

# **DARWEN TOWN COUNCIL**

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**CLERK: REBECCA AF HAY  
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LANCASHIRE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN DARWEN TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 6TH, 2018**

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

## **1.Welcome and introduction:**

**2.Apologies:** Couns. Davies, Hollings, Entwistle, Brookfield and Taylor.

**3.Declarations of Interest:** Coun East for Friends of Darwen Cemetery, Friends  
of Darwen Library and Friends of Darwen Heritage Centre.

## **4 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising.**

These were agreed.

### **4.1 Mayor's promotion of Darwen**

Coun. Browne said he did not agree with the negative comments aimed at Coun.  
Davies at the December meeting from the public forum and he did not agree with  
Coun. Smith's request to ask that the formal title of Mayor of Darwen Town  
Council be used as previous Mayor's had been given the title of Mayor of  
Darwen. It was agreed that Coun. Smith was correct with the title.

## **5 Public forum**

Questions were raised over the overspending on the Christmas market. Coun.  
Connor read out a report from event organiser Sam Taylor who said there had  
been a lot of extra and unexpected expenditure due to the weather, problems  
with the power supply and the need for extra security as well as a free entertainer

pulling out at the last minute. It was agreed that the over spending was not ideal, but as the event was the first of its kind, organisers would learn for future years and look at the structure and length of the event in more detail. An offer of running the events was made by a member of the public and this and the event structure and tender process was discussed in Part 2.

A request for farming land available in Darwen was asked and referred to CAPITA.

A report from the Whitehall Park Supporters Group was given including details of the success of the de-silting and a footpaths/drainage plan which is being discussed with the borough council.

It was suggested that Darwen Cricket Club or AFC Darwen's grounds could be used as a venue for Darwen Live to cut down on many costs, such as road closures etc. Coun. Rothwell to pass back to the Darwen Live committee.

A minute's silence was requested following the death of Jay Taylor. This was to be held at the end of the meeting.

Concern that more police are needed in the town centre at night. Coun. Connor said Sgt S. Pearson has visited before the meeting and confirmed there is to be a bigger presence.

## **6 Mayor's report**

The Mayor was absent, Coun. Connor reported Coