

## Dawlish Town Council

Minutes of a Remote Meeting of the  
**Town Council**  
held on  
Wednesday, 6th January 2021 at 7.00 pm

### **Present:**

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

### **In attendance:**

Andrew McKenzie - Town Clerk  
Angie Weatherhead - Events, Projects & Tourism Officer  
PC Hogan – Neighbourhood Police Officer  
Rebecca Hewitt – Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager, Teignbridge District Council

### **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

#### **333 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **334 AGREEMENT OF THE AGENDA BETWEEN PARTS I AND II**

The Town Clerk clarified that the item on homelessness in Dawlish was in Part II session due to the likelihood of case specific details being disclosed to the meeting.

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

#### **335 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Wrigley declared an Appendix B interest in the Part II item by virtue of being the Portfolio Holder for Housing (including homelessness) at Teignbridge District Council. He would take part in the debate and decide at the time whether to take part in any vote.

#### **336 DISPENSATIONS**

There were no dispensations.

## Dawlish Town Council

### 337 MINUTES

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2020.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December be approved and signed as a correct and accurate record.

### 338 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 – 12 November and 3 December 2020.

### 339 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town clerk wished Members a Happy New Year and provided an update as follows:

- In light of the national lockdown, the Manor House and Riverside Centre were now closed to general bookings except for exempt activities which included education and training, support groups, weddings and funerals;
- The Brook Lights had been successfully turned on shortly after the December Council meeting – there had been issues with the lights at Tuck's Plot and several sections near to the boating lake. As per the agreement with Teignbridge remedial works would not be undertaken but it is acknowledged District officers, in line with their general duties in the area had attempted to restart the lights at Tuck's Plot but they continued to fail;
- Teignbridge's Executive Committee had considered the draft budget proposals at their meeting on 5 January and these would soon go out for public consultation via their website;
- The Town Council continued its budget setting process which would culminate in a recommendation coming to the budget meeting of the council on 27 January; and
- The Helping Dawlish collaboration was up and running again in preparation for assistance that may be required during the lockdown period for vulnerable and isolating individuals / families. The Christmas Hugs in a Bag project had been successful with over 100 packs being delivered, assisted by Devon & Cornwall Police. The group had received several complementary messages. Further information if required could be found at [www.helpingdawlish.co.uk](http://www.helpingdawlish.co.uk).

**Resolved** that the update be noted.

**340 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The start of this new year brings with it the optimism and hope of a better year. The exciting news of another vaccine – from the University of Oxford and Astra Zeneca – together with the Pfizer vaccine, gives us hope that we can fight the Covid-19 virus.*

*Thinking back to what we have achieved in Dawlish and our Parish, I am happy and truly grateful for all who have volunteered to helping their neighbours and friends, and to helping our communities, and to all the volunteers and organisations that are working together as Helping Dawlish.*

*A big thank you to all our key workers – to the scientists who are working on these vaccines, to all staff in the NHS and pharmacies, in care homes, teachers, farmers, logistics workers, local shops and businesses and supermarket staff.*

*In the run up to Christmas, the town has looked fantastic, with all the Christmas trees, lights and shop windows, and with the nativity scene and the Christmas Tree on the Lawn too, and the late-night shopping nights. Thanks to all the traders, and to our Projects Officer for her help with organising this.*

*On Christmas Day, I helped with delivering Christmas dinners, cooked by volunteers at The Strand Centre, together with bags of presents, to vulnerable and isolated people in Dawlish.*

Thank you to all the volunteers who will be assisting our Projects Officer with the car parking and vaccination marshalling for the Barton Surgery, during the next few weeks of vaccination roll-out.

