

DARWEN TOWN COUNCIL

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**CLERK: REBECCA AF HAY
OLLISTAN,**

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LANCASHIRE**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN DARWEN HERITAGE CENTRE ON TUESDAY, APRIL 3RD, 2018

Present: Couns. Davies, Connor, Perkins , East, Salton, Smith, Slater, Browne, Taylor and Rothwell..

1.Welcome and introduction:

2.Apologies: Couns Brookfield, Hollings, Entwistle.

3.Declarations of Interest: Coun East for Friends of Darwen Cemetery, Friends of Darwen Library and Friends of Darwen Heritage Centre. Coun. Slater for Royal British Legion.

4 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

These were agreed, except for the minor amendment in item 12 updates which should have said “Coun. East gave an update on the litter enforcement action and presented a golden litter picker to Janet Pearce of Ashton Park to mark her efforts. Coun. Smith also thanked her for her recent work in the town.

5 Public forum

Janet Pearce of Ashton Park thanked the parks group for their grant which paid for the de silting project and said there had been many positive comments made by visitors to the park. Coun. Browne said it was nice to receive a letter of thanks as some groups in the town take the money for granted and do not acknowledge grants.

Following last month’s concern that minutes of meetings held by The Friends of Sunnyhurst Woods are not available to the public, it was stressed this was not

the case and the minutes are open to anyone to inspect.

A question over the getting the keys to alleyways was raised in order to clear rubbish from back streets. Coun. East said the borough council hold all the keys and access is given to people who help with litter picks. Janet Pearce of Ashton Park promised to help out if needed.

6 Mayor's report

Coun Davies had attended a Women's Day event, older awareness road safety event, Darwen Vale school theatre performance, Darwen Heritage Centre meeting, shop/café opening.

7 Deputy leader's report

Coun. Connor said the Darwen Events co-ordinator role and Darwen Live drinks bar tenders had now been advertised and tenders received so far by the clerk had been passed onto Coun. Rothwell, the events chairman, unopened and to be inspected..

8 Finance

Authorised payments:

£2,400 – BWD for afternoon variety show at Darwen Library Theatre, annual donation.

£2,400 – The Industry Group, Grace Davies, Darwen Live band.

£10,200 – Tony Denton Promotions for Darwen Live band.

£1,008 – Landscape Engineering – painting of loom and lamp post.

£40 – J. Barritt, PAYE.

£593.34 Rebecca Hay, salary and expenses for clerk.

£25.85 – LCC – clerk's pension contribution.

£180 – Loco Talent – band for Darwen Live.

£900 – The Magnificent Agency – band for Darwen Live.

£3,505.25 – WPS Insurance – annual renewal.

£1,500 – Annual grant to Darwen Gala..

Coun Smith passed around pictures of the work done on the loom and lamppost, near to the motorway junction.

Coun. Davies has requested help for road closures on behalf of the Darwen Gala committee, from CAPITA, but so far had no reply.

Coun. Browne questioned the high expenditure of the Darwen Live bands. It had been agreed in Part 2 at the March meeting that if the contracts were in order to pay. The clerk had expressed concern over what the riders in the contract would cost the council.

Coun. Taylor questioned the high cost of the Christmas market. Coun. Connor explained that due to there being no 3 day market left, the area had no power and so generators, power sockets and security had been drafted in. Also more marquees had to be purchased as the one the town council has is impossible to put up. Coun. Taylor said when the event had been run in the past, it had been to budget and volunteers used.

Receipts and letters of thanks were received from Darwen Cemetry and Darwen Heritage Centre following grants last month.

9 Correspondence

None.

12 Updates

Coun. Browne was asked to produce minutes for parks committee meetings to go onto the council website.

Coun. Rothwell gave an update on Darwen Live and all the paperwork involved and was congratulated for her work by Coun. Slater. Coun. Rothwell praised former organiser, Coun. Trevor Maxfield for all the effort he had put into the event.

Crown Awards had been made to:

Twogates Bowling - £1,090.
Blackburn and Darwen District band - £1,995.
Sunnyhurst Bowling Club – £2,000.
Friends of Square Meadow - £1,350.
Oakfield Crafts Group - £300.
Friends of Sunnyhurst Woods - £2,000.

The band has been asked to perform at 3 events for the town as part of the grant and the Friends of Sunnyhurst Woods are not eligible to apply for funding again for a period of time.

At March's meeting, the clerk had referred a request for funding from the RBL to Crown Paints and advised the officials at RBL re the paperwork. Nothing had been raised at the awards meeting.

A request for funding from Darwen Vale Skate Park was rejected because there were questions over how many Darwen people would benefit. Coun. Smith had referred the group to the CVS for grant options

Coun. Taylor gave an update on the CRY charity and said the next session, which has been fully funded, is full.

Coun. East is preparing Remembrance events and it was suggested he used one of the free band invitations, with an option for First World War songs.

He gave details of a litter innovation project and said heritage week is being finalised with the theme being “outstanding women”.

Coun. Taylor asked if the minutes of town council meetings could be circulated to members first and checked by the deputy chairman before being released to the public to avoid any errors. The clerk said the correct procedure is to make any amendments at the next meeting and councillors agreed to carry on with this method.

Mr T. Foster of Darwen Heritage Centre thanked the council for holding a meeting in the centre and for the latest donation. He invited people to look around and enjoy refreshments.

11 Any other business

None.

12 Part 2 – public and press excluded.

13 Date of next meeting.

May 15th 2018, 7-15 p.m. Darwen Town Hall, following the AGM at 7 p.m.
Agenda items to be with the clerk by April 30th please.