

Dawlish Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the
Town Council
held at The Manor House, Dawlish on
Wednesday, 8 January 2020 at 7 p.m.

Present:

Councillors Foden (Mayor), Mawhood (Deputy Mayor), Dawson, James, M. Lowther, T. Lowther, Mayne, L. Petherick, Prowse, Tamlyn, Taylor and Wrigley.

In attendance:

Andrew McKenzie – Town Clerk

A representative of the press 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.

128 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Goodman-Bradbury, Heath, J. Petherick and Woods.

Resolved that the apologies be noted.

129 AGREEMENT OF THE AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II

There was no Part II

130 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

131 DISPENSATIONS

There were no dispensations.

132 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

133 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:

- Planning Committee – 4 December 2019

134 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk advised that the sound reduction panels had been successfully installed in the Council Chamber and the resulting difference was noticeable and of great benefit to the room. There was virtually no echo in the room and feedback from users of the hall had been very positive indeed.

135 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

December and the Advent season was super busy. Last month's council meeting was followed by a fantastic Christmas concert given by the local choir, the High C's, party refreshments, and a raffle in aid of my three chosen charities – the RNLI, the Open Daw, and AIMS.

8th December – Teignmouth Civic Christmas Carol Service – I attended this Christmas carol service hosted by the Mayor of Teignmouth, Cllr Robert Phipps.

9th December – Kingsteignton Civic Christmas Carol Service – I attended this Christmas carol service hosted by the Mayor of Kingsteignton, Cllr Dave Rollason.

10th December – Christmas Tree Festival - I attended the official launch of the Dawlish Christmas Tree Festival at St Gregory's Church. Over 40 decorated Christmas trees; it was difficult choosing my favourite.

11th December – Carols by Candlelight – I attended the Carol Service held in the chapel at Luscombe Castle, organised by and fundraising for AIMS, which is one of my charities for this year. A beautiful service.

13th December – Open Daw 'thank you' presentation morning – I was invited to present the awards and certificates to the many outstanding volunteers in our community at the Open Daw. Well done to all the volunteers for their amazing work.

19th December – Planning Committee meeting.

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21st December – Play Park opening at Little Week Close – this was brilliant to cut the ribbon and officially open this brand-new playpark, and it was attended by local families and children.

Thank you to Cllr Val Mawhood and the members of the Civic Amenities Committee and to the Council office staff for all their work on this.

25th December - Christmas Day – I visited Dawlish Hospital, Sefton Hall, and Palm Court, to pass on my Christmas greetings to the patients, residents and staff. I attended the Christmas Day Community Lunch at the Strand Centre and wished Christmas greetings to all attending. I had also been invited to perform as musician there.

I have let the Coastal Officer at Teignbridge District Council know about the broken concrete and pipework on the beach below the railway station; he has said that he will follow this up.

The Mayor also proposed to send a message of solidarity and hope to Perth, Australia and the State of New South Wales following the devastating wildfires currently gripping the country.

Resolved that the report be noted.

136 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Clatworthy had tendered his apologies for the meeting and no report had been provided.

137 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Wrigley

Councillor Wrigley advised that:

- *He had attended a meeting in Teignmouth which outlined the the proposals of the Rail Resilience Programme along the Holcombe to Teignmouth section of the railway. Residents were alarmed at the apparent loss of the beach at Holcombe notwithstanding the associated loss of ecology and biodiversity. Whatever happens it will be controversial, but it was his opinion the design was not quite right as yet; and*
- *He had begun investigation into the Environment Agency saying they had got their sums wrong regards the protection of Dawlish Warren. When you realise they had not managed to predict the weather patterns at the Warren it was important to have accurate feedback to prevent similar damage to the*

geo tubes from happening again.

Councillor Taylor

Councillor Taylor advised that:

- *The first claim for funding from homes England totalling £426,438 towards the design work for the Dawlish link and bridge. This had been a long time coming but he was pleased there was now movement. He had stated that from the word go they wanted good design principles and materials implemented.*

Resolved that the District Councillors' reports be noted.

138 TOWN COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Prowse

Councillor Prowse had attended a meeting of the Network Rail Stakeholders Group at Exeter Central Station where they had been shown options for the provision of a lift at Dawlish Station. Accessibility was the biggest challenge facing the station and had been for a great many years. Unfortunately, the design proposals had not met favour with the conservation officer at Teignbridge and therefore there would need to be further talks on the design elements of the project if it were to be acceptable going forward.

She also advised that there was currently an interregnum at St George's Church; Revd Chris Curd had now retired and there would not be another priest in charge for the next 6 months.