Finally, a poem that keeps me going in these cold winter days, by the poet Emily Dickinson (1861):

*Hope is the thing with feathers  
That perches in the soul,  
And sings the tune without the words,  
And never stops at all,*

*And sweetest in the gale is heard;  
And sore must be the storm  
That could abash the little bird  
That kept so many warm.*

*I've heard it in the chilliest land,  
And on the strangest sea;  
Yet, never, in extremity,  
It asked a crumb of me.*

With best wishes for a happier and healthy 2021 to you all. Stay safe - hands, face, and space.

341 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor John Clatworthy

1. *The principal Highway Contractor Skanska GB has entered a binding contract with MGroup Services to deliver the DCC Highways Team Services contract wef 31-3-21; they carry out about 40% on the work and other contractors are employed under the Framework Agreement like SWH and Glendinings locally.*
2. *DCC received £2.04 million from the Government to provide free school meals over the Xmas period; DCC support 14,774 children with 300+ in Dawlish.*
3. *I attended the DCC virtual DCC Spotlight review into the Modernising health and care services in Teignmouth and Dawlish area and there was a proposal that the matter be referred to an Independent reconfiguration Panel, having said that the Governors approved the proposals at their Board meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December. The Trust were asked to consider providing secondary office space at Dawlish hospital for physiotherapists, occupation therapists and district nurses. I am awaiting an up-date on the recruitment of staff so that the MIU can re-open*
4. *I was glad to hear the Communities Minister Patrick Jenerick has abandoned the planning algorithm approach on housing numbers which would have brought significant HOUSE BUILDING AND WAS FLAWED IN MY VIEW. There is nothing wrong with the Local Plan approach providing the Local Planning Authority keep the plans up to-date with a 5-year land bank for housing otherwise developers will be successful on appeal which has happened locally.*
5. *Regarding Highway issues there is a proposal for no parking on parts of Cofton Hill to prevent parking on narrow sections of the road that has prevented access for emergency vehicles. "SLOW" markings have been marked on the cycle-paths at Warren Road and Exeter Road and double yellow lines have been painted on School Hill. Requests for 20mph zones will have to await the outcome of the Pilot in Newton Abbot scheduled to start in 2021.*
6. *I am awaiting an up-date from officers on the Link Road.*
7. *To-date I have made 19 grants from the Locality Budget available to members this year.*

Cllr John Clatworthy  
December 2020

**342 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Councillor Wrigley

Councillor Wrigley advised that:

- The budget process had started and would be a challenging time given the loss of income from car parks and other service areas.
- The Executive meeting held on Tuesday had decided to retain the 100% council tax relief scheme for those in need;
- Teignbridge had rapidly moved into lockdown mode and was setting itself up for the new grants scheme that were to come from central government; and
- He thanked town council staff for doing the same and making alternative arrangements during the lockdown period.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

**343 TOWN COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

Councillor Prowse

*DEVELOPMENT AT SMUGGLERS*

*I attended the meeting with Network rail and interested parties and specialists on the plans for the safeguarding of the line from Smugglers lane to Teignmouth and the development of the cycle path to link up at Newton Abbot. It was very interesting as there are several options on the table. No decision was made but I, supported by others with local knowledge pointed out the danger of access at the top of Smugglers Lane.*

*Roger North from DCC was in attendance and updated us on cycle path options.*

*As to the loss of beach some alterations in plans have been made but I felt that the development along there would be of great benefit to both residents and visitors who are interested in cycling and walking We wait to hear more in the new year*

*Cllr Rosalind Prowse  
Railway Representative*

Councillor Heath

*The Solar survey had been scheduled for the middle of January for the Manor House but that was before the lockdown. He had not heard from them since, but as they were essential building maintenance he believed it would be allowed to go ahead. Subject to that he hoped to be able to keep things moving.*

## Dawlish Town Council

### Councillor Tamlyn

*The Mental Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention working group has had a busy year. Our aim is to make Dawlish residents aware of the concepts of mental health and suicide prevention and therefore make it a caring and safer town.*

*Our "Do you need help?" leaflet was published and delivered to over 6,500 households in Dawlish and parish during October.*

