

DARWEN TOWN COUNCIL

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**CLERK: REBECCA AF HAY
OLLISTAN,**

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LANCASHIRE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN DARWEN TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY,
JUNE 5TH, 2018**

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

1.Welcome and introduction: .

2.Apologies: Couns. Taylor, Hollings and Brookfield.

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, with two minor amendments. The meeting took place in Darwen Town Hall and not the heritage centre and in item 7 it should read Maureen Bateson.

5 Public forum

Janet Pearce from Keep Darwen Tidy gave a report outlining the current successes of the group who have attracted local residents, school children and Brownies. Hunter's Estate Agents provided a skip for one of the clean ups and 1,276 red bags have been filled in the last 12 weeks. The group is working closely with BWD council and the local refuse collectors. Janet said it was now a case of getting more residents to take a pride in their areas. Thanks were given to Coun. Smith for leafleting the area.

Coun. Rothwell said Janet had been nominated for a well deserved award and

Coun. Davies thanked Janet for her efforts and said the town council would try to assist in any way, such as skips etc.

Coun. Browne said Derwent Street and the green areas around it had been cleaned wonderfully, but the black bin bags not collected and now they are starting to scatter litter again.

Mark Atkinson highlighted the good work of the Hollinsgreave Congregational Church and asked councillors to promote the community rooms there, which are available to hire, in order to keep the church going.

David Horsefield asked if the people put through the SIA badges by the council helped at Darwen Live. Coun. Rothwell said a private security firm had been used. The clerk said the SIA badges were for a certain time only and the people who had them had helped at Darwen Live events corresponding to their expiry date.

Mr Horsefield also asked re the town crier. Coun. Browne said the current town crier had resigned due to work commitments. It was agreed to discuss at the next meeting and to ask for the uniform etc to be returned.

6 Mayor's report

Coun Davies had attended a meeting at the heritage centre.

7 Deputy leader's report

Coun. Connor said a minute's silence in memory of the Manchester bomb victims had been well attended and observed. He said a craft fair held before Darwen Live had been very successful. Coun. Rothwell said a new system was being implemented between the borough and town councils to enable both authorities to know when events will be held to avoid any potential clashes or problems. Coun. Connor paid tribute to Coun. Rothwell and Darren James for the successful organisation of Darwen Live.

Coun. Connor said BWD were organising access passes to the town hall for those councillors without.

He said he was also working with a local resident who was trying to organise a direct bus service between Darwen and Manchester, which would benefit both shoppers and future employment prospects. A non political committee has been set up and Coun. Connor invited other councillors to join the project.

8. Data Protection Policy

Data Protection policies had been created and all councillors had received a copy. These were adopted and will be put on the website. It was agreed to remunerate the clerk as Data Protection Officer for a one off of six hours overtime and then 2 hours each month added to her salary.

9 Finance

Paid in: £1,000 – Vantage Motor Group – sponsorship of Darwen Live.
£800 – Walter Chadwick – food catering for Darwen Live.
£400 – Ripplehead Ices for Darwen Live.
£1,332 – Darwen Live t shirt sales.

Authorised payments:

£35 – Information Commissioner's Office to register Data Protection.
£589 - Rebecca Hay, salary and expenses for clerk.
£26.62 – LCC – clerk's pension contribution.
£518.40 – Affordable Leaflets for banners for Darwen Live.
£60 – Lancashire Fire Safety for bells for Darwen Live.
£220 – BWD – bus stop suspension for Darwen Live.
£700 – Electro 80's – Darwen Live band.
£72.96 – Coun. V. Rothwell, ink cartridges for Darwen Live.
£8,964 – Resonate Productions for Darwen Live staging, lighting etc.
£2,274 – Portable Toilets for Darwen Live.
£12,588 – Exclusive Security –
for Darwen Live

No specific events have been planned this year for Darwen for the annual youth festival, so it was agreed not to offer any funding this year and advise the organisers to contact next year if the situation changes. Coun. Connor said because some of the events coincide with the start and end of the financial year, it would be good to get an idea well in advance of events and costings to accommodate the budget. Coun. Smith said in 2020 the town council would have to stand alone in organising its own elections and costs. He said he would find out more information for the next meeting.

10. Correspondence

None.

11 Updates

Coun. Rothwell gave an update on Darwen Live and said there had been around 32,000 people attending the event, the good weather and behaviour of the crowd

had led to a very successful event with a mixture of music to suit all tastes. She praised founder organiser Trevor Maxfield for all his hard efforts which had laid the foundations for the event.

Coun. Rothwell also praised the craft show held prior to Darwen Live and said it had attracted a mix of all ages.

Coun. Smith said the bigger area now available in the market square had helped to provide a better amphitheatre for the events.

Coun. East gave an update on the extra planters. It was agreed to authorise a one off payment of £1,250 and then the planters to be added to the tenders for future years.

12 Any other business

Coun. N Slater asked that the Mayoral structure be looked at within the council constitution. It was agreed to do this before the next AGM.

Coun. Browne asked re the flag situation as some are looking tatty. These are to be left up until after the World Cup. Coun. Connor said the flag organisation needed looking at, as a new contractor would be needed to put them up and take down and this could prove costly and time consuming. It may be an idea to encourage businesses to look after them. Coun. Davies said weights were needed in order to stop the flags from wrapping round the poles.

Coun. East gave details of the World War I memorial statue unveiling on July 2nd at Darwen Cemetery.

Coun. Smith asked for the councillors details to be updated on the council website. The clerk to forward the request to the website administrator.

13 Part 2 – public and press excluded.

One item was discussed.

14 Date of next meeting.

July 3rd at 7 p.m. Agenda items to be with the clerk by June 25th please.