

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

Present:

Councillors Foden (Mayor), Mawhood (Deputy Mayor), Dawson, Goodman-Bradbury, Heath, James, T. Lowther, J. Petherick, L. Petherick, Prowse, Taylor and Wrigley.

In attendance:

Andrew McKenzie – Town Clerk

Angie Weatherhead – Events, Projects & Tourism Officer

One representative of the press, Devon County Councillor for Dawlish and 3 members of the public.

Public Participation:

No members of the public 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.

91 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors M. Lowther, Mayne, Tamlyn and Woods.

Resolved that the apologies be noted.

92 AGREEMENT OF THE AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II

There was no Part II.

93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

94 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations.

95 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 4 September 2019 be approved as a correct and accurate record.

96 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:

- Events Committee – 30 July 2019
- Civic Amenities Committee – 17 July 2019
- Manor House & Riverside Centre Committee – 19 July 2019
- Planning Committee – 22 August 2019

97 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The official pre-election period known as Purdah was underway; Parliament had been dissolved on 6 November meaning there were currently no Members of Parliament (excluding Ministers who remained). The Statement of Persons Nominated would be published on or around the 14 November and this was when General Election candidates would be known;
- Devon Communities Together (DCT) was organising Emergency Plan Preparation Assistance – this was timely given that Dawlish would be looking to review its existing Plan. DCT were holding Resilience Forums on 13 November at Broadwoodkelly Village Hall and on 27 November in Rattery. Any interested Members to contact the Clerk to book onto the Forum;
- Renovation works to Little Week Play Park had been completed and several residents had contacted the Council explaining how pleased they were with the new equipment. An official opening party would take place in December;
- The first Interim Audit for the 2019/20 accounts was scheduled for 21 November;
- The Council now operated a system of online payments for goods and services and had ceased paying for works by cheque. This would result in a decrease in postage and bank charges, improve office efficiencies and ensure suppliers were being paid as soon as practicably possible; and

- Planning Permission had been granted by Teignbridge District Council for the sound proofing works to the Chamber. Works were required to be completed within 3 years. The company undertaking the works would be attending the site in the next few months to confirm the colour of the panels to match as best the walls and ceiling of the Chamber.

Resolved that the report be noted.

98 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

This has been a busy month, once again supporting local people and the community of Dawlish.

10th October I enjoyed the High C's concert at the Langston Cliff Hotel to celebrate their 10th year anniversary, plus in support of 2 of our local charities The Sunflower Bunch and the Open Daw.

12th October The Dawlish Dementia 'Adventure' open day. I organised this event to raise awareness of the different types of dementia and how music and arts can benefit people with dementia. Also raising awareness of the local care organisations. Four years ago, former mayor Howard Almond organised a presentation from the Purple Angel dementia awareness campaign, and Dawlish Town Council was awarded a 'dementia-friendly' status certificate.

This event, which was co-organised by local care company Home Instead, builds on this, so that Dawlish can once again gain the 'dementia-friendly town' status from the Purple Angel campaign.

13th October I attended the fund-raising walk along the sea wall to Dawlish Warren, raising funds for Alzheimer's Research, which had been organised by a local resident. Thank you to all involved.

22nd October

I attended the Teign Estuary Coastal Partnership meeting in Teignmouth. I heard further about the Network Rail resilience projects and asked plenty of questions on how these are going to affect Dawlish. The Marine Parade section of the wall is planned to re-open in March 2020. Regarding the cycle route, the Dawlish to Teignmouth section will depend on Network Rail's plans.

There is Coastal Communities Initiative funding which will be used for a feasibility study for the Boat Cove area. I asked that Dawlish Town Council and the Dawlish beach-hut community are consulted as part of this study.

Regarding the dumping of sludge dredged from Exmouth Marina, the Marine Maritime Organisation (MMO) had asked Exmouth Marina to investigate alternative dump sites while their licence to dump point of Sprey Point is suspended. I have learned in breaking news this week, that the advice from the Devon & Severn Inlands Fisheries Conservation Authority is that this alternative site should not be pursued for sludge-dumping.

I met with Simon Dunn, the Director of local charity Dawlish Community Aid, to learn of their exciting plans for the Living Dawlish hub, which will open later this month on The Strand, in the site of the former Bastins shop. This is an exciting and excellent opportunity and I wish them well.

Blocked drains around Dawlish – I've reported various blocked drains to Devon County Council through their website, and directly to our County Councillor John Clatworthy and our local highways officer.

Resolved that the report be noted.