*The leaflets were well received, and this is an email I received from a resident – "well done, so many really helpful numbers and notes on suicidal thoughts were so realistic and practical I did know those helplines or numbers for survivors of suicide victims. They weren't in existence when I would have benefited from them. I am sure that lots of people pinned these leaflets up in their kitchen".*

*In December group members delivered our second project – 200 posters which were a smaller version of the leaflet mentioned above. The self-adhesive poster was placed on the back of toilet doors in public places with the agreement of the owner and TDC.*

*We quickly ran out of posters and realised that we still needed more. Both versions of the poster and leaflet are available on the Town Council's website.*

*The mayor sent this email to the group in December shortly after the leaflets were distributed.*

*"a young member of the public stopped me on the Strand this morning to say thank you for the mental wellbeing poster that he had seen in the public toilets by the former TIC. He said "what a brilliant idea at this time when there are a lot of younger men, like me, on the edge – the numbers to call are really helpful. He also said that Dawlish has a real community – a town that cares".*

*We have had so many positive emails, feedback and publicity for the work we have produced. We feel that we have achieved a lot in the last year, especially during the pandemic by helping the public to be aware of the help and support that is available to them at this difficult time.*

*At our January meeting we shall be looking at other projects that we feel would be appropriate to the Parish and will inform the Full Council accordingly.*

*Cllr Carole Tamlyn*

*Chairman of Mental Wellbeing and Suicide Prevention Working Group*

Councillor Tamlyn gave a brief update following the working group meeting yesterday. Up to 4 members could join the group and it would repeat again if anyone would like to join the group, they should contact the Town Clerk for further information. A project was discussed at the meeting that the group would like to pursue, concerning how to tackle

## Dawlish Town Council

loneliness and it was anticipated that further information would be brought to the February Council meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that the digital version of the Town Crier had included information on Members of the public joining the group but as yet had not received responses.

**Resolved** that the reports be noted.

### **344 STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL 2021**

Members considered the Statement of Internal Control which had been updated to reflect the most recent version of the Governance and Accountability in Local Councils: A Practitioners' Guide, which had been updated in March 2020.

**Resolved** that the Statement of Internal Control be adopted as set out.

### **345 LOVE TEIGNMOUTH AND LOVE DAWLISH WEBSITE**

Members considered a report as circulated with the agenda concerning the Love Dawlish / Love Teignmouth websites, an asset of the now defunct Teignmouth and Dawlish Community Interest Company and the potential desire to reinvigorate the pages.

Following questions from Members, the following points were clarified:

- There was one website which hosted two separate domains, one for Love Dawlish and another for Love Teignmouth, with Parish specific information, guides and images on each;
- Currently if visiting the Love Dawlish page, it would display the correct information but would direct to Love Teignmouth but this could be easily changed going forward;
- The residual monies were held by Teignbridge because the articles of association of the former CIC stated that any monies or assets be held by the District Council. The two Town Councils did have a working party investigating the potential for joint working in a more strategic sense such as a joint committee with a budget but it was felt both Council's had moved past that point and were now focusing on a project by project basis where they could be a benefit to both towns. Teignmouth Town Council had already requested the monies to be returned and it was hoped that Dawlish would add its weight to those calls. Going forward it was hoped the websites could bring in advertising income which could make the project cost neutral or realise a small income;
- The matter had not been before this Council previously; it was felt it was not appropriate to bring to the December meeting given the item on the Tourist Information Centre;

## Dawlish Town Council

- At a point in the year each time the cost of the hosting needed to be determined; last year both Councils had agreed to carry it forward. Not doing so could mean the sites being taken over by a third-party.

At this juncture, it was proposed that the item be referred to the Tourism Strategy Working Group for detailed consideration including potential costs.

The proposal was duly seconded.

