

Dawlish Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the
Town Council
held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday, 5 December 2018

Present:

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

In attendance:

Andrew McKenzie – Town Clerk, and 6 members of the public, one of whom wished to speak.

Urgent Items

The Mayor Advised there would be an urgent item taken at the end of the agenda in relation to the Swan attack in April 2018. Minute 130 refers.

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.

Public Participation

Speaking to minute number 127, the Chairman of the Dawlish Celebrates Carnival Committee referred to his previously circulated report and stressed that whilst the Carnival had been successful, it was not without cost. He thanked the Town Council for its support in 2018 and hoped the Council would look favourably on any grant application made to it in 2019. He made a direct plea that should anyone be interested in volunteering in next years' carnival, he requested that they get in touch with the Committee as without volunteers the event simply would not be able to take place.

Councillors A. Fenne and G. Fenne joined the meeting at 18.41

Councillor Robins joined the meeting at 18.43

Councillor Wrigley joined the meeting at 18.46

Part I

116 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Nickless.

Resolved that the apology be noted.

117 AGREEMENT OF THE AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II

There was no Part II.

118 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

119 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations.

120 DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE

During the month of November there have been 146 calls to the Police for Dawlish town. Including domestic related 9 and 7 missing person reports.

There have been 47 crimes recorded including:

- 9 Assaults
- 3 Common Assaults
- 8 Criminal Damage
- 1 Dangerous Driving
- 1 Drive Vehicle above Alcohol Limit
- 1 Drunk & Disorderly
- 1 Dog Dangerously out of Control
- 1 Grievous Bodily Harm
- 2 Harassment
- 5 Malicious Communications
- 2 Sex Assault on Female
- 11 Thefts
- 1 Threatening, abusive words & Behaviour
- 1 Wounding with Intent

Back in April 2018 one of the famous black swans of Dawlish died after it was viciously attacked by a pet dog after the dog owner disobeyed the by-law to keep dogs on leads on The Lawns.

Since the incident Dawlish Town Council along with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team have been assisting Teignbridge District Council legal services to bring a prosecution against the dog owner Mr Ross Norman.

On 3rd December 2018 a solicitor on behalf Teignbridge District Council attended court. The Magistrates issued Mr Ross Norman (from Dawlish) the Maximum penalty of £500, plus awarded Teignbridge District Council full costs of £473.81 plus a £50 victim surcharge (paid to the Court).

This is a fantastic result to be awarded the maximum amount of fine and shows how serious the Magistrates considered this matter to be.

Thank you to all those who assisted in the prosecution.

121 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7 November be approved as a correct and accurate record.

122 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 – 17 October 2018
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 25 October 2018
- Planning Committee – 1 November 2018

123 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUCEMENTS

The Mayor advised she had attended the following events:

November 9 – I was invited by Cavanna Homes to cut the first sod on the first of the new developments at Secmaton Lane.

10th – I attended the presentation at the Strand Centre honouring the servicemen of Dawlish who had lost their lives in World War One. I found this extremely moving and was greatly impressed by the amount of hard work that had been put into this.

11th – Remembrance Day – this was a busy day for all concerned. In the morning I attended the service at St Gregory's. At 3 o'clock we marched from the British Legion to the War Memorial where I placed the wreath on behalf of Dawlish Town Council. This was followed by the remembrance service in St Gregs'. Due to the swans and cygnets nesting under the beacon at Tuck's Plot, our wonderful Projects Officer managed to save the day and organised a replacement beacon, lent by Saltash Town

Council which we lit on The Lawn at the same time as the rest of the country. Our thanks to Saltash Town Council for their assistance.

17th – I opened the new florist's shop on The Strand.

30th – I switched the Christmas lights on in Dawlish with the help of Father Christmas. Every year this event gets bigger and bigger and this was the best by far. Immediately after I hosted a party for 50 children; this actually had been the highlight of my year so far. Lots of sweets and dancing together with a visit from Santa who gave each child a present. At the end of the evening I met a couple who had brought their children all the way from Wales; they had seen the party advertised on Facebook and decided to come for the whole weekend; they said the town they lived in didn't do anything like this.

1st / 2nd December – I spent the weekend along with most of Dawlish enjoying the entertainment at the Christmas Market, provided for by Dawlish Town Council's Events Committee.

As well as this I have had my usual Teignbridge and Dawlish commitments.

I will you and the people of Dawlish Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

124 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Clatworthy

Councillor Clatworthy had previously circulated his report as follows:

1. On the Highway front since my last report works have been carried out in Weech Road and the railings have been replaced outside the Home Kitchen which has been outstanding for some time. Works to Stonelands Park are scheduled for 13th and 14th December and East Cliff Road 2nd to 4th January and I am awaiting to hear when the works to Priory Road and Stockton Hill are in the works programme. I have been informed there will now be 17 drop-kerbs to be formed in John Nash Drive. DCC have been advised of additional funding for Highways from the Autumn Statement in the sum of £18.754 million and it is for capital works.

