

Dawlish Town Council
Minutes of a Meeting of the
Town Council
held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday, 6 March 2019 at 7 p.m.

Present:

Councillors Mayne (Mayor), Almond, Clemens, Goodman-Bradbury, Lowther, Mawhood, Nickless, Prowse, Robins, Taylor and Wrigley.

In attendance:

Andrew McKenzie – Town Clerk, Councillor John Clatworthy – Devon County Councillor, a representative of the press and 2 members of the public.

Public Participation

No one wished to raise any subject under the public participation scheme.

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

170 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Foden (Deputy Mayor), Bloomfield, A. Fenne, G. Fenne and Tamlyn.

Resolved that the apologies be noted.

171 AGREEMENT OF THE AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II

There was no Part II.

172 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

173 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations.

174 DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE

No report had been received.

175 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 6 February be approved as a correct and accurate record.

176 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:

- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 22 January 2019;
- Civic Amenities Committee – 16 January 2019;
- Events Committee – 6 February 2019.

177 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported the following:

- A letter of thanks had been received from the Dawlish World War One Project Group for the support of the Town Council both financially and administratively which had enabled upwards of 1,700 orders of service for 93 individual services of commemoration that had been held over the past 4 years. There would possibly be one final service for the dedication of a supplementary panel of added names being affixed to the War Memorial, subject to receiving listed building consent.
- Nominations to the Town Council's Civic Award were now open with nomination papers available from The Manor House, the Council's website and the Dawlish Gazette Offices. The deadline for submission of nominations was 15 March with the winner being announced on 15 May at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council.
- A letter had been received from Teignbridge's Planning Department regards the preliminary enquiry to the suggestion of siting a playpark near to the Tourist Information Centre on The Lawn. The response was such that if the height was no more than 4m and curtilage was less than 200 cubic metres or 368 square foot, it could potentially be classed as permitted development and not require planning consent. Anything bigger would likely need specific planning approval. The Conservation Officer would welcome a discussion on the detailed proposals going forward. The Lawn Working Group would meet to discuss the next steps.

- He had attended the Teignbridge Standards Committee which had considered the long-awaited report of the Independent Standards in Public Life on Ethical Standards in Local Government. In relation to town and parish councils, the recommendations included:
 - There should be a new national model code of Standards in Local Government;
 - All towns and parishes should follow the code of their relevant principal authority or the new model code;
 - Regulations should be amended to clarify that a councillor need not include their home address in the register of interests;
 - A principal authority's decision on sanctions for a parish councillor should be binding (at present it is only a recommendation to the parish council to consider);
 - Monitoring Officers should receive adequate training and corporate resources and support to undertake their role in providing support on standards issues to parish councils, including in undertaking investigations and recommending sanctions;
 - Sanctions for contravening the code should include suspension of the councillor for up to 6 months, with the ability to appeal the decision to the Local Government Ombudsman.

Many of the recommendations would require changes in the law however there were a number that Teignbridge could adopt as best practice at this stage. They resolved to include the following in their code:

- *Local authorities should include prohibitions on bullying and harassment in codes of conduct. These should include a definition of bullying and harassment, supplemented with a list of examples of the sort of behaviour covered by such a definition;*
- *Councils should include provisions in their code of conduct requiring councillors to comply with any formal standards investigation and prohibiting trivial or malicious allegations by councillors;*

To include the words "in a timely manner."

- *Principal authorities should review their code of conduct each year and regularly seek, where possible, the views of the public, community organisations and neighbouring authorities;*

The current review will include use of social media.

- *Councils should publish a clear and straightforward public interest test against which allegations are filtered.*
- *Where a local authority makes a decision on an allegation of misconduct following a formal investigation, a decision notice should be published as soon as possible on its website, including a brief statement of facts, the provisions of the code engaged by the allegations, the view of the Independent Person, the reasoning of the decision-maker, and any sanction applied.*
- *A local authority should have straightforward and accessible guidance on its website on how to make a complaint under the code of conduct, the process for handling complaints, and estimated timescales for investigations and outcomes.*

The Monitoring Officer at Teignbridge suggested that town and parish councils await Teignbridge's code being amended before choosing whether to align their own code. This would therefore be a future report to Council. In addition, it was pleasing to hear that the Standards Committee resolved to include a programme of training which provided opportunities for town and parish councils, either directly to councillors or through Clerks to their councillors.

