

Dawlish Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the

Town Council

held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday, 4 December 2019 at 7 p.m.

Present:

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

Absent:

Councillor Mayne.

In attendance:

Andrew McKenzie – Town Clerk

Angie Weatherhead – Events, Projects & Tourism Officer

Devon County Councillor for Dawlish and 1 members of the public.

Public Participation:

The member of the public did not wish 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.

109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mawhood (Deputy Mayor), Dawson and Woods.

Resolved that the apologies be noted.

110 AGREEMENT OF THE AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II

Resolved that the agenda between Parts I and II be agreed to.

111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

112 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations.

113 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 6 November 2019 be approved as a correct and accurate record.

114 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 – 24 October 2019
- Planning Committee – 23 October 2019

115 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The Council had been asked whether it wished to participate in the Seaside Award administered by Teignbridge District Council. The scheme cost £530+VAT and the application would be completed by Teignbridge officers on the Town Council's behalf. As the sum fell below the threshold to be considered by Committee, the Clerk advised he would seek approval for this in consultation with the Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee as applications had to be submitted by the end of the December;
- The sound reduction panels for the council chamber would be installed on Thursday, 19 December.

98 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Another busy month, learning about and supporting Dawlish.

9th November – I was invited to a presentation by the Coastal Blue Region, the network of GPs and health care professionals in the Dawlish, Teignmouth and Shaldon area, and led by Dr Alan Desmond, a consultant from Torbay and the Devon Gut Clinic. The 'Bluezone Challenge' is a project with the three main aims of 1) Healthy food 2) Activity 3) Community – Social connections/ support/ Interaction. The South West 28-day Plant-based diet Challenge will be launched on 20th January 2020. I know we will hear more news on this soon, or for more information:

www.28DayRevolution.co.uk

21st November – The Dawlish Chamber of Trade invited me to speak at their meeting about dementia awareness in Dawlish, and the Purple Angel campaign. All the Chamber of Trade members have confirmed and understood the campaign, and I'll be letting Purple Angel know that both we, the Town Council, and the Chamber of Trade, are dementia aware.

26th November – Bridge House invited me to open their brand-new lift and fully refurbished ground floor wet-rooms. Their latest developments and inclusion of fully wheelchair accessible wet rooms have made Bridge House an even more welcoming, exciting and inclusive place.

29th November – the Christmas light switch-on. This was an exciting event, with the fantastic lantern parade and the children from the local schools singing. I've never been so excited about switching lights on! Thank you to all who made it such a fabulous and memorable event.

29th November – the Mayor's Childrens' Christmas Party: 52 happy and excited children attended the party at the Strand Centre, and there was party food and cakes, entertainment from Merlin the Magician, and a visit from Father Christmas who handed presents to the children. Thank you to all involved in making the event so special, and to the hard-working volunteers at the Strand Community Centre.

30th November – judging the Christmas windows in the shops and businesses that entered the Chamber of Trade's competition. A difficult decision to make on such a cold and windy day, and some fantastic Christmas window displays out there.

1st December – a fantastic Christmas market on The Strand, complete with entertainers and music, and again thank you to all involved in organising and running this fantastic event for Dawlish.

Resolved that the report be noted.

99 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Clatworthy advised that:

- *Network Rail gave a brief updated to the Locality Committee – Phase I of the resilience works was expected to be completed in the Spring of 2020. Phase II from the station to the coast guards break water, an outline proposal was due in February 2020 as Listed Building Consent would be required as the Station was a listed building. The consultation for the Holcombe to Teignmouth section would take place sometime in February 2020.*

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- *A new timetable from GWR would begin on 15 December with an overall 30% increase in services. The Exeter to Paignton service would become half hourly. The main line from London to Penzance would not stop between Reading and Taunton.*
- *DCC revenue budget, the projected overspend had increased for period 6 mainly due to children's services and school transport. Funding shortfall was a significant concern. The capital programme was £150M, forecast spend was about £125M so the slippage is 25M which would be carried forward.*
- *SWW at Shutterton – lights due in yesterday and be removed on 20 December until 2 January.*
- *Funding for the strategic sewer would hopefully be in the 2020 budget*
- *The link road – DCC hoping to be in position to submit planning application in March, still awaiting to hear whether agreement between DCC, TDC and landowner was in place.*
- *Double yellow lines – the HATOC agreed to have them in place at Week Lane junction with Mount Pleasant Road, School hill, Stockton Hill and Millin Way at Dawlish Warren.*
- *Police Precept – was £1.18M from Dawlish and last year had increased by 12.7%. the fire precept was £481,000.*
- *He had made 17 grants from his Locality Budget.*

Resolved that the report be noted.

