

Dawlish Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the
Town Council

Held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday, 5 September 2018

Present:

Councillors Mayne (Mayor), Foden (Deputy Mayor), Almond, Bloomfield, Clemens, A. Fenne, G. Fenne, Goodman-Bradbury, Lowther, Mawhood, Nickless, Robins, Tamlyn, Taylor and Wrigley.

In attendance:

Andrew McKenzie – Town Clerk, 1 Police Officer from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, Councillor Ted Hockin (Teignbridge District Council) and 11 members of the public, none of whom wished to speak.

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.

Part I

68 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillors Prowse.

Resolved that the apology be noted.

69 AGREEMENT OF THE AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II

Members noted that one item of business would be considered in Part II of the meeting.

70 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Councillor Clemens declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 79, by virtue of being Chairman of the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee. He advised he would speak on the item but not vote.
- Councillor Mayne declared a non-pecuniary interest in minute number 79 by virtue of owning properties at the Warren. She advised she would speak on the item but not vote.

71 DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE

The following reports for July and August were received:

During the month of July there have been 164 calls to the Police for Dawlish town including 5 domestic related and 11 missing person reports.

There have been 54 crimes recorded including:

- 2 Affray*
- 1 Arson*
- 7 Assaults*
- 2 Attempt Burglary*
- 1 Blackmail*
- 2 Common Assaults*
- 7 Criminal Damage*
- 2 Dog Not Under Proper Control*
- 1 Drive Vehicle Dangerously*
- 5 Drive Motor Vehicle above Alcohol Limit*
- 1 Fail to comply with Dog Control Order*
- 4 Harassment*
- 4 Possess controlled drug with intent to supply*
- 5 Malicious Communications*
- 1 Stalking*
- 9 Thefts*

As a result of intelligence received from the public 2 successful drugs warrants were carried out during the month July. 1 in the area of Iddesleigh Terrace and the other around Churchill Avenue. An amount of Class B drugs was seized from both residential properties. Those involved were arrested for possess with intent supply and later released under investigation.

During the month of August there have been 175 calls to the Police for Dawlish town. Including 10 domestic related and 8 missing person reports.

There have been 36 crimes recorded including:

- 7 Assaults*
- 1 Burglary*
- 9 Common Assaults*
- 4 Criminal Damage*
- 1 Possess controlled drug with intent to supply*
- 6 Malicious Communications*
- 1 Possess a weapon for Discharge of noxious Liquid /Gas*

1 Possess a knife / Blade in a Public Place

2 Racially Aggravated Harassment

3 Use of Threatening abusive language

1 Theft

On 2nd August on A379 Exeter Road in Dawlish Police stopped a vehicle for no Insurance. When searching the vehicle, a CS gas canister was found in the centre console. The male was arrested and is currently under investigation for possessing a prohibited weapon designed for discharge of noxious liquid / Gas.

On 15th August on The Strand in Dawlish Officers seized a Black Peugeot Boxer Taxi. It is understood the driver of this Taxi has had his Hackney Cab Licence revoked by Teignbridge Licensing Office making his vehicle insurance void. The vehicles MOT was had also expired.

A quantity of Cannabis and cash was seized from a young male who was stopped & searched by officers in Dawlish. The male was arrested for Possession with intent supply & released under investigation.

The Dawlish Neighbourhood Policing Team would like to thank the organisers of the Carnival for the professional way the event was organised and managed. Another successful event with very little Police involvement required.

72 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 4 and 26 July be approved.

73 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 that meeting, be adopted:

- Civic Amenities Committee – 20 June 2018
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 28 June 2018
- Planning Committee – 31 May, 21 June, 12 July and 2 August 2018

74 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised that newly purchased defibrillators for use at The Manor House and the Waterfowl Compound were due to be delivered within the next 2 weeks, with installation taking place shortly after.

The Mayor invited the Dawlish Fairtrade Friends to present the Council with its renewal certificate which certifies that Dawlish is a Fairtrade Town. It was the 5th certificate that had been received which required to be renewed every two years. The representative thanked the Council's former representative Councillor Prowse for her support over the years, and thanked the Council's current representative, Councillor Foden for her continued support.

