

Dawlish Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the
Town Council
held on
Wednesday, 7th February 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present:

Councillors Dawson (Mayor), Goodman-Bradbury (Deputy Mayor), Foden, Graham-Ellis, Heath, Heywood, James, Littlewood, Mayne, Pyne, Weatherhead and Wrigley

Absent:

Councillors Hardy, James, J. Petherick and L. Petherick

In attendance:

Public Participation:

There was no public participation

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

156 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hardy, A. James, J Petherick and L. Petherick.

Resolved that the apologies be noted.

157 AGREEMENT OF THE AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II

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

158 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Goodman-Bradbury and Cllrs Wrigley declared interests in relation to 'Families in Need' section of Item 8 Town Mayor's Announcements as they were portfolio holders at Teignbridge District Council. They would speak but not vote.

159 DISPENSATIONS

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There were no dispensations.

160 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10 January and 24 January 2024.

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Council meetings held on 10 January and 24 January 2024 be approved and signed as a correct and accurate record.

161 DITTO'S OF DAWLISH

Resolved that Item 9 on the agenda be moved to be discussed before Item 6 on the agenda.

Standing orders were suspended at 7.13pm to allow members of the public to speak.

Following the positive responses to the Ditto trail last year 45 were planned for 2024 with a new trail map which would be numbered. The first book had won an international award. Powderham Castle were now a sponsor of some of the leaflets. Launch would be at the Council's Easter event on Saturday 30th March 2024 in the Manor House Gardens.

Standing orders were resumed at 7.19pm.

Resolved that the location of the Manor House Ditto was agreed and the report was noted.

162 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES FOR ADOPTION

Resolved that the minutes set out below, approved by the relevant Committee and signed by the Chair as a correct record of that meeting, be adopted:

- Civic Amenities Committee – 15 November 2023
- Events Committee – 14 November 2023
- Finance & General Purposes Committee – 23 November 2023
- Manor House & Riverside Centre Committee – 21 December 2023
- Planning Committee – 7 December 2023

163 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Resolved that the report was noted.

164 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllrs Pyne and Weatherhead left the meeting at 7.31pm.

Resolved that Dawlish Town Council approach District Councillors Wrigley and Goodman Bradbury for funding appropriate books celebrating International Women's Day 2024 that the Council would then give to local schools.

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A number of issues relating to the desperate situation with housing were discussed.

Resolved with two councillors not voting that Dawlish Town Council write a letter to Homes England, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the MP adding the Council's voice to those lobbying for more housing schemes and noting that Teignbridge District Council's Housing Department was doing an excellent job despite the high demand. The letter should include reference that the Council was open to discussion to contributing to a campaign on empty homes if that would be helpful.

165 STANDING ORDERS - ADDITION

The office is to write a handbook regarding the Freeman/Woman/Person of the Parish procedure and within that it is explicitly stated that it is an exceptional and rare award.

Resolved with three abstentions that Dawlish Town Council:

- a. adopt Section 29 of the Local Democracy, economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to permit it to grant the title of Honorary Freeman / Woman / Person of the Parish of Dawlish, and;
- b. amend standing orders to include:

30. Grant of the Title of Freeman/Woman of the Parish of Dawlish

The Council has formally adopted Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 allowing it to grant the title of Honorary Freeman, Freewoman, or Freeperson of the Parish of Dawlish.

A decision to bestow such an honour is required to be made at a meeting of the Council specifically called for that purpose. Additionally, at least two thirds of those present and voting must vote in favour of the proposal to confer the honour.

The rights attached to the honorary position are not stipulated in legislation, therefore, this Council will invite its Honorary Freeman/Woman/Person to all civic events. An illuminated scroll, held in a casket, and badge of honour will be presented to the Honorary Freeman/Woman/Person.

166 RURAL SKIP SERVICE - UPDATE

The Finance and Administration Officer reported on feedback from the recent skip service and was asked to confirm what happened to the non-recyclable waste collected in the skip service.

Resolved that the changes to the skip service be agreed as set out in the paper.

Cllr Heath left the meeting.

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167 TOWN CRIER: JOB DESCRIPTION AND INTERVIEW PANEL

Resolved that job description for the role of the Dawlish Town Crier was approved as set out in the paper and the composition of the interview panel was agreed with the authority delegated to the panel to appoint the successful candidate.

168 NOTICE OF MOTION - SUICIDE PREVENTION / SELF-HARM INTERNET HELP GROUPS

The item was withdrawn for next Town Council meeting.

169 NOTICE OF MOTION - CLOSURE OF POST OFFICE COUNTERS

Cllrs Pyne and Weatherhead returned to the meeting at 8.20pm

At the next banking hub stakeholders meeting the issue of whether the hub could include all post office services be raised.

Resolved that Tesco, One Stop Stores Ltd and the MP be written to, to reconsider the decision to close the Post Office counters at their shop in Dawlish, to continue to be a community store for Dawlish by providing all the Post Office services at Post Office counters and continuing to employ Post Office trained staff and that they consider a public consultation with the people, businesses and Town Council in Dawlish.

170 SKATE PARK WORKING GROUP

Resolved that Cllr Wrigley be appointed to the Skate Park Working Group with an understanding he would not be able to attend every meeting.

171 TOURISM WORKING GROUP

Resolved that Cllrs Dawson, Graham-Ellis, Mayne and Pyne join the Tourism Working Group.

172 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Wrigley reported that:

- Devolution deal – there would be a period of public consultation from 12th February. The combined county authority structure was not ideal in the voting members configuration.
- Budget – there had been meeting to agree the budget and there would be cuts in services despite increases in care disability grants. The budget for SEN was overspent.
- Teignmouth Hospital – The closure would now take place as the review failed. A review could be asked for of the review but it was unlikely to change the outcome. The focus was now on what to use the site for in the future and if it could be health related.

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- Pot holes – this was continuing to be reported.
- Street lighting – a question was asked if these lights were cheaper to be kept on during the day rather than turned off as a number were on in the day. Other items raised by Town Councillors were: broken lights on the seafront bus stop, lack of flashing 20mph lights working at Elm Grove Road, markings at Weech Road needed re-doing, issues with the bus stop at Lady's Mile and a wall at Cockwood being regularly knocked down by drivers. Cllr Wrigley will follow these items up and ask for an officer to visit on the last matter.
- 20mph speed limit in local areas was out to consultation.

Resolved that the report was noted.

173 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Cllr Dawson

Cllr Dawson reported that she has an online meeting with the Drainage and Coastal Manager of Teignbridge District Council in the coming weeks regarding the bridge in the Manor Gardens and the current situation regarding the Brook after the recent flash flood. Cllr Dawson had also meet with the local bowling clubs.

Cllr Goodman-Bradbury

Cllr Goodman-Bradbury reported on working being undertaken as the Executive Member for Homes and Communities at the District Council.

Resolved that the reports were noted.

174 TOWN COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

There were no reports.

175 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members **resolved** the following resolution:

That in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the following items on the basis that the information to be disclosed would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The member of the public left the meeting.

176 FREEMAN / WOMAN / PERSON OF THE PARISH OF DAWLISH

At 20.59 it was **resolved** to extend the meeting for up to half an hour.

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Resolved that the report was noted.

The meeting was closed by the Mayor at 9.02 pm

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Cllr Alison Foden
MAYOR OF DAWLISH