Members further commented that if a website was receiving 9 million hits and it continued to be down, it would begin to lose traffic and rankings in terms of google searches. It was also much easier to take an existing site and improve rather than starting from a blank canvass. Re-hosting the site and making GDPR compliant changes would likely be a minimal cost. The Tourism Strategy Working Group would then be able to look at its longer term development.

It was therefore further proposed that members accept the recommendations as set out in the agenda report and that

- (a) the Tourism Strategy Working Group look at the longer term development options for the website;
- (b) that regular reports on the performance of the website be brought back to either Full Council or Finance & General Purposes Committee; and
- (c) that the landing page either be made neutral, or refers to either Love Dawlish or Love Teignmouth, depending on the route the visitor makes.

The proposal was duly seconded.

In light of the clarification received, the seconder to the original motion withdrew his support.

Members were advised that the site was maintained up until approximately 6 months ago by volunteers; what was not down was the social media presence for Love Dawlish / Love Teignmouth.

The domain names were renewed biannually and the hosting cost was approx. £250 annually which was shared between the two Town Councils.

**Resolved** that the recommendations as per the agenda report be approved as set out, in addition to

- (a) the Tourism Strategy Working Group looking at the longer term development options for the website;

## Dawlish Town Council

- (b) that regular reports on the performance of the website be brought back to either Full Council or Finance & General Purposes Committee; and
- (c) that the landing page either be made neutral, or refers to either Love Dawlish or Love Teignmouth, depending on the route the visitor makes.

### 346 DRAFT INTERIM DEVON CARBON PLAN

Members considered whether the Council should submit a corporate response to the Interim Devon Carbon Plan.

It was proposed that Councillors submit responses individually to the plan, and that the Climate Declaration Working Group to look at the document and formulate a recommendation on behalf of the Town Council.

The Town Clerk clarified that the Working Group did not have any decision making powers, however he could have delegated authority to submit a response on behalf of the Council, in consultation with the Climate Declaration Working Group.

**Resolved** that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to respond to the Draft Interim Devon Carbon Plan in consultation with the Climate Declaration Working Group, and that Councillors are encouraged to respond individually to the consultation themselves.

### 347 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2021/22

Members considered the draft programme of meetings for the 2021/22 municipal year.

During discussion it was noted that all meetings commenced at 7 p.m., save for Staffing Committee and Manor House & Riverside Centre Committee, both of which started at 9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. respectfully.

It was proposed the Planning Committee scheduled for 30 December 2021 be deleted as this would be during the Christmas close down, and that the Full Town Council meeting scheduled for 5 January 2022 be moved to 12 January 2022.

**Resolved** that the schedule of meetings for the 2021/22 municipal year be approved, subject to:

- (a) Planning Committee on 30 December 2021 being deleted;
- (b) Full Town Council on 5 January being moved to 12 January 2022; and
- (c) The final document detail the start times for all meetings.

### 348 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members approved and **resolved** the following resolution:

**Dawlish Town Council**

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.

**349 HOMELESSNESS IN DAWLISH**

Councillors received case specific information relating to homelessness in Dawlish and the potential for collaborative working with organisations within the Parish as to how best help those without refuge to access support from the relevant authorities.

*At this juncture, Members agreed to extend the meeting by a maximum of 30 minutes by acclamation.*

Items included developing a code of conduct or set of principles that organisations could voluntarily sign up to; this could then be used as one of the criteria for the Council’s grant funding scheme by which to assess an application for funding, and also facilitating information sessions for organisations regarding the help that is available and the processes that should be gone through to provide formal help and support to vulnerable individuals.

**Resolved** that the Town Clerk

- (a) Establish a Zoom session, inviting local organisations to attend in addition to Teignbridge Outreach Team, Police, and Community Safety and Safeguarding; and
- (b) Begin investigating and formulating a draft set of principles or code of conduct with Teignbridge Officers, the Police etc that Council can consider at its February meeting.

*The meeting was closed by the Mayor at 9.20 pm*

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Cllr Alison Foden  
MAYOR OF DAWLISH