On 5th of July I attended. The civic ceremony in Exeter for the opening of the Lamas Fair which was a most enjoyable day

7th July the south west youth games which were hosted by Teignbridge and held at sandy lane.

11th July judged the art entries at west cliff school

12th July attended the first youth ROC meeting, which was lovely to see all the youngsters and listen to their ideas on what they would like to happen in Dawlish.

18th July I attended the great Dawlish Art Show at St Gregory's.

19th July I attended the official opening of the safari golf at Tuck's Plot.

Sat 19th was a busy day opening bridge house garden fete in the morning and Sefton halls in the afternoon

23rd July I opened the Dawlish Arts Group exhibition and gave the prizes.

31st July I attended the annual Teignmouth Town Council BBQ it was a great evening and I would like to pinch the idea and hold one here.

2nd Aug I opened the Rotary Fair where I was placed in the stocks and now to carnival.

11th August Dawlish Flower Society show in the morning to judge the produce and then in the afternoon to present the awards. In the gap in the middle I walked around Dawlish with Vanessa Ryley to judge the best dressed window.

12th the opening ceremony and host a tea in the marquee for all the fellow mayors that attended. In the evening judging the entry's in the raft race ...something I won't forget in a hurry.

13th it's a knockout prize giving 14th judging the entries for the pram race.

17th judging the entries for the 1st town criers competition Judging the visiting royalty floats and to finish carnival week off taking part in the parade

29th Aug the RAF are celebrating their centenary this year and I received from the Exmouth Branch on behalf of Dawlish Branch one of the 4 tokens that are making their way around England.

All this on top of all my normal meetings for Dawlish and Teignbridge.

75 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

None received.

76 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Clemens

July & August

Executive

Devon Building Control Partnership

Council

Greater Exeter Strategic Planning

Planning

Many officer meetings as PH for Planning and Housing

29th August a team of Planning Officers and myself met with the President and Chief Executive of Rural & Town Planning Institute (RTPI) as they wanted to find out the way our planning dept works and ongoing issues with major developments in the District.

The Spatial team lead by Simon Thornley in May 2018 came 2nd in the RTPI awards in the category of 'Local Authority Planning Team of the year and we have recently been shortlisted in two categories for the delivery of the Country Park, 1 being for Excellence in Planning Delivery and 2. being Excellence in Spatial Planning.

It is hard to believe that it is only a year since the official opening of the SANGS. Its success has exceeded all expectations, from breeding Cirl buntings increasing from 3 pairs to 10 to the number of people using it from such a wide area of Devon. It has been so successful that the preferred permeable surface of the car park has had to be tarmac. It's disappointing that Cllr Wrigley refers to it as 'penny pinching' when we have spent in excess of 3 million pounds to deliver the Park

They wanted to know about our local plan and if we have met its aspirations. We were able to demonstrate how we have exceeded our housing targets for both AH and open market housing, only 10% of Councils can claim that. Our housing waiting numbers have fallen sharply and unemployment in Teignbridge is negligible. Reducing empty homes is going to meet our target for the 10th consecutive year, the only authority in Devon to do so. That matters because if we do not meet the target we lose New Homes Bonus for the number that we are short of the target.

They were particularly impressed that we have two business managers for planning, one for Development Management and one for Strategic Planning. They know of no other authority that has that.

We explained that as high achievers it makes it much more likely to get Government support like the HIF money for the link road at Secmaton Lane. When the master Plan went to the Planning Committee for approval it was made very clear that they wanted the link road in first. As it is in multiple ownership it was unlikely to get up front funding from developers.

That's why TDC and DCC officers put in a successful bid for the Housing Infrastructure Fund. The criteria to be successful is that it will bring forward housing which is otherwise blocked and Public opinion and petitions has nothing to do with it as Cllr Wrigley seems to be suggesting in his leaflet going out to the public. Also it is not money that will be clawed back from developers as this would give developers good reason to appeal against the AH percentage on viability grounds, and we do not want to lose any AH.

