

## **DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Civic Amenities Committee  
held at The Manor House, Dawlish on  
Thursday, 31 May 2018 at 6.00 pm

### **Present**

Councillor Mawhood (Chairman)  
Councillors Foden (Deputy Mayor), Lowther, Robins and Taylor.

### **Other Members in attendance**

Councillor Goodman-Bradbury.

### **Officer in attendance**

Andrew McKenzie – Town Clerk

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **Items requiring Urgent Attention**

The Clerk advised of one urgent item – Land at Springfield Road.

### **Public Participation**

At this juncture, the Chairman invited Neighbourhood Beat Officer, PC Hogan, to address the Committee. PC Hogan advised he had attempted to reinstate the fountain at Tucks Plot prior to the commencement of the Bank Holiday weekend as it had stopped. There had been issues obtaining a key from the district council and suggested the Town Council make representations to have a key sited locally which would save Teignbridge time and money sending an officer out to investigate potential minor issues. PC Hogan submitted it would be beneficial to ensure the lighting across the Brook was fully operational as this would go some way to alleviating potential safety issues late at night. The Clerk advised he would investigate both issues with Teignbridge and report back in due course.

***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.***

## **1 APOLOGIES**

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

**Resolved** unanimously to note these apologies.

## 2 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests for dispensation.

## 3 MINUTES

**Resolved** unanimously that the minutes of the Civic Amenities Committee meeting held on 25 April 2018 be approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.

## 4 SANDY LANE SKATE PARK

The Clerk submitted apologies on behalf of Nikki Taylor of Teignbridge District Council who was unable to attend the meeting.

The Clerk presented Nikki's comments as follows:

Teignbridge were keen to engage with Dawlish Town Council to improve the offering of skate provision at Sandy Lane. It was felt that an all new, concrete design would ensure greater durability and reduce the maintenance requirement for 30-40 years.

This would be a 12-18 month project and would not happen overnight.

If Members were so minded, the first stage of the project would be to seek user's views on the skate park, what they liked and didn't like, and ask them to submit their views to the council together with design ideas, sketches and plans. The South West Youth Games would be coming to the sports fields at Sandy Lane and this would be an ideal time engage more widely with persons using the facility. Such comments and proposals would then be included in any funding bid to Sport England, where £75K-£125K was available so long as match funding from the Town Council could be secured. Local fundraising events could also be held; the more money Dawlish could provide; the greater level of match funding could be obtained which would only mean a better skate park. Any funding bid would be submitted towards the end of August and would benefit from the fact that there was already a skate park in place with the necessary planning permissions. The Clerk advised there was still 15 years left on the lease. There would be a 3 month wait for the result. If successful, it was anticipated that works would start on the site in 12 months' time.

The Chairman proposed from the Chair that the Council begin to pursue this project in principle, subject to appropriate funding being approved by the Finance & General Purposes Committee and / or Full Council.

Following discussion, it was

**Resolved** that the Council pursues the project in principle, subject to appropriate funding being approved by the Finance & General Purposes Committee and / or Full Council.

The Clerk advised that remedial works would be undertaken on the current skate ramp to ensure its usability in time for the South West Youth Games in July. A planning condition on the site meant that an acoustic barrier needed to be in place and therefore a solid fence would be required. Investigations were taking place to see if this could be a see-through perspex material.

## 5 COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARDS

The Chairman read out the update provided by Councillor Foden to the Committee as follows:

*I have spoken to Mark Jones at Dawlish ROC, and will be attending their next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June. He tells me that they are waiting for the final go-ahead from TDC before they start building their community centre on the new Redrow estate.*

*He is both interested and supportive of the idea of a noticeboard there to keep that community connected to Dawlish.*

*I am exploring whether there are currently any residents' associations on the new estates – Carhaix Way, the Buntings at Gatehouse, and any others – to explore whether they would be interested in helping maintain and update community noticeboards if they were provided.*

*I have been contacted by two residents – one from the new Carhaix Way estate, and one from the Buntings – who are interested in this project, and I'm in correspondence with them. It may be that the residents' associations may be able to help with maintaining and updating the noticeboards.*

*Options for sites for these boards could be the play parks in those developments, so that the noticeboard could include a notice with contact details of the playpark management company, if safety or any other issues arise.*

*I am considering asking Open Daw whether they would be able to and interested in updating these new community noticeboards. I'm also considering fundraising for Open Daw if they were able to help us with this project.*

The Chairman thanked Councillor Foden for her work.

Councillor Foden submitted she had received correspondence from residents who were interested in setting up resident's associations at the sites and would report at the next appropriate Committee with further information.

**Resolved** that the updated be noted and further information be reported at a future meeting of the Civic Amenities Committee.

## 6 BROWN'S BROOK ALLOTMENTS

The Committee noted the previous request of the Allotment Association to purchase fence posts which had been approved by a previous Finance & General Purposes Committee. Members agreed that the Outside Services team would progress such works.

