

DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Civic Amenities Committee
held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday, 19 September 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

Present

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

Absent

Councillors A. Fenne and G. Fenne.

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 Chairman advised there would be one urgent item to be taken at the end of the meeting in relation to grant funding.

Public Participation

There were two 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.

27 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

28 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There had been no requests for dispensations.

29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

30 MINUTES

Resolved unanimously that the minutes of the Civic Amenities Committee meeting held on 18 July 2018 be approved.

31 BLACK SWAN INFORMATION BOARD

The Chairman welcomed the temporary Waterfowl & Maintenance Warden to the meeting and asked him to present his idea to the Committee.

The Waterfowl & Maintenance Warden introduced his report and suggested that an information board relating to the Black Swans be erected close to the Brook opposite the crazy golf course on a pedestal stand or affixed to the fencing of golf course with the owner's permission. This was generally the way the public made their way from the beach and station onto the Lawn where little to no information was currently available. His costings were in the region of £500 for both options.

He presented a working draft of the information to be used.

At this juncture, the Committee suspended Standing Orders to enable members of the public in attendance to speak to the item.

Comments from the public included the information was too 'wordy' and that sentence structure should be looked at. It would be useful to embed a QR code that could lead to further information on the internet.

At this juncture, Standing Orders were resumed.

Members thanked the Waterfowl & Maintenance Warden for his efforts and it was proposed and seconded that he be reimbursed for the printing costs. Further discussion around additional information boards further up the Lawn and in Manor Gardens also took place. It was agreed this was something that would tie in with the Lawn Working Groups investigations.

Resolved that

- (a) The temporary Waterfowl & Maintenance Warden be reimbursed for printing costs;
- (b) the Town Clerk to make minor amendments to the text and inclusion of a QR code; and
- (c) subject to the necessary regulatory requirements being met, the Town Clerk be authorised to implement the installation of the information board.

32 DAWLISH WATERFOWL

The Clerk provided an update from the Waterfowl Wardens as follows:

<p>1. Current Aviary Stock</p>	<p>We have around 50 birds in the aviary with a variety of different breeds such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calducks Bantam Ducks East Indian runners Black east Indies Mandarins Carolina's Chilean teal White-faced whistlers Golden eye tufted Fulvous whistlers Muscovy's Bahamas pintail <p>This frequently changes as we have new arrivals and remove others to maintain carrying capacity.</p>
<p>2. Current Brook Stock</p>	<p>Black Swans;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 adults (2 pairings) 4 juveniles (+1 future pairing) 2 Cygnets <p>Geese;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Geese (Goose gang) <p>Ducks;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Bantam Ducks + Wild Mallards
<p>3. Losses/ Replacements required</p>	<p>Recent Losses;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> George (Goose gang Patriarch) 1 Fulvous whistled (male) 1 Sharp wing (male) 1 Chilean teal (male) <p>Replacements;</p> <p>Hoping to purchase the above but have not been able to get a price as of yet. Would like to get a Blue faze snow goose as a replacement for George.</p> <p>With the money donated we would like to get;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pair of white mandarins (approximately £140) A pair of black-eyed teal (approximately £110) <p>We plan to keep an eye out for other small breeds, but these may be a bit pricier than normal as it has been a bad year for hatching ducks</p>

4. Fertility of Aviary Breeds	This varies year on year. This year has been a generally bad year for hatching but a hatching success rate of around 20-25%. Breeding occurs during the spring and summer months, with this year hatching around 60 ducklings.
5. Fencing between Aviary and Bridge	Agree with proposal for fencing style to match that along the rest of 5he street (metal with weld mesh on lower part)
6. Aviary rotation (Sold or Exchanged)	When the ducklings get too big for the window, we usually pass them on to one of our volunteers, by the name of John Brown, who is a local farmer and bird enthusiast, who then passes on a cheque to the Council at the end of the season. We keep the odd pure breed when we need to up our stock but usually move on the hybrids, which can negatively affect the gene pool.
7. Vermin	Vermin (mainly rats) is always a problem which will always reoccur. We set traps around rat holes to reduce the problem with varying rates of success.
8. Hybrid ducklings	Almost always moved on to John Brown (see no.6)
9. Other Comments...	The aviary still needs some timber to replace the structures when the roof collapsed in (Winter job). Slab needs relaying outside viewing window and plaster replacing on the wall.

Members thanked the Waterfowl Wardens for their comprehensive update. It was suggested enquiries be made of the original contact as to the possibility of providing a temporary safe house for waterfowl in the event of avian bird flu.

Resolved that the update be noted and that repairs be made to the compound as required.

33 BROWNSBROOK ALLOTMENTS

The Chairman read out an update from the Brownsbrook Allotment Association as follows:

Since the email I sent you on 22nd July (to which you replied) we have not had another meeting. By and large we meet about every 2 months.

We will be meeting this coming Monday so will include you in distribution for a summary email that we send to members.