Whilst taking them back to the station they expressed to me how enthusiastic and happy the Planning team came over to them and how the staff feel that they get a lot of support from the Councillors.

Councillor Prowse

TDC - July

- 12 Site visit to land in Bovey Tracey
- 13 Exeter and Devon Railway Working Party at DCC
- 17 Executive
- 24 Meeting at Manor with Cllr Goodey to give TDC response to Cross Country franchise consultation
- 26 HATOC
Meeting with reporter from BBC on the 1937 Railway Guide and how/what has changed in Dawlish. It was mentioned in the guide that it was unsafe to sit under the cliffs at Dawlish. The Town Clerk of Dawlish Urban D.C. went to court and sued Penguin Books for this inclusion. My comment was that the cliffs have not improved. The interview was broadcast on Monday 27 August on "World at One".

- 20/8 Standards Board meeting with Solicitor
- 21 Licencing
- 28 Standards Board meeting with Solicitor These meetings have resulted in a large amount of work.
- 29 Planning
- 30 Remuneration Plan which assembles every Council Period to look into allowances. Their report will go before full council for consideration.

During the last part of August, a great deal of time has been spent looking at the Code of Conduct and Data Protection Act and due to various factors, it is obvious that councillors are not aware of the implications of the Code of Conduct which they sign on being elected. It is also apparent that most have no idea what happens when a request is made under the Data Protection Code. To ignore a request is a legal matter and can result in a fine of up to £2,500. There is a large amount of work in the offing which will affect all councillors and in some cases town councillors who also sign a Code of Conduct. Please be aware that this is now under scrutiny and it is apparent that there must be further training on the items. I am happy to discuss this matter further at a later date.

Councillor Wrigley

Aside from carnival, August is usually a quiet month, but not for me this year.

I won't list all the Teignbridge meetings that I have been to, but rather what I have been doing for Dawlish.

In the TDC chamber I have:

- Fought to make sure that Dawlish is not adversely impacted by the emerging Greater Exeter strategic plan
- Tried to find out why Teignbridge don't operate the controls that are there to ensure that Dawlish Warren static caravans are used as holiday accommodation and not sub-standard permanent residences.
- Enquired as to how we can get a handle on the anti-social behaviour associated with very late licences in the Town.
- Stood up for Dawlish as TDC reviewed numerous documents and plans.

And working with TDC officers we have:

- Removed the discarded tent up at Lea mount, had a picnic bench installed and a new bin arranged,
- Had the lighting on the lawn repaired – that post next to the basketball hoop was a streetlight all along – who knew? (ironically carnival then needed to switch it off for the glow show!)
- And I am continuing to attempt to get the litter by Thompson's path cleared (apparently its network rail ...)

I attended the merchant Navy day ceremony at Forde House on Monday morning, and on the lawn in Dawlish in the afternoon, where it was a lot less wet than last year!

77 TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Bloomfield

Councillor Bloomfield congratulated the Chairman of the Carnival Committee and volunteers for the wonderful week of events that had recently taken place and thanked the Town Council for its continued support of the event. She also thanked the Dawlish Warren Traders for the recent firework display at the Warren.

Councillor Foden

A good number of applications had been made for Dawlish in Bloom and thanked the Dawlish Garden Society for their involvement. She thanked the Carnival Committee for their assistance in presenting the awards at the opening ceremony. She advised she would be working closely with Dawlish Garden Society next year to build upon this year's Dawlish in Bloom success.

Councillor Mawhood

Councillor Mawhood advised she had attended the funeral of Richard Miller, former Town Clerk of Dawlish between 1985 and 2002. On behalf of Lawn Working Group during the month of August, the Group had spent three or four times the many hours working on presentations and static displays for the public consultation events. She thanked all those involved for their efforts.

Councillor Prowse

DTC - July

- 7 SW Youth Games
- 9 Holcombe Village Hall committee meeting

- August Carnival Week various activities including the Opening ceremony
- 10 Holcombe for Lawn Consultation
- 11 Community Transport fund raiser

Resolved that the above reports be noted and that letters of congratulations be sent to the Carnival Committee and Dawlish Warren Traders for recent events.