99 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Clatworthy advised that:

- *Agreement between Teignbridge District Council and Homes England had been completed – agreement was awaited between Devon County Council and Teignbridge District Council and the landowners to take forward; ground condition not great so the bridge was likely to cost more than was expected;*
- *Streetlights conversion to LED bulbs had gone down well in Dawlish; only 3 complaints of light intrusion – these had been addressed. installed lights on unadopted roads, Stockton avenue, riviera terrace with sea lawn yet to be done*
- *South West Water – works will begin again for 4 weeks starting Monday 18 November until Friday, 13 December – this would cause issues for motorists, but the works were necessary;*
- *He had made 16 grants from his locality budget to local organisations this year;*
- *Network Rail (NR) consultation on Holcombe tunnel to Teignmouth would now take place late January / early February – transport plans still in development, NR developing supporting documents and business case.*

- *Highways works – East Cliff Gardens works would be carried out in this financial year;*
- *An objection to double lines proposed in School Hill had been received and would be considered by the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee next week for resolution; and*
- *Blocked drains an issue in Dawlish – generally only cleared once every 3 years which is unfortunate – this was being regularly reported to the DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer.*

Resolved that the report be noted.

100 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor L. Petherick

Lawn Working Group

Councillor Byron Woods and I have had an informal meeting with officers at Teignbridge, we will be reporting back to The Lawn Working Group shortly.

Litter and Dog Bin Policy

I have had a lot of enquiries about dog bins and emptying of dog bins, I hope the following information from the Litter and Dog Bin Policy is of interest:

- *Teignbridge District Council has no legal duty to provide litter and dog waste bins, but it does have a duty to keep Council owned land and public highways clear of litter and refuse as far as is practicable.*
- *Once bins are installed the authority has a duty to ensure that the bins are emptied regularly and kept clean.*
- *There approximately 615 litter bins and 432 dog bins in varying condition across the District with a capital value of £166,000.*
- *All requests for new bins must be received from either Town or Parish Councils (form on the website). The request must demonstrate why there is the need for a bin and include: Plan of the location for the bin, type of bin required, and any financial assistance proposed by the Town or Parish Council.*
- *Bins will only be supplied, installed, maintained or emptied if they are on land for which TDC has responsibility.*
- *Bins will be emptied at a frequency to prevent them overflowing. This will be based on their locations and related to the intensity of use. The frequency may also vary according to the time of year and for special events. Monitoring will take place to ensure that these frequencies are enough.*

The full policy is on the TDC website for any further information required.

Newton Abbot Civic Service

I attended the Newton Abbot Civic Service with Cllr John Petherick as Teignbridge representative; it was a lovely Service and it was very well attended.

Local Planning Group and Greater Exeter Strategic Planning Group

The Local Plan is under review and I am a member of both groups, I wanted to make sure that Dawlish has a voice in this process. I know we are tied by Government legislation, but we need to have input into the quantity and quality of the houses being built in the future, especially as climate change is now at the forefront of future developments.

I attend a lot of meetings in Teignbridge and Dawlish, I will report back to the council any outcomes that maybe of interest to my fellow Councillors.

Councillor Wrigley

Councillor Wrigley reported that

- *it was good news that Exmouth Marina would not be looking to dump sludge out to sea;*
- *pleased to report that a situation at the new Redrow estate where the decision to site a new compound had been arbitrarily made was now being removed following collaborative working with residents, Redrow and Teignbridge Planning department; and*
- *he had attended a meeting of the Community Safety Partnership which was the body leading on tackling antisocial behaviour and other concerns in the community.*

Councillor Taylor

Councillor Taylor thanked the County Councillor for assisting in resolving damage in Holcombe caused by heavy traffic using the village roads.

Resolved that the District Councillors' reports be noted.

101 TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Prowse

Councillor Prowse had attended a meeting of the South West Rail Resilience Group and had raised the issue of disability access to Dawlish Station in the hopes that something would be done whilst works were being undertaken in the area.

Councillor Mawhood

Councillor Mawhood advised that:

- *she had attended the Devon Association of Local Councils AGM which had been very interesting;*
- *she had attended the OpenDaw AGM which was a thriving organisation; amazing what they do there – representative Sarah Shorland from DCC was also present looking for information as to what help was present in the town for groups and people;*
- *she had been working with the Events, Projects and Tourism Officer to further Civic Amenities Committee projects;*
- *she had been working in the Memorial Garden in readiness for remembrance services; and*
- *she thanked the County Councillor for taking up residents’ problem in Holcombe.*

Resolved that the Town Councillors’ reports be noted.

102 NOTICE OF MOTION

In accordance with Standing Order 9, Members considered the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Foden.

Stop the Service Charge

The Royal British Legion is calling on the government to remove indefinite leave-to-remain fees for commonwealth armed forces personnel who have served at least 4 years.