- Town Council and District Council elections would take place on 2 May. Nomination papers were available from the Clerk at the Manor House for town council seats and from the Deputy Returning Officer at Teignbridge for District seats. The notices of election would be published on 18 March and would be displayed on the council's website and noticeboards throughout the Parish.

16 seats were available on Dawlish Town Council –

9 representing Dawlish North East Ward
 6 representing Dawlish South West Ward
 1 representing Dawlish Teignmouth Road Ward

5 seats were available on Teignbridge District Council to represent Dawlish –

3 representing Dawlish North East
 2 representing Dawlish South West

The Clerk reminded current councillors that the pre-election period known as 'purdah' would begin on Monday, 18 March and last until 2 May. During that time, councillors must not use council resources for any communication, in whatever form, addressed to the public at large, in whatever form, addressed

to the public at large, as defined in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986.

Further information was available at www.teignbridge.gov.uk/elections

178 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUCEMENTS

The Mayor advised she had no announcements.

179 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Clatworthy

Councillor Clatworthy reported that the:

- County council had set its budget and council tax for the 2019/20 financial year;
- There were delays with the releasing of funds from Homes England regards the link road at Secmaton Lane; and
- The county council had submitted planning applications for the sewerage pumping station.

180 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Clemens

Feb

12th Planning meeting. A one issue Planning meeting to discuss NA3 Wolborough.

PH meeting with Housing officers.

13th Tour of Dawlish Warren Nature Reserve with two people from Bristol who write for a wildlife magazine. In attendance was the senior park Ranger, Devon Wildlife, RSPB and TDC Comms.

24th Meeting with Transport Minister and Network Rail senior figures at Marina Parade. They were all very grateful for the support they have received from Teignbridge Officers throughout the coastal resilience planning.

18th Leadership. Executive members meet with officers concerning the progress of ongoing projects.

27th Interview at Exmouth Docks in a followup report by ITV on the introduction of the refuge zones. The Habitat Regulation Officers have received great support from the public in respecting the zones and in observing the codes of conduct.

28th. Full Council for the budget setting. TDC's share of the Council tax will go up by 5 pounds (3.03%) for a band D property. District Council get no Government Grant from this year, reduced from close on £10 mil pounds a year 8 years ago. Total tax take is £8.4 mil whereas total budget for just refuse collections and street cleaning is £8.6 mil pounds.

March

4th O&S.

5th Executive. Agreed a 200,000 contribution towards a planning application for the Teign Estuary cycle link from Teignmouth to Kingsteignton with a link for Bishopsteignton. This money is from CIL.

Agreed to contribute 50,000 towards the setting up of a South West Mutual Bank. This funding will acquire 3,333 shares once the bank is licensed and operational. It could eventually offer the chance of having a physical bank presence in Dawlish again. There are risks involved but the finance officer has fully supported it.

6th PH meeting with officers

181 TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Almond

1) East Teignbridge Community Transport Association

I am the Town Council representative on the committee.

The committee is working hard to keep the valuable services running, needing more driver volunteers but also volunteers for fundraising and other administrative duties. They are celebrating their 30th Anniversary this year, and there is an event at the Manor on the 16th March to which you're all invited. The new regulations about licencing have not yet been finalised but this also means that it is not possible to bid for new contracts.

2) Coastal Engagement Group: Meeting on the 20th February. This was mainly concerned with getting an update on the progress of the engagement process, and upcoming consultation on the new premises for NHS doctors in Teignmouth, which will also include space for services up till now being provided out of the Teignmouth Hospital premises. An outline planning application has been submitted to Teignbridge for a site in Brunswick Street. This is on four floors, with some limited disabled parking.

The consultation is planned to be after the elections and is of considerable interest to Dawlish as some services are planned to be moved to Dawlish Hospital. Please keep aware of everything going on there.