78 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Prowse provided an update by way of her Town Councillor's report that a meeting is shortly to take place with the consultant and Town Clerk, and a report of this will be sent to all councillors in due course.

79 DAWLISH WARREN

Members received a consultation document received from Teignbridge District Council as to the three options they were considering that would best protect the rare and vulnerable habitat at the Warren, which asked for the Town Council’s preferred option.

Resolved that option three be recommended for implementation by Teignbridge District Council, subject to the outside toilets remaining open and further information being provided to Dawlish Town Council as to what the proposal was trying to achieve and how any success would be measured.

Feature	Proposal
1. Dawlish Warren Dog Access	<input type="checkbox"/> No change to existing access arrangements
2. Landward carpark	<input type="checkbox"/> No change to the current charging regime
3. Seaward carpark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise car parking charges in the winter to match summer rates • Close existing gates to the seaward end in winter between 15 October and 1 March each year • Fence gaps in the fence of the seaward end • Construct a new boardwalk towards the tourist beach
4. Sunday parking charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change to winter free Sunday parking arrangements in the landward car park. • Year-round car parking charging (at summer rates) in the seaward car park.
5. Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of trader-led public communication focussed on habitat mitigation • Signage improvements to raise habitat awareness and make clear there are no landward car park changes.
6. Red Rock Beach	<input type="checkbox"/> Seek to remove restrictions on Red Rock beach and introduce dog access



80 FIXED FEE LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE

Members considered a proposal to join the Fixed Fee Legal Advice Service offered by Tozers Solicitors for £1,500 +VAT per annum.

The Clerk referred to the previously circulated information sheet and advised Members that currently 12 Council's were engaged with the service, examples including Bovey Tracey Town Council, Broadclyst Parish Council and Newquay Town Council.

Resolved that Dawlish Town Council engage the services of Tozers Solicitors LLP to provide a fixed fee Legal Advice Service.

81 CLERKS BOARD

Consideration was given to installing a Clerks Board in the Council Chamber, recognising the former Clerks to the Town Council since Local Government reorganisation in 1974.

Resolved that the Town Clerk be authorised to order and purchase a Clerk's Board, to be smaller but similar in design to that of the current past Mayor's of Dawlish board.

82 THE LAWN WORKING GROUP

The Chairman of the Lawn Working Group presented the Group's report as follows:

The Lawn Working group has taken the presentation that we gave at the July Council meeting and put on a series of presentations across Dawlish Parish over the summer.

The sessions were advertised in the paper, put on the council website and Facebook and publicised on posters across the town and parish.

We were seeking feedback from the town to gauge the feeling about the Lawn and the proposals from the working group.

We started presenting in the Manor House, then went to the Strand Centre, St Agatha's (Elm Grove Rd) Holcombe, Cockwood, Dawlish Warren and ended up in the Manor House again.

We set up static displays at the Library, Strand Centre, TIC, Open DAW and the Manor House. I'd like to thank all of the members of the working group and other councillors who turned up at each of the venues.

We had some 145 people who came to see the presentations, and over 423 feedback returns. This is clearly not a statistically significant number given the population of the town – but does give us a feeling about the town's opinion. Clearly it is a self-selected

group of people who have the time to come to the presentations or complete the feedback forms. It is highly skewed towards older respondents and has to be taken for what it is.

We have also looked at the results from the ROC survey and report. They had some 320 responses from some of the 1,523 10-19-year olds in Dawlish.

Overall there is a strong support that the principal feature of the Lawn has to remain that of a versatile, flexible green open space.

The presentation from the Lawn Working Group met with general approval, there were some who said afterwards that they came as a sceptic but left with an understanding and general agreement.

The feedback indicates that whilst there are additional areas that we should concentrate on, the overall vision is in the right direction. The details need to be worked on, but we achieved sufficient approval to indicate that we should continue.

Improvement to the bandstand was almost universally approved, with the concept of a flexible, fully equipped performance space in the style of a Victorian bandstand well received.