2. As I mentioned in my last report, I attended with others a meeting with SWWA regarding the works at Shutterton and have subsequently heard that the traffic management is working but clearly there will be some inconvenience when major infrastructure requiring replacement and upgrading is undertaken.

3. At the recent County Locality meeting members received a briefing from Network Rail about the South-West Resilience Programme and it was said that the detailed

design for the works at Marine Parade will be available in January 19, the design of the works for the Rockfall shelter in March 19 and the design of the works between Parsons Tunnel and Teignmouth in June 19. The funding required we were told will hopefully be in the next Control Period which starts in 2019 and it was said that a Public Inquiry is expected following the final proposals submitted to the Government for approval.

4. As I mentioned in my October report the County Revenue Budget was over-heating due to Children in Care and this is still the position at month 6 and savings need to be identified to cover the position, having said that the rising cost of Children Services is a national issue.

125 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Prowse

It has been a busy time at Teignbridge with pre-O&S meeting and then on 19 Nov at presentation on the future of Teignmouth Hospital and doctor's services. Followed by Full Council, followed by O&S.

Previously to this on 15 Nov I attended HATOC when changes were approved to signage and the speed limit on the South Devon Highway, this meeting was then followed by Locality with a presentation from Network Rail. This is the same as the consultation taking place in Teignmouth Holcombe and Dawlish.

I have been invited to a GWR railway meeting on the difficulty's passengers will face both up the line and below into Cornwall when sections of the network are closed in February for works. I am unable to attend but the presentation is being sent to me and I will update councillors.

20 Nov was Planning.

4 Dec I attended Executive where the issue of changes to Dog Control across the District and beach access times were approved. Part of this is that a Review group will be set up by O&S to report to council on the many issues involved. They are complex, but I am very happy with the result of the recent case with a swan killed by a loose dog, on the lawn. I hope this will act as a deterrent to others.

Dawlish had a great time greeting the Christmas period and I hope that the shop keepers will benefit from the hard work.

I thank Trevor for his Dawlish Celebrates report and am sure that this council will continue to support in any way it can.

Councillor Clemens

November

9th Devon Building Control Partnership

13th Ph meeting with Ros Eastman who has taken over from Nick Davies as Service Lead for Planning.

15th Ph meeting with Amanda Pujol, service lead for housing.

16th Housing event at the Kenn Centre for private sector Landlords and Housing Ass'ns and others interested in the rented housing sector.

19th Presentation by the CCG on the merits of closing Teignmouth Hospital and building a new medical centre in the Brunswick Centre development incorporating all the Teignmouth medical practices,

Followed by Full Council,

Followed by O&S where the call in of the Executive decision to instruct the legal team to draw up the Public Area Protection Order in respect to dog bylaws was debated which took close to 2 hours. The call in was for only two valid reasons, **a.** that Holcombe and the Ness beaches were included by error as they were never intended to be include in the seasonal dog ban and **b.** was that no person should have more than 4 dogs in a public space under their control, many people prefer it to be 6.

Followed by Leadership, a very long day!

21st Executive

23rd I attended the Heart of the South West meeting at Collumpton. HotSW is made up of 19 Districts across Devon and Somerset which is served by 17 MP's, has 2 National Parks, 1,7 million people and 4 universities.

Its ambition is to double the economy by 2038 by working together to lever investment from government to improve infrastructure and connectivity.

27th Newton Abbot Town Team meeting involving reports from the police, town centre manager, DCC highways and education, CCTV partnership and an update from TDC officers on the ongoing NA town centre redevelopment and plans for Bradley Lane.

29th A meeting for Parish and Town Councils, ward member and residents in association with the NA3 development masterplan.

Attended the Herald Express Tourism and Hospitality awards at the Riviera Centre, Torquay, where Cofton and Ladys Mile both had awards in various sectors, Cofton in the Dog friendly section.

21st Executive where the PSPO was approved including that a person shall have a maximum of 4 dogs under their control at any time and the beaches on which there is a seasonal dog ban should start from the 1st of April and not May as it is on most beaches presently.

Councillor Wrigley

Public Space Protection Order – still going through Teignbridge and likely further discussions would be required.

Remembrance Day - would like to thank the Dawlish British Legion Branch for the hard work they had put in to make the remembrance activities happen.

I have been working with Redeeming Our Communities (ROC) group – one of the things coming out is trying to engage young people in the town, something our Mayor has alluded to previously. I would like to see whether this Council might be minded to revitalise the Youth Council and get it going again. I believe it would be something worthwhile; I would like to work with the Mayor and Clerk to bring this forward, perhaps in January to make this happen.