3) **Teignmouth and Dawlish CIC.**

At a meeting at the end of January it was agreed that the current 'trader' directors of the CIC would resign, provided that a new board be appointed consisting of council members from both towns plus the chairpersons of the Chamber of Trade from each town. If this new board was not constituted, then a further meeting of the present board would be necessary to formally wind-up the CIC. It was intended that any funds currently available be used to finance the production of town guides and event calendars, and maintenance of the Love Dawlish, and Love Teignmouth web-sites into the future, to guarantee continuation into the future.

4) **I attended the Teign Estuary and Coastal Partnership Annual Forum on the 25th February at the Pavilions.** There were two presentations of particular interest for Dawlish, namely a discussion about the dumping of dredged material from Exmouth Marina at Sprey Point. This is actually dumped on the shoreline and there is considerable disquiet over the effect this has on the appearance of the beach in Teignmouth, and possible effects for Dawlish. Sprey Point effectively comes within the remit of Dawlish because of the District Council ward boundaries.

The Coastal Partnership is recommending that a more remote dumping site much further offshore is used. This comes under the remit of the MMO.

The other presentation was about the improvements to the sea wall resilience at Dawlish. The first phase which is effectively starting immediately is for improvements to the wall between the viaduct and Boat Cove – estimated to cost £30million. There is a further £50 million available which covers the viaduct to Coastguards slipway, for which design work is just beginning. This will naturally include the station itself.

We need to ensure that we have some influence on what happens here, as there is a desperate need to improve disabled access to the seaward downline platform, and from initial discussions it seems that this won't be a priority for the designers – they are stuck in the thinking that you need to have lifts for disabled people and having lifts in such an exposed area is a non-starter. A solution needs to be found.

Having £80million being spent on the sea front, and bearing in mind that they will need to keep the community 'on-side', and want to ensure that the project results in a vast improvement to resilience of the rail line and amenities on the sea front – there is an opportunity for the town council to involve itself at every step of the way.

5) **TALC Teignbridge Association of Local Councils**

I attended the meeting on 7th February at Forde House. The main presentation and discussion was around Teignbridge's Budget, and a renewed effort during 2019/2020 to persuade town and district councils to take on assets and services. The idea being that parishes that didn't have the infrastructure or employees to do the work involved themselves could commission Teignbridge to do it. The justification is that District and County councils have to have a referendum if they wish to put their precept up by more than 3%, whereas Town and Parish councils can increase their precept without having to go through this additional step.

One Dawlish asset shown in a photograph during the presentation was Dawlish Museum. Obviously, this was just an illustration of Teignbridge assets, but don't be surprised if this comes up in conversations.

It's going to be an interesting few years.....

Councillor Taylor

As representative for Dawlish to the new 'Love Your Beach' Group, attended first meeting at Forde House on 12th February.

As a member of DTC Planning Committee, attended invitation to Network Rail stakeholder engagement event on rail resilience at Rougemont Hotel, Exeter on 27th February - meeting with NR spokesman Richard Griffiths to discuss concerns raised and suggestions made by members at the DTC Planning Committee meeting the previous week.

LYB overview and actions as below:

A response will be included from the Love Your Beach steering group to the consultation for the disposal of dredged materials from Exmouth Marina at Sprey Point. All agreed that the group are extremely concerned about the potential impact that the disposal may have on the bathing water quality from water users outside of the bathing season. It was identified that there are many water user groups that swim in the sea all year round. More thorough testing needs to take place to ensure there is not an impact on the public health who swim in the sea whilst the disposal is taking place, not only from Ecoli and Intestinal Enterococci but from heavy metals as well. Guarantees need to be made that the dredged material will not be disposed of on the beach which may have an impact on beach users.

The following campaigns will be investigated by TDC officers and supported by Town and Parish Councils as well as businesses.

