolution by the Council or relevant Committee, instead of the current 2.5 hours, to apply from the beginning of the 2018/19 municipal year.

Following discussion, it was

Resolved

That Standing Order 1X be amended so that meetings lasted a maximum of two hours for all Council and Committee meetings with the option to extend by 30

minutes following a resolution by the Council or relevant Committee. This would apply from the beginning of the 2018/19 municipal year.

171 FILMING AND USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members considered approving and adopting guidelines for broadcasting and/or using Social Media at Council Meetings.

The Town Clerk advised that current Standing Orders simply referred to the fact that meetings could be recorded in accordance with the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The Policy offered guidelines both to Members of the Public and Councillors that it was acceptable to use such means of communication provided the way they were being used did not interfere with the proceedings of the meeting.

Following discussion, it was suggested that permission be sought by external users wishing to use any images relating to the Town Council and that a disclaimer be used to establish that the audio or video recording was not an official recording of the Town Council.

At this juncture Standing Orders were suspended to enable a member of the public to address the meeting.

Following Standing Orders being reinstated, Members noted that the Council could in no way prevent the editing of material both in audio / video recordings in addition to the reported press, but nonetheless the Policy attempted to offer guidance on the proper use of such materials and their reproduction.

Resolved

- (a) That the Policy be approved as set out subject to the inclusion that the Town Council logo is not used without the prior permission of the Council for which the Town Clerk has delegated authority to determine, and that it be requested of users that a disclaimer should be advertised stating that the material is not created or officially endorsed by the Town Council.
- (b) That the Town Clerk investigate costs for the Council to provide the provision of video and audio recording of Council meetings, the findings of which to be considered at a future Council meeting.

172 MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Mayor advised he had been in discussions with Teignbridge District Council who were happy to provide a lease on the previous terms of a 7-year lease. They were

content to maintain the trees on their rota of inspection and they were already liaising with Devon Highways to fix the ingress of water at the gate. They would provide a licence to use the area pending the Town Council agreeing the terms of a new lease.

It had been requested that the costs of adding the gardens to Teignbridge's maintenance schedule be known so that Members were aware.

The need for a soakaway and whether it was still necessary once the ingress of water had been fixed. It was suggested it be left until later and if it was, Teignbridge would pay for half and Dawlish Town Council would pay for half which would be in the region of £1,000 each. This would be a later decision for the Town Council.

Resolved

That the update be noted.

173 MANOR HOUSE & RIVERSIDE CENTRE COMMITTEE

Members considered whether the Council should establish a Manor House & Riverside Centre Committee to be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of both buildings and surrounding grounds in the Town Council's area of responsibility.

It was suggested that the 'and surrounding grounds in the Town Council's area of responsibility' be removed so as to be clear of the Civic Amenities Committee sphere of responsibility.

The Clerk advised that that the current terms of reference for the Finance & General Purposes stated that it *consider all aspects of the management of property and land which is owned by this authority; leased to the authority or over which this Council has control (except such areas that are included in the Civic Amenities sphere of activity).*

Resolved

That a Sub-Committee under the remit of the Finance & General Purposes Committee be formed, named the Manor House & Riverside Centre Sub-Committee be formed with Terms of Reference being provided at the Annual Meeting in May.

174 JOINT DAWLISH AND TEIGNMOUTH WORKING GROUP

Members consider whether the Council should give authority for a joint working group to be established with Teignmouth Town Council to explore the options of

funding a post focused on the economic prosperity of both Parishes when the current Town Centre Development Manager funding ends in September 2018.

The Mayor advised that a meeting of Members had taken place with Teignmouth Town Council as recommended by Council, and Teignmouth Members had been keen that future arrangements be considered however, neither representatives had the authority to do so. Teignmouth Town Council had considered the same report before Members to enable such discussions to take place.

Resolved that Dawlish Town Council

- (a) grants authority for three Town Councillors, one of which is to be the current appointed Town Council representative on the CIC, to work with three Town Councillors from Teignmouth Town Council, one of which is to be the current appointed Town Council representative on the CIC, plus the respective Town Clerks to form a joint working group to explore and investigate options in relation to the Dawlish and Teignmouth Community Interest Company (CIC) and its continuance beyond 2018;
- (b) Approves that the working group reports back to their respective Town Councils at their July 2018 Council meeting with monthly interim reports as appropriate;
- (c) Agrees the remit to include:
 - Do nothing post Sept 2018 (CIC dissolved) and set out the justification for such an option;
 - Each Town Council may individually seek to directly employ a person whose role would be to drive forward the economic prosperity of the Parish area;
 - Both Town Councils share a post and costs (similar as to now) the role of which will be to drive forward the economic prosperity of the Parish areas, promote partnership working across both towns and explore the best and most appropriate delivery model i.e. CIC, Town Council or another.
 - To explore organisation, management and governance options;
 - Explore the geographical remit of the Parish areas (e.g. inclusivity of Dawlish Warren in Dawlish and the possibility of Shaldon for Teignmouth); and
 - To explore other options to deliver the same aims.
- (d) Appoints Councillors Howard Almond (current Town Council CIC representative), Noel Nickless and Judith Robins as representatives of Dawlish Town Council on the Working Group.

175 PROPOSED PLAY PARK ON THE LAWN

Members considered a report which set out the background and current position of the proposed play park on the Lawn which requested Members to clarify the Council's position in relation to the scheme.

It was suggested that Members first agree whether a play park was still wanted somewhere on The Lawn.

Resolved by majority

That a play park located somewhere on the Lawn was still called-for.

The Town Clerk advised that the half size option was provided by the Dawlish & Teignmouth Community Interest Company due to concerns of the proposed size of the original concept. The Mayor suggested that the half size plan appeared to indicate there would be a replacement bandstand included in the scheme which had not been originally discussed by the Town Council.

Following discussion, it was proposed that the Council pursue option (C) of the agenda report, and to amend the terms of reference of the Lawn Working Group to have a report to Council within 3 months.

Resolved

That the Lawn Working Group report to Council within three months advising of its recommendations.

The meeting was closed by the Mayor at 9.09 p.m.

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Cllr Martin Wrigley
MAYOR OF DAWLISH