126 TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Foden

I really enjoyed being one of the Elves helping Father Christmas on the Lawn on Sunday at the Christmas market. I was an Elf on duty outside Santa's grotto in the Dawlish Community Transport minibus.

Thank you to Dawlish Community Transport for their work in making this happen. The queue of children waiting to see Father Christmas was over 3 hours long.

I have been a member of the Lib Dems since April 2016 and I have decided now to change my status as a town councillor from 'Independent' to 'Liberal Democrat'. I will continue to work independently and with the other Lib Dem town councillors to work for the best for our town and all the residents of Dawlish.

Councillor Mawhood

I do not usually bring a report before this meeting however, so much has been brought forward by CAC recently that I feel it will be of interest to others to learn of some of our work.

In November I prepared a report for the CAC meeting regarding a Town/Parish Audit following a walkabout to note such matters as damaged pavements, blocked drains, street lights obscured by trees etc., Some problems we identified during our walk but others had been brought to me by residents and I investigated them prior to inclusion in the Audit. The Clerk is now in the process of directing the various concerns to the appropriate Authorities and we look forward to action being taken to remedy the problems identified.

CAC now meets at intervals with Mark Payne from TDC in connection with matters pertaining to our green spaces and following my latest meeting with him, I presented a report to the November CAC meeting with details of the various matters raised during our walk and those which had been brought to me by residents. It is most gratifying to see that work has already begun.

Following the same CAC meeting we are seeking advice regarding work required to the limited areas surrounding and belonging to The Manor House, with a view to improving the planting and the setting of this lovely building. As part of this initiative I have purchased a large number of suitable Spring bulbs and have already spent several hours planting them.

CAC is making good progress with the renovation of the Little Week play park and look forward to the work being carried out early next year.

Coming up to date, I had great fun helping last weekend by entertaining the children as they patiently queued up to meet Santa, being dressed as a reindeer caused many a giggle.

Then all change on Tuesday when I posted the long-awaited TDC notices on various litter bins advising that dog owners can now put bagged dog waste into the general litter bins.

No one can say that being a hands-on Councillor is boring!

127 DAWLISH CELEBRATES CARNIVAL

The Mayor thanked the Chairman of the Carnival Committee for attending the meeting and presenting their annual report.

Resolved that the report be noted.

128 DAWLISH TOWN COUNCIL INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Members received the interim internal audit report from the Council's Internal Auditor, Auditing Solutions Ltd and had regard to its findings and recommendations. Councillor Lowther wished to pass on thanks to the Clerk as the report noted that *'no issues of concern arise'* which was very comforting. The Clerk thanked Councillor Lowther for his comments and went on to put on recorded his thanks to the office team, in particular the Finance Officer who had assisted the internal auditor during his visit to the Council in the Autumn, and for her work in establishing the new finance software which had resulted in savings from not having outsource the accounting function to a third party accounting firm.

The Clerk referenced the Internal Auditor's conclusion, which read:

"We wish to acknowledge the positive and clearly evident improvement in record keeping and manner in which the accounting records are now being actioned with significant savings arising on costs, following cessation of the external accountant's contract and use of "in-house" bespoke accounting software."

Resolved that the conclusion be noted.

129 GWR RAIL SERVICES

Councillor Foden had requested that the item be considered to enable the Council to respond to Mark Hopwood, Managing Director of Great Western Railway (GWR) thanking him for his correspondence and requesting that they continue to work for the benefit of Dawlish residents, and that the Council would like to see continued improvement with capacity provision by way of four carriages on trains which has been sporadic up until now.

Councillor Prowse advised that GWR had stated that there would be a 3-week window in mid-February for works on the line between Tiverton and Taunton, in addition to upgrades to the line between Plymouth and Ivybridge which occur concurrently which would see single line operations in use. Therefore, delays were expected for customers and travellers should ensure giving enough time to reach destinations in advance, if possible.

Resolved that the Town Council writes to GWR requesting improved services, road transportation where trains were cancelled and particularly during peak times that additional carriages are used instead of the one currently being made available at present.

130 SWAN ATTACK

The Clerk advised Members that Monday, 3 December Teignbridge District Council’s legal department had attended Court for the prosecution of Mr Ross Norman for the offence of the breach of Teignbridge District Council Dogs on leads in pleasure rounds Byelaw. This was the incident in April which involved a dog in the care of Mr Norman not being on a lead as it should have been whilst on the lawn in Dawlish and going on to attack and kill a Black Swan.

The Magistrates issued the Maximum penalty of £500, plus awarded Teignbridge their full costs of £473.81 along with a Victim Surcharge (which goes to the Court) of £50. This was a fantastic result to be awarded the maximum amount of fine and demonstrates how seriously the Magistrates considered this matter to be.

It was hoped this would act as a deterrent to prevent future occurrences from taking place.

Resolved that the update be noted.

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

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Cllr Lisa Mayne
MAYOR OF DAWLISH