1. Education about not feeding the seagulls

- [Sarah Holgate] S.H. to investigate cost of the seagull entertainers.*
- Reps to approach Town and Parish Councils for funding.*
- [Graeme Smith] G.S to investigate grant from Teign Estuary and Coastal Partnership*
- Don't feed the locals campaign to be supported for 2019. Businesses to display posters and issue stickers.*
- Link below of the last time the Giant seagulls were in Teignmouth*

<https://www.facebook.com/Teignbridge/videos/1677392542280369/>

2. Dog Fouling

- Campaign working with the new PSPO material.*
- Extra enforcement visits on the beaches in April*

3. Love Your Loo-SWW/Beachwise campaign

- To be supported by Town and Parish Councils and businesses*

4. Bins- TDC to investigate extra emptys during peak periods

*-TDC to investigate campaign about taking litter home when bin is full
-businesses to support by providing bins outside premises for
takeaway/outside seating*

5. *Visit South Devon support*

-S.H to speak to VSD about including info on website about BWQ

6. *Attached is the current Beach guide if group could review and bring suggestions to the next meeting which will be in November after DEFRA release the 2020 bathing water quality classifications.*

7. *A.O.B:*

-Nigel Thomas-Childs to report concern for H+S of Groynes in Teignmouth to correct department within EA

-G.S to report old redundant pipes and dangerous groynes on Dawlish beach to Network Rail

-G.S remove old dog poo bag dispenser at Ivy lane in Teignmouth

182 PROPOSED EVENTS, PROJECTS AND TOURISM OFFICER

Members considered the draft job description for the proposed Events, Projects and Tourism Officer. The Finance & General Purposes Committee had considered the item at its meeting on 28 February and had made a recommendation to the Town Council for its approval.

Following discussion, it was suggested that the wording relating to 'ensuring safe operation' should be reworded to read 'to prepare appropriate risk assessments for the safe operation'.

In relation to the proposed salary, the Clerk advised he had not been in receipt of the figure from South West Councils who were independently job evaluating the post to set the salary range. He believed it would fall somewhere between £23,000 and £30,000 but could not say for certain. He advised that a salary grade (for example £24K-£27K) was made up of a number of increments, in which the post holder would generally begin at the bottom of the grade, rising annually subject to satisfactory performance until reaching the top of that grade.

During discussion Members were keen that the Town Council continued to deliver quality events not only for residents of the Parish but also to encourage visitors and tourists which would have a positive knock effect for the wider community and economy.

Resolved that subject to the Job Evaluation salary figure being received from South West Councils, that the Staffing Committee be authorised to proceed with the formal recruitment process for the post.

183 MANOR HOUSE PORCH

The Clerk submitted that the agenda description may have been misleading and stated that the area in question was the small porch / conservatory at the rear of the building. Some time ago when it had last been renovated, 'soft wood' had been used which appeared to have quickly rotted out. He was seeking the necessary approval to make safe the structure, having regard to the possibility of the whole area being reinstated along the former footprint of the main conservatory.

Resolved that the Clerk be authorised to make the necessary steps to ensure the safety of the structure in the short term, pending a possible larger project to reinstate a conservatory along the original footprint.

184 MOTION ON NOTICE

Members considered a notice of motion submitted by Councillor Taylor as follows:

"To help prevent further instances of beach pollution in the Parish of Dawlish, and as the Dawlish Town Council representative to the newly-formed 'Love Your Beach' group – I hereby propose a motion that this Council opposes any further dumping of harbour or marina dredged material in the sea off Sprey point until further notice and this be communicated to the Marine Management Organisation with a copy to the applicant, Exmouth Marina".

In debating the motion, Members considered that clean sand should be permitted as this was beneficial for the recharging of sand at local beaches. An amendment was proposed to the motion to include the words 'excluding clean sand' be inserted after the words 'that this Council'.

Members were aware that the official consultation period for responses had closed on 4 March however, it had not been possible to submit the motion to an earlier meeting due to the requirement of the Council's Standing Orders for the Clerk to receive such a motion 8 clear days before the meeting at which it would be considered. Members believed there was still merit in passing such a motion and communicating this to the relevant organisations.

Resolved that this Council, excluding clean sand, opposes any further dumping of harbour or marina dredged material in the sea off Sprey Point until further notice and this be communicated to the Marine Management Organisation with a copy to the applicant, Exmouth Marina.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.11 p.m.

.....

Clr Lisa Mayne
MAYOR OF DAWLISH