Councillor Dawson

Updates from the Clinical Commissioning Group meetings:

- *Attended meetings in December – all options again being discussed regards the health hub in Teignmouth and some services moving to Dawlish;*
- *During a meeting prior to Christmas, retention of all services in the area would be retained and any future change should involve an impact assessment on Dawlish hospital and associated parking;*

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- *It seemed the CCG were again looking at all the options again as now, with the outcome of the general election, a different direction might be taken but this remained to be seen.*

Councillor Mawhood

Councillor Mawhood stated that:

- *She had attended the Chudleigh Civic Carol Service;*
- *She had attended the Christmas lights switch on and children's party thereafter which had been a lovely evening;*
- *The opening of the refurbished Little Week Play Park at which a little gathering of children had taken place with party bags being distributed to those attending; and*
- *She continued to monitor the heavy traffic situations through Holcombe and the concerns residents had with the potential loss of beach between Holcombe and Teignmouth.*

Councillor T. Lowther

He had attended the Carnival Committee AGM and there had been a complete change in management with the Chairman standing down and several other key figures changing for a variety of reasons. There would certainly be a carnival this year, there was funding available and a general will to deliver, but he suggested Dawlish Town Council note a formal message of thanks to the previous Committee for what it delivered for the town and to wish the new Committee all the best for the future.

Resolved that the Town Councillors' reports be noted.

139 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS 2019

The Town Clerk referred to the previously circulated report to the Council's Finance & General Purposes Committee which had considered its contents at its meeting on 28 November 2019 at which it made no amendments and recommended the documents approval and adoption by the Town Council.

The Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee commended the report to the Council and noted that it continued to keep the Council up to date with national legislative changes with the document being aligned to the National Association of Local Council's model regulations.

Resolved that the Financial Regulations 2019 be approved and adopted.

140 STAFFING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members considered a referral from the Council's Staffing Committee which recommended amending the Committee's Terms of Reference to state that membership of the committee last for the duration of the Council term, saving for the Deputy Mayor's position which would continue to change annually, on the basis that it provided continuity and experience.

During discussion, Members expressed concern that agreeing to such a proposal would tie the hands of the Council rather than being able to review the membership of the committee annually as with all committees. Making no changes was always an option and this was the benefit of retaining flexibility.

Resolved that the suggested amendment be not agreed to.

141 GRANT FUNDING

Town Council considered a proposal by the Events, Projects and Tourism Officer to apply for grant funding of up to £10,000 for the replacement of events equipment.

Resolved that the Events, Projects & Tourism Officer be authorised to apply for grant funding of up to £10,000 for the replacement of events equipment.

142 PROVISION OF MEMEBRS' IT

Members received a report recommending the purchase of iPads for those Members who wished to use them in order to access Council communications, emails, receiving summons to meetings and engaging with constituents. The Town Clerk reiterated that following the Council's declaration of a climate emergency, the Council was taking steps to reduce its reliance on paper and printing, in addition to working more efficiently for both Members and officers.

It was suggested that the recommendation to purchase a maximum of 10 iPads be changed to *'that the office has the mandate to purchase iPads for those Councillors who would like one'* so that the Council did not bind itself to a fixed amount.

During discussion, it was noted that Town Councillors do not receive any form of allowance and as such the supply and use of a device for a Members tenure on the Council would go some way to attracting those wishing to stand for election who may not have the financial means to furnish themselves with the necessary technology as it was acknowledged that most communication, be it from the Council

or from constituents was now transacted online. However, those Members who felt they already had an acceptable solution, laptop or other device were under no obligation to have an iPad.

Resolved that

- (a) The purchase of iPads (with cases) for members who would like one be agreed to;
- (b) The purchase of two iPads (with cases) for staff use be agreed to; and
- (c) That the purchases be funded by a virement from general reserves.

143 MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE PREVENTION WORKING GROUP

Members received the draft scoping document submitted by the Working Group for Council approval which detailed its aims and objectives.

In presenting the report the Chairman of the Working Group hoped Members could support such aims which had been based on working knowledge from the Senior Community Safety Officer at Teignbridge and informed by a number of reports into the local issues relating to mental health and suicide.

In discussing the report, it was suggested that the appointment of external persons to the group (maximum 4) be approved by the Council at a later date.

Resolved that the scoping document be agreed to and that the appointment of external members be approved by a future Council meeting.

The meeting was closed by the Mayor at 7.59 p.m.

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Cllr Alison Foden
MAYOR OF DAWLISH