

DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Civic Amenities Committee
held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday, 20 June 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Present

Councillor Mawhood (Chairman)
Councillor Prowse (Vice Chairman), Foden (Deputy Mayor), Lowther, Taylor and Wrigley.

Absent

Councillors A. Fenne and G. Fenne

Other Members in attendance

None.

Officer in attendance

Andrew McKenzie – Town Clerk
Nikki Taylor – Active Leisure Development Officer – Teignbridge District Council

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Items requiring Urgent Attention

The Clerk advised of one urgent item – Notice Boards

Public Participation

One member of the public spoke in respect of the urgent item. She advised Members that the Perspex windows and backboards required replacing, the framework needed repainting and needed general refurbishment. She advised the Chamber of Trade would contribute towards costs.

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.

12 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Robins.

Resolved unanimously to note this apology.

13 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensation.

14 MINUTES

Resolved unanimously that the minutes of the Civic Amenities Committee meeting held on 31 May 2018 be approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting, subject to the inclusion of a reference to Councillor Wrigley's report regards Little Week Play Park.

15 SANDY LANE SKATE PARK

Members received information from Nikki Taylor, Active Leisure Development Officer at Teignbridge District Council (TDC) regards the potential to redevelop the existing skate park wholly or partially to that of a concrete design, which would help reduce ongoing maintenance whilst giving users the chance to influence skating provision on the site.

The Chairman thanked Nikki for attending the meeting and hoped she would be able to do so in the future.

Following discussion, it was

Resolved that user feedback be sought and gained on Saturday, 7 July when the site was to host the South West Youth Games, with feedback being considered at the next meeting of the Civic Amenities Committee. The Chairman asked if any interested Member would be able to attend on the day to canvass views, it would be appreciated.

16 LITTLE WEEK PLAY PARK

The Chairman advised Members that she and fellow councillors had attended the play park at a specific time deliberately to speak with users and establish their needs and wants out of any renovation works to the play park.

Following Councillor Wrigley's meeting with officers at Teignbridge who had agreed to review a brief for the parks renovation, it was suggested that user comments be included in such a brief to help influence design aspects going forward.

The comments had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting and were as follows:

Hello,

It was good to meet the three of you at the park in Little Week Close on Monday. We've got opinions from 15 parents and grandparents who use the park, ages of the kids they take there range from under 1 to 12.

On the matter of what style, it should be, most people aren't worried - as one person put it we should aim for the best park we can with the funds available whichever style that is. However, where they gave an opinion 6 people said traditional, 4 said modern and 3 said rustic (I've included where people have said either/or) Interestingly though more people said they wouldn't want rustic style than would. The reasons were that it tends to be big, chunky equipment which isn't suitable for smaller children, the park opposite Gatehouse School (which is rustic) gets slippery when it's wet and finally there was a question about how well wood lasts compared with the coated metal finishes.

In terms of play equipment, the unequivocal top 3 were swings, slide and climbing frame. Lots of people love the idea of one of the round net swings, but the parents of younger ones fairly ask that that isn't at the expense of the baby swings. A couple of people specifically mentioned including monkey bars which I imagine could be part of a climbing frame.

In terms of other equipment on the wish list, balance beams or stepping stones were mentioned a few times. A couple of people said a little zip wire would be great but acknowledged cost is probably a factor with something like that, and that it's a small park. A couple of people said they'd love tunnels included. A couple suggested a little chalet/wendy house/play den, one suggested it partly for shade. Another asked for a "shop window", I think she means this sort of thing - <https://www.actionplayandleisure.co.uk/playground-equipment/shop-front-panel/>. Something for pretend play for the smaller ones was what she was hoping for, which was also raised by another parent with younger kids.

As far as the park more widely, lots of people said they would like to keep it grassed as far as possible. 3 mums said they had had children getting friction burns or scrapes on the rubberised safety matting so wouldn't want any more of it than necessary. A number of parents felt that it was good to have grass for the kids to run around on, and that it was a safer, softer surface for that. From a personal perspective, thinking of the environment and living opposite looking at it, I'd like it as green as possible. One mum said she would like to see more plants and bushes. Helen did raise the concern that we wouldn't want to provide too much cover for older children/teens who occasional visit the park to hide and mess around in. A little wildflower border might nice though! And a couple of people did ask about providing more shade. Finally, nearly half of the people who gave us feedback said they'd like a picnic bench and more seating.

In terms of what we don't want to see, very little was specifically mentioned although a couple of mums said they would rather not have a roundabout as they feel it is one

of the less safe pieces of equipment, and no one mentioned the bouncy seats on the springs. The other concern was that the needs of younger park users aren't overlooked.

I hope this information is useful and I think I can speak for Helen too when I say we'd love to be kept in the loop and provide more feedback as this project progresses.

Resolved that the comments from users be included in the renovation brief and be circulated to Teignbridge Officers to check before being sent to potential play park providers.

17 WEED SPRAYING

Members considered whether to engage our current grass cutting contractor to weed spray the parish with a suggested cost up to the amount of £2,000.

The Clerk advised that roads would be walked four times to spray the kerbside and inside of the footpaths on both sides.

Following discussion, it was

Resolved that authority be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman that an appropriate weed spraying route be communicated to the contractor accordingly, subject to the total not exceeding £2,000.

18 URGENT ITEM – NOTICE BOARDS

The Chairman referred to the member of public's earlier comments regarding the necessary repair works required to the notice boards located on the lawn.

Members discussed the issue and it was

Resolved that maintenance up to the value of £2,000 be undertaken by the Waterfowl & Maintenance Warden to the notice boards.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.14 p.m.

Councillor Val Mawhood
CHAIRMAN