Some short answers to your first questions below though:

- *New members/plot holders; we have arranged 2 social barbecues on site this year, all plot holders were invited. Although not all attended, one new member commented on how good it was to meet other plot holders. Aside from that, new plot holders seem to be enjoying their plots*
- *We believe that one of the unused plots is being reviewed by the council and so presume this is likely to be re-assigned during the coming months. One of the half plots (far*

bottom corner) has been unworked, we do have photos and will get the number to you in a following mail.

- *We'll get a list of any other unworked plots together for your reference.*
- *Closet - this is still some way off in terms of deciding the best facility in terms of cost and maintenance. The most suitable area would be to the right of the lock up (as viewed looking at its doors) – this is far enough away from external boundaries, and sufficiently surrounded by the road hedge and lockup itself, that it would not be obviously visible to the public at large. It would also be about as far as possible from the waterways. We would in any case want confirmation from the council that they agreed that it would be the best site for it but haven't yet asked the council as we are still not ready to proceed.*
- *Compost area: we now have sufficient pallets to construct a set of composting bins (3 to be rotated in terms of use). This is expected to also be to the right of the lockup and would potentially aid screening of any future closet. As discussed with Martin and Alison in previous talks, we anticipate the town council grounds team being able to use these for cold compostable material that they generate locally*
- *If these locations are decided as not being suitable then please let us know any alternatively favoured options.*

Thank you for your interest in our ventures.

Jon and the rest of BBAA

Following discussion, the Clerk advised he would confirm that allotments holders are now on the new style contract.

Resolved that the update be noted, and the Brownsbrook Allotment Association be thanked for their correspondence.

34 SANDY LANE SKATE PARK

The Clerk advised that an update was still awaited. He would advise Members once this had been received.

Resolved that the update be noted.

35 LITTLE WEEK PLAY PARK

Members referred to the previously circulated draft brief and suggested the Chairman in conjunction with the Clerk should work through the document so that it fully related to Little Week Play Park.

The Clerk advised the process would be as follows:

- The brief would be completed;
- It would be circulated by email to Members of the Committee for agreement;
- The brief would be sent to a play park provider for an initial concept and estimation of costs;
- If necessary, additional funding would be sought (but not guaranteed);

- The document would then go out to tender to comply with procurement rules; and
- The preferred tender would be selected, and works would commence.

Resolved that the process outlined by the Clerk be approved.

36 FESTIVE LIGHTS

The Clerk requested that Members consider whether any additional festive lighting should be purchased for the Tucks Plot area. He advised that previously the highways authority had stated that the existing lamp posts in situ were not strong enough to hold mounted lighting. A suggestion was made as to whether string lighting style lights could be installed pending the replacement of the existing lighting.

Members submitted that in previous years the stacks in front of the railway arches used to house lighting. A suggestion was made that solar lighting be purchased to avoid the need of trailing cables. This could also be used on the beacon, bandstand and along selected points on Brunswick Place.

Resolved that

- (a) the Finance & General Purposes Committee be recommended to establish a new and replacement decorative lighting budget in the next financial year; and
- (b) the Clerk investigate potential and suitable locations for additional festive lighting.

37 TOWN CENTRE AUDIT

The Chairman referred to previous town centre audit undertaken a year ago and believed an additional audit, encompassing the whole parish would be beneficial. It was acknowledged that in most cases, responsibilities would lay outside of the Town Council's remit however it could sign post any issues to the relevant agencies.

The Chairman advised she would canvass a suitable date for those Members wishing to take part in the Audit; this would be offered to all Members of the Council. It was envisaged this document would be published quarterly on the Council's website.

Resolved that a new Town Centre and Wider Parish Audit be undertaken.

38 LATE ITEM - GRANT APPLICATION

The Chairman invited a representative of OpenDaw to advise of their intention to apply to the Litter Innovation Fund in conjunction with Dawlish Against Plastic and other potential partners. It was required to be a new and innovative idea plus the ability to be replicated. At present it was an expression of interest only.

It had been decided to tackle the issue of discarded cigarette butts in the town and on the beach. The idea was to be called 'Pocket the butt' and would cover Dawlish and Dawlish Warren:

- Within local pubs and clubs in Dawlish a plastic stand to collect the butts and measure how much is not going out onto the street – competition amongst those participating and an incentive to those with the most – its different current bins outside as often not used – look outside the Lansdowne on an evening...
- For those purchasing cigarettes locally – have tailored targeted publicity either on display or small cards emphasising the marine impact and toxins left behind in butts – given out or display at point of sale. (Possibly Orchard Manor involved in design (not yet approached but regularly borrow Open Daw's litter picking equipment.) As we don't think most smokers realise the impact.
- Give away – **portable metal** (not plastic) **pocket ashtrays** in pubs and other venues and on the beach by volunteers to smokers (both locals and visitors) to encourage responsible disposal of butts rather than litter – some would be on key rings or just fit in a pocket with a logo from the Dawlish campaign. (The MCS asks smokers to use portable ashtrays – as "please remember wherever you are that your discarded cigarette end can still find its way to the beach even if you didn't drop it there to start with.")

Following discussion, it was

Resolved that the Committee, on behalf of Dawlish Town council commends the project and supports its goals and aspirations.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.32 p.m.

Councillor Val Mawhood
CHAIRMAN