Moving the market area to the 'Market Street' across by the bandstand also met with wide approval, and many commented that they often missed the market since they only saw it on the way out of town.

The feedback showed the least approval for a play area, and for the cycle path going anywhere through the town, however when the concepts were explained in the presentation these were accepted.

There were a number of excellent suggestions, with some extension across the wider centre of town up to and including the Manor Gardens.

Suggestions included:

- *A focus on the manor gardens, improvements to that play park, introducing an exercise area and adding picnic benches to create a picnic area.*
- *Improvements are needed to the Riverside walk, better maintenance and signage, and to the crossing by the Swan toilets / Old Fire-station where visibility is considered dangerous.*
- *Dogs on leads in many areas – we referred to the long awaited TDC district wide PSPO*
- *Teen friendly places, and older age play park, seating and swing seats came from the ROC ideas, as did exercise trails and more music, events, open air cinema, fairs and festivals on the Lawn.*
- *And a series of relatively inexpensive improvements covering: Benches, lighting, Picnic Tables, and general maintenance.*

There was a strong emphasis on the importance of the public toilets.

And there was a strong feeling that the brook needs more work, and that we should look towards getting a programme of dredging certain sections on a long-term regular basis.

Next Steps

The Lawn Working group proposes that it continues to meet. The group would meet on a monthly basis, with specific extra working meetings to be arranged to take items forward. The group would like to prepare specific items of small improvements and maintenance suggestions to pass on the CAC to own and deliver.

The Working Group considered that its first major project priority should be to detail the play area proposal to a sufficient extent that it could move forward in time to secure the funding.

In speaking to the consultation results, Councillor Nickless made the following points:

- 423 completed questionnaires had been received by the closing date of 31 August;
- most respondents agreed that the Lawn should be kept as an open green area;
- waterfowl should remain able to roam free;
- the toilets at the TIC (Tourist Information Centre) should be maintained and enhanced;
- the play area received a 61% approval rating at its location by the TIC;
- a small percentage of forms completed had not viewed the static displays or presentations of the Lawn Working Group prior to completing questionnaires;
- the cycle route through Dawlish would happen regardless; this was a Devon County Council project already in motion;
- there was no real resounding project that would encourage greater use of the Lawn;
- 66% of those completing the survey were in support of the Lawn Working Group's vision for the Lawn; and
- Disappointingly only 21 of those aged between 12 and 30 years old completed a survey.

The Mayor was disheartened that of those eligible to vote in Dawlish, the consultation response reflected just 3.61%; having been advertised in the papers, social media, websites and word of mouth, to yield such a low figure was disappointing.

Councillor Mawhood reminded Members that the Town Council had previously given its backing to providing a play area on the Lawn and this had been reflected in the Lawn Working Group's proposals and recommendations going forward. It was

hoped Teignbridge would be supportive of the proposals and the Group would be working with them in an effort to deliver this.

At this juncture Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the public to address the agenda item.

Upon resuming Standing Orders, it was

Resolved that

- (a) The Lawn Working group meets on a monthly basis, with specific extra working meetings to be arranged to take items forward. The group would like to prepare specific items of small improvements and maintenance suggestions to pass on the CAC to own and deliver; and
- (b) The Working Group considered that its first major project priority should be to detail the play area proposal to a sufficient extent that it could move forward in time to secure the funding.

NB – the full consultation results can be viewed at <https://www.dawlish.gov.uk/lawnworkinggroup.php> or on request from the Town Council Offices.

83 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members **resolved** that the following item be taken in the absence of the Public and Press on grounds that Exempt Information may be disclosed as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Part II

84 STAFFING MATTERS

The Chairman of the Staffing Committee advised that the Town Clerk had completed his 6-month period of probation with the Council and following his end of probation appraisal, it was recommended by the Staffing Committee that the Council make the Town Clerk's employment permanent.

Resolved unanimously that Mr Andrew McKenzie's appointment as Town Clerk of Dawlish Town Council be made on a permanent basis.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.21 p.m.

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Cllr Lisa Mayne
MAYOR OF DAWLISH