The UK relies on the bravery and sacrifice of members of the UK Armed Forces drawn from across the Commonwealth yet charges them thousands of pounds to continue to live here when they leave service. This has to end.

Currently when Commonwealth personnel leave the UK Armed Forces and wish to apply to continue to live in the country they have served for years, they face thousands of pounds of fees to do so. A Service leaver and their partner are presented with a bill of “£4,778 to continue to live in the UK, before taking children into account. While waiting for a decision on their settlement status, former personnel are unable to seek employment and may be left unable to access to statutory support in the same way as their UK civilian peers.

I propose that we as Dawlish Town Council declare our support for this campaign to 'Stop the Service Charge' and to join calls from The Royal British Legion for the Government to abolish visa fees for Commonwealth servicemen and women.

Members discussed the Notice of Motion and it was

Resolved that Dawlish Town Council declare its support for the 'Stop the Service Charge' campaign and join calls from the Royal British Legion for the Government to abolish visa fees for Commonwealth servicemen and woman.

103 SWAN CAM

Members received and considered a report detailing the potential partnership working arrangements with Dawlish Beach Cams for setting up an additional camera, for which the Council would pay set up costs to view the Dawlish Waterfowl. In return, the Council would be able to run targeted advertising throughout the year and direct the public to an online waterfowl donation page. In addition, the camera would be fully accessible to the Police in the event of public space disorder.

Following discussion, it was

Resolved that expenditure of £1,200 towards the operation of a live video streaming camera in partnership with Dawlish Beach Cams be approved, subject to an annual review of the partnership arrangement.

104 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN ACCREDITATION

The Town Council considered whether to reaffirm the Town's dementia friendly status. This had last been achieved in 2015 and was now due for renewal. Members confirmed they had noted the 'understanding dementia' document contained within the agenda pack. Following discussion, it was

Resolved that having noted the circulated document with the agenda, Dawlish Town Council reaffirm its dementia friendly status.

105 MENTAL WELLBEING WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members considered the draft terms of reference circulated with the agenda report, following the decision of the Council at its 30 September meeting to establish a Mental Wellbeing Working Group.

During discussion, concerns were raised that the terms of reference should be more detailed, clearly defining objectives and establishing appropriate criteria for membership of the group. It was proposed and seconded that the terms of

reference be deferred until the Council had heard from the Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager at Teignbridge.

An amendment was proposed and seconded that the group form, meet and bring back a scoping document within one to two months to Council for approval.

A vote was taken on the amended and the result was as follows:

For: 7

Against: 5

Abstentions: 0

The amendment having been passed, a vote was taken on the substantive motion and the result was as follows:

For: 7

Against: 5

Abstentions: 0

The substantive motion having been passed, it was

Resolved that the Mental Wellbeing Group form and bring back a scoping document by the January 2020 Council meeting for approval.

The Mayor invited interested Councillors to put their names forward for joining the Group.

Councillors Dawson, Goodman-Bradbury, James and Tamlyn (in her absence, subject to her approval) put their names forward and a vote was taken, and the result was as follows:

For: 6

Against: 4

Abstentions: 1

Not voting: 1

The proposal having been approved, it was

Resolved that Councillors Dawson, Goodman-Bradbury, James and Tamlyn (subject to her approval) be appointed to the Mental Wellbeing Working Group.

106 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Members received the quarter 2 update report from the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Resolved that the report be noted.

107 GRANTS SCHEME

Members considered a draft larger grants application for funding requests in excess of £2,000.

Following a review of the Council’s grants scheme, the Finance & general Purposes Committee inadvertently worded the revised scheme that allowed grants to be awarded up to £2,000 which meant that no mechanism was available for considering requests in excess of that amount.

In considering the report, Members thanked the Finance Officer for drafting a document in such a short space of time.

With no further debate, it was

Resolved to reinsert the word ‘normally’ to the grant funding form to allow Members the opportunity to consider requests for funding in excess of £2,000.

108 VIREMENT OF MONIES

The Town Council considered a recommendation from the Staffing Committee to vire monies from general reserves to the staff training budget to enable the Town Clerk to undertake the Level 4 Community Governance Qualification delivered by De Montfort University, Leicester.

It was noted in the agenda report that the subject matter of the course would be focused on the community of Dawlish and the governance structure of the Council. The Course was a two-year part time, distance learning course and the Town Clerk would enter into a training agreement that if he were to leave within 2 years of successfully completing the qualification, he would be personally liable to repay a pro-rata amount of the course fee on a sliding scale within those two years.

Resolved that the virement of monies from general reserves to the staff training budget totalling £5,880 be approved.

The meeting was closed by the Mayor at 8.50 p.m.

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Cllr Alison Foden
MAYOR OF DAWLISH