100 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Wrigley

Councillor Wrigley advised that:

- *He had attended the Kingsteignton event 'Do it for Deaks' – Deaks was a popular football player from Kingsteignton who had taken his own life and this event had been well attended by differing organisations to highlight the plight of those looking to take their own lives;*
- *He had attended the Rail Resilience Stakeholders Group Meeting held at Forde House – the previous meeting had discussed accessibility issues and their proposals were now to look at lifts, one at each end of the station with a slightly altered bridge. A low and high sea wall was discussed, modelling suggests a lower walkway seemed to make the tide behaviour worse. Currently talking about an 8.5M high wall around the station – Marine Parade was 7.5M. This was not yet confirmed;*

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- *Thanked all those involved in the excellent switch on of the Christmas Lights in Dawlish which had been a well-attended event; and*
- *Wished to ask that the Council formally thanks Becca Hewitt of Teignbridge District Council for the informative presentation she had given to Members prior to the commencement of the meeting.*

Councillor Taylor

Councillor Taylor advised that:

- *Return of lorries at Elm Grove Road – pleased to report that the construction management plan had been found; spoken to the developer about the matter and it was hoped a resolution would be found shortly.*
- *The road through Holcombe Village that had been damaged due to heavy duty vehicles passing through whilst construction works to new homes was on going was getting to an appropriate resolution and thanked the County Councillor for his involvement in that. He suggested that going forward a weight limit should be implemented above that stated in the construction management plan.*

Resolved that the District Councillors' reports be noted.

101 TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Dawson

1st Meeting with Town Clerk to put together proposed terms of ref. for Suicide Prevention/Mental Wellbeing working group

2nd Attended lantern workshop to support event

6th Full Town Council meeting

7th Climate (and wildlife) emergency meeting

8th Visited Gatehouse Primary Academy school council and 4 classes of year 1 and 2 students, talking about what the town council does, working with TDC and DCC etc

10th Remembrance Day parade and service

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12th Attended ECO group assembly at Gatehouse Primary Academy, chatted to them about possibly working with the children on a project (to go back to Cllr Heath)

14th DAY (Dawlish Action for Youth) meeting

18th Mental Wellbeing/Suicide Prevention working group meeting

20th initial meeting with Cllr Woods regarding snow warden roles/plan
CAC meeting

22nd Apologies sent to Lawn Working Group

27th Volunteering with the young people at Red Rock

29th Participated in lantern parade (very well-done AW)

Other issues dealt with or working on

- the return of lorries at school times on Elm Grove Road and the risk to community safety;
- the impact of private management company charges/contracts on residents living on new estates; and
- general reports to DCC, TDC, Utilities.

Councillor Tamlyn

10/11 Remembrance Parade, Dawlish

11/11 Meeting at Ford House re Exploitation Prevention Toolkit Training

14/11 Planning Meeting

18/11. Mental Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention Working Group Meeting

19/11. Residents Meeting to discuss the Appeal hearing at Ford House on the 26/11 for the Old Rectory. 13 Weech Rd. Dawlish

20/11. CAC pre meeting on dredging by Richard Rainbow from Teignbridge

23/11. Community Mental a Health Roadshow at Kingsteignton

26/11. Meeting at Ford House with Residents re Informal Hearing with the Planning Inspectorate--Appeal against the non-determination of the Planning Application of the Old a Rectory-13 Weech Road. Dawlish

26/11. Events Meeting

28/11. F and G meeting

29/11. Meeting for Roc Action Group- Topic- Communication across the board from those present.

Councillor Heath

Councillor Heath advised that:

- *the United Nations had advised that “the horizon was now no longer around the corner; we can already see it” – CO₂ levels had risen successively over the past 3 years. In Dawlish the Council was now sourcing its energy from green tariffs, leaflets had been distributed, talks with local school children about the climate crisis and the Clerk had begun investigations as to the possibility of installing solar panels on the Manor House.*

Resolved that the Town Councillors’ reports be noted.

