

Dawlish Town Council
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Town Council
held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday, 30 January 2019 at 7 p.m.

Present:

Councillors Mayne (Mayor), Foden (Deputy Mayor), Bloomfield, Clemens, Mawhood, Nickless and Taylor.

In attendance:

Andrew McKenzie – Town Clerk
Yola Mitchell – Finance Officer

There were no Members of the public or press in attendance.

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

144 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Almond, A. Fenne, G. Fenne, Goodman-Bradbury, Lowther, Prowse, Robins, Tamlyn and Wrigley.

Resolved that the apologies be noted.

145 AGREEMENT OF THE AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II

There was no Part II.

146 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

147 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations.

148 DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE

No report had been received.

149 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9 January be approved as a correct and accurate record.

150 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor advised that she would provide an update at the next scheduled meeting on 6 February.

151 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Clatworthy

- 1 With regard to the Link road I have been informed that the legal and funding agreement with Home England has still to be completed but baseline information is being collected by DCC to support the planning application for the bridge to TDC.
- 2 SWWA have informed me the current up-sizing of the sewer at Shutterton is scheduled to be completed on 12th March and the next phase will start on 18th March.
- 3 Twelve dropped kerbs have been installed at the junctions along John Nash Drive.
- 4 I have been informed that the current year is the last for the TAP fund (£1 elector fund) so essential application made to draw down Dawlish allocation from TDC if not done, hopefully it will be replaced with something.
- 5 Regarding the DCC revenue budget the Children's Service budget is overheating due to the numbers of Children in care and high cost placements and this seems a national issue.
- 6 At the January Cabinet a Street Lighting Policy was approved and it covers Lights currently in Private Roads, essentially DCC will seek to transfer lights on private roads to a person or organisation and where this is not possible the authority has discretion to continue with the lighting with the final decision between the Chief Officer, Cabinet member in consultation with the local member. I have lobbied and the lights in Sea Lawn and Riviera Terrace will remain on.
- 7 I had the opportunity to speak with Police Sergeant Jonathan Ross from Teignmouth who told me one of the Dawlish PCSO's has been seconded to Newton Abbot for 6 months from December and will then return to Dawlish.

152 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Reports would be provided at the scheduled meeting to be held on 6 February.

153 TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Reports would be provided at the scheduled meeting to be held on 6 February.

154 LOVE YOUR BEACH STEERING GROUP

Members considered appointing one Member to act as the Town Council's representative on the Love Your Beach Steering Group operated by Teignbridge District Council.

Resolved that Councillor Taylor be appointed the Council's representative until the end of the current municipal year, at which time the position will be reappointed to should it remain necessary to do so.

155 TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET 2019/20

Members considered the previously circulated report of the Town Clerk following the recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee to set a budget and precept for the 2019/20 financial year.

In presenting the report, the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee thanked the Town Clerk and Finance Officer for their working in putting together a sound budget, and submitted that:

- The budget for 2018/19 had resulted in a decrease per annum on a Band D property for the Parish of Dawlish of 0.59 or 0.75% equalling £78.27. The average band D precept charged by English parish councils had increased by more than 6%;
- From 1 April 2019, Dawlish Town Council would no longer receive the Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG) from Teignbridge District Council, which last year had amounted to £48,530 representing a reduction of 8.64%;
- Prudent financial management had seen general reserves used to cushion the loss of the CTSG whilst maintaining key budgets such as capital expenditure on the Manor House, Community Grants, Parish Improvements and others whilst awaiting the outcome of a VAT investigation by HMRC which may see the Council being required to pay a significant bill, for which monies were available in free reserves whilst still maintaining at least 3 months operating

costs as stipulated by the auditors.

- As a result, the proposed budget for 2019/20 equated to a Band D property in Dawlish increasing by £0.05 or 0.06% to £78.32 per annum, with a precept amount of £435,373.

During discussion, reference was made to:

- a budget line being included for the provision of projects arising from the Lawn Working Group. The Clerk and Finance Officer advised that the Parish Improvements line included £5,000 which could be used for seed funding and as projects came online throughout the course of the year, monies could be vired from general reserves if necessary. During the budget setting for 2020/21, the Council could also precept the Parish for funds to meet such costs, after other funding sources such as Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy had been used;
- the Riverside Centre. Members had raised concern as to the profitability of the venue and were pleased to see a promotional budget being allocated in an attempt to increase the offering of the building. Its income would be monitored over the following year and its longer-term future as part of the Council's portfolio would be reviewed.

With no further discussion, it was

Resolved that

- (a) The level of precept for the 2019/20 financial year be set at £435,373 and transmitted to Teignbridge District Council for collection; and
- (b) The proposed Town Council budget of £496,278 be adopted for the 2019/20 financial year.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.31 p.m.

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Cllr Lisa Mayne
MAYOR OF DAWLISH