

DARWEN TOWN COUNCIL

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**CLERK: REBECCA AF HAY
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN DARWEN TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 5TH, 2017**

Present: Couns. Davies, Connor, Perkins ,Entwistle, East, Salton, Smith, Slater, Taylor, Brookfield, Browne.

1.Welcome and introduction:

2.Apologies: Couns. Rothwell and Hollings.

3.Declarations of Interest: None.

4 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

These were agreed.

5 Public forum

The Mayor was questioned over his negative promotion of Darwen in the national Press. Coun. Davies said he worked hard to promote Darwen, a town he loved, but he would not lie and say everything was alright. He said there are problems with the day time economy, but things are improving and the night time economy is doing well.

Coun. Smith urged the councillors to talk Darwen up and promote and publicise all the good things which take place in the town. It was noted that a party from Shropshire, on a visit to the town to see the heritage centre, had commented on how impressed they were with Darwen.

A report on the progress of Whitehall Park was given, although the supporters group are not to have a food bank point, they are to donate any surplus selection

boxes from their Christmas event to the needy. Plans to improve the paths and seek quotes for the work are ongoing with the borough council. Details of Christmas events were also given.

Councillors agreed the parks supporters groups in the town do an excellent job and benefit from the town council's financial input.

Ideas of how to mark the end of WW1 were muted, including putting plastic poppies on lampposts in the streets where service men and women who lost their lives, lived. Coun. Taylor suggested the poppies are also put up at the heritage centre to promote it. Also a booklet detailing the victims could be launched. It was agreed that a committee would be formed to look into the ideas and identify funding needs.

Details of litter and dog fouling enforcements had been sought from the borough council and in a period from October, 141 fixed penalties had been issued, with 42 in Darwen town centre and 57 in Lower Darwen.

Concern was expressed that the forthcoming Christmas market was advertised before being agreed by the full council and funding earmarked.

Advice was sought over bin problems in the Beech Avenue area, the borough councillors to deal with this.

Thanks was given for help with a local football club which has now folded. All kit is to be distributed to other teams in the town.

6 Mayor's report

Coun. Davies gave an update on the events he had attended including Remembrance Day services, a panto, new bar and shop opening. Coun. Davies had also visited the Darwen Food Larder to see their work and urged people to donate. He said he was working towards a long term plan, with ideas such as a wishing tree to allow children to give their ideas for the future and allotments to make people more self sufficient.

Coun. Taylor asked for toys also to be donated. Coun. Browne said goods could also be taken to Lloyds Bank which has a collection point. He said he was concerned Sainsbury's distributed their goods to Blackburn and not Darwen.

Coun. Smith asked for the local Press to be reminded that the correct title is The Mayor of Darwen Town Council. Coun. Slater said the official role of honour also needed to be changed to reflect this.

7 Deputy leader's report

Coun. Connor gave details of a town centre partnership board meeting and said the town was lucky to have good local employers who have been in the town for many years, good volunteers and good town councillors, who are all working together to promote Darwen. He said he was especially proud of the Life

Education programme the town council had financed.

8 Finance

Authorised payments:

£596.76 Rebecca Hay, salary and expenses for clerk.

£25.85 – LCC – clerk's pension contribution.

£1,460 – S Taylor – social media.

£200 – Darwen Food Larder.

£291 – Tristar printers for Christmas market banners.

£1,920 – Bright Sparks fireworks for bonfire night.

£4,258.80 – Life Education mobile classroom.

£120 – Henry Christopher printers for Christmas market leaflets.

£8,532 – Nationwide Marquees for Christmas market.

£432 – Dr Loos for Christmas market.

£2,365.20 – 2BR for Christmas market.

£455 – Jigsaw marquees for Christmas market.

9 Correspondence

None.

10 Updates

Sam Taylor gave an update on the website and said she was working to get the email addresses working again. She had also updated the Crown award information and given the website a higher profile on search engines.

Coun. Connor is to circulate the 2018 budget asap. Coun. Taylor asked Coun. Connor to provide a breakdown of website and social media expenses for 2017.

Coun. Browne to pass on details of expenditure on the parks in 2017 to Coun. Connor.

11 Any other business

Coun. Taylor asked now there is an open space in front of the town hall, if could be floodlit to show off the fine building it is. Coun. Browne said this would be very expensive. Coun. Smith suggested this is discussed when plans for the future of the site are discussed. It was agreed a tree in front would need re shaping to allow for the floodlights.

It was suggested that the Crown Paints Darwen Community Awards, which are funded jointly by the town council, should be publicised more.

12 Date of next meeting.

February 6th, 2018, 7 p.m. in Darwen Town Hall. Agenda items to be with the clerk by January 29th please. There is no meeting in January.