102 INTERIM AUDIT REPORT

The Town Clerk referred to the previously circulated report provided by the Council’s internal auditor following their recent visit to the offices to undertake the first interim audit for 2019/20. He noted the report was very positive providing useful suggestions on how to improve processes and was pleased to note the auditor did not feel the need for a second interim visit.

The Clerk advised that:

- The model financial regulations referred to on page 4 of the auditor’s report had been approved by Finance & General Purposes subject to approval by Council in January, and the Committee had appointed Councillor J. Petherick to be the nominated councillor to review bank reconciliations;
- The risk management document referred to on page 5/6 of the auditor’s report would be considered at this meeting as the next item of business;
- Long standing debtors as noted on page 7 of the auditor’s report would be considered in Part II of this meeting; and
- Teignbridge Payroll Services had been sent an excerpt on the review of staff salaries noting that the audit regulations override GDPR legislation for the provision of copy pay slips and other payroll information.

Members thanked the Clerk and the office team for their working in continuing to improve the Council’s handling of financial information and

Resolved that the interim audit report and recommended actions be noted.

103 RISK MANAGEMENT

Members reviewed the risk management report and action plans as circulated with the agenda.

The Clerk advised the report had been compiled using the Local Councils Risk Software; of the service areas the Council was responsible for, 3 had been highlighted as being high risk which had led to action plans being implemented. These showed the intended actions of Council staff to mitigate such risks going forward. These would be brought back to Council once approved, or at 6 months if they had not been completed by then.

Resolved that the risk register be approved, and the action plans be noted.

104 LOCAL FLOOD WARNING SYSTEM AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Members considered the quotation received from the appointed contractors for maintaining the Local Flood Warning System at a proposed cost of £1194+VAT.

Resolved that the maintenance contract be renewed.

105 BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

The Mayor called upon Members to agree to lobby Stagecoach to provide better bus services for the Parish of Dawlish and neighbouring towns / villages, particularly as climate emergencies were being declared. She felt private business also had a role to play in urgent climate action, including the Stagecoach bus company. Members hoped with the new timetable being introduced by Great Western Railway it would encourage bus companies to be more competitive with the railways.

Resolved the Council writes to Stagecoach requesting additional, express and A379 only buses on the number 2 routes and that Teignmouth Town Council be asked to make the same request. Copy of the letter to be sent to Devon County Council, Exeter City Council and Teignbridge District Council.

106 PARISH WELCOME SIGNS

Councillor J. Petherick presented the proposed image design, produced by a local artist that could be included in 'Welcome to the Parish of Dawlish' signs which were intended to be situated at each end of the Parish.

The final font, wording and colour would need to be in accordance with traffic regulations but would be similar in size to the recently installed welcome signs for Teignmouth.

Members had been every impressed with the design and requested that talks now begin with highways officers as to the location, design and installation costs before being brought back to Council for final approval.

Resolved that

- (a) The cost of the artwork (£200) be reimbursed to the artist concerned;
- (b) The council approach Devon County Highways to establish where the signs could be installed, the costs of production and installation, and understand highways requirements for text fonts and colourings; and
- (c) The final proposals including costs be brought back to the Town Council for approval.

107 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members **resolved** to move into Part II and exclude the press and public for the forthcoming items of business on the grounds that exempt information may be disclosed as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

108 WRITE-OFFS

Members considered two long standing debts from 2017 and 2018. These had been attempted to be recovered multiple times however it was now considered recovery was improbably and Council was being asked to formally write off the debts.

Resolved that the debts referred to in the agenda report be written-off.

109 ASSET TRANSFER

Members were advised that the district council had approached the Town Clerk with a proposed asset transfer of a district council function in the town of Dawlish.

Members wished to see explicit details on the proposal before forming a view either in favour or against the proposal.

Resolved that the Town Clerk be authorised to continue information gathering and that such details be reported back to an appropriate meeting of the Council.

The meeting was closed by the Mayor at 8.16 p.m.

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Cllr Alison Foden
MAYOR OF DAWLISH