A new request from the Association had been received which requested installation of a composting toilet, less than 6ft high and non-permanent. This conformed to requirements set out by the Luscombe Estate; the Association was seeking support and approval by Dawlish Town Council for this project.

Following discussion, it was

**Resolved** that approval in principle be given to the installation of a composting toilet subject to approval from the appropriate agencies being sought together with a site plan being provided by the Allotment Association showing where the toilets were minded to be installed.

## 7 LITTLE WEEK PLAY PARK

Members were reminded that £40,000 had been allocated for the refurbishment of Little Week Play Park and discussion took place as to the best use of the funds.

The Town Clerk advised that individual items could be replaced with modern equivalents up to the amount specified, or a brief could be established to establish how much a complete re-design with necessary landscaping would cost to the Council. Such a brief could be forwarded to the Play Parks officer at Teignbridge District Council before being sent to an initial provider for a concept, and if necessary, to others to conform to contract procedural rules.

Members proposed that a small working group visit the site and visit the Play Park and seek users' views which would be reported back to the next meeting if available.

### **Resolved**

- (a) That Councillors Mawhood, Robins and Taylor with Councillor Foden if able, attend the Play Park, review the site and seek views from users as to their needs from the site; and
- (b) That the Town Clerk be authorised to write to play park providers seeking estimates for replacement of like-for-like equipment, redesign up to a specific level of funds, or how much a complete redesign and landscape would cost and report back to the next appropriate Committee.

## 8 LAND AT SPRINGFIELD GARDENS

*At this juncture the Chairman took the late item of business.*

Councillor Goodman-Bradbury had been contacted by residents at Firbank Road concerning land behind their properties and the trees / bushes needed attention.

The Town Clerk advised Members he had purchased the title deeds for Springfield Road and having consulted the Council's legal advisers it had been shown that the land is in no way under the jurisdiction of the Town Council. It was in fact beholden upon the original developer, based in Taunton. Whilst the Town Council had undertaken remedial works in the past, it had been under the false assumption that the land was in the Council's ownership.

Any future queries regarding the state of the land at Springfield Gardens would need to be put to the original developer. Copies of the title deed register entry were publicly available from the Land Registry upon payment of the relevant fee.

**Resolved** that the update be noted.

## 9 PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

Members considered the footpath leading up to the Seven Sisters, in particular Footpath 14 and the condition of the stile.

There was an onus on the landowner to maintain and keep safe a public footpath, and on Devon County Council to enforce this requirement.

Following discussion, it was proposed that the Clerk write to Devon County Council strongly complaining about the state of the footpath and requesting them to enforce their statutory powers to maintain these footpaths.

**Resolved** that the Town Council write to the County Council stating in the strongest possible terms that they use their statutory powers to enforce the maintenance of footpaths within the Parish of Dawlish.

## 10 DAWLISH WATERFOWL

Updates regarding incidents / investigations relating to the safety of the Dawlish Waterfowl

The Clerk he had received no further updates since the last Town Council meeting.

Fencing proposal

The Chairman advised that the Waterfowl Wardens had submitted a proposal to install fencing along the brook sufficient to maintain public access, and access for the waterfowl onto the grassed area of the lawn whilst preventing dogs off leads from running in and potentially attacking the Waterfowl.

Following discussion, the Committee believed the Lawn should not be enclosed and it was

**Resolved** that the Committee thanks the Waterfowl Wardens for their suggestion but the Committee is not minded to approve any form of fencing along the Brook.

*At this juncture Councillors Foden and Goodman-Bradbury left the meeting.*

A suggestion of having a dog free area running adjacent to the Brook was made and it was **agreed** that the Clerk make enquiries of Teignbridge District Council being the landowner, whether there would be any permissibility in the idea.

*At this juncture Councillor Taylor left the meeting.*

The Chairman advised of correspondence received from a member of the public with suggestions to help maintain the safety of the Waterfowl. One of the proposals was to introduce a 20mph limit along Brunswick Street together with appropriate signs. Members were of the opinion that it was unlikely the County Council would introduce such a measure and would not be pursued.

A further suggestion of a sign depicting an adult duck being followed by a baby duck, warning drivers, that a couple could be placed at Iddesleigh Terrace near the amusements, and near to Brunswick would help to warn drivers of free roaming Waterfowl in the area. They did not have to be large and obtrusive.

**Resolved** that the Clerk investigate with Devon County Council the possibility of such signs being placed at specific locations near to the Brook.

## **11 MEMORIAL GARDENS**

Members received a copy of the proposed temporary licence for the War Memorial and Gardens to run from 1 May 2018 to 31 July 2018, or the accepting of a lease, whichever shall be the earlier which would enable Outside Services to go on site and carry out maintenance works.

**Resolved** that the temporary licence be accepted.

*The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.14 p.m.*

Councillor Val Mawhood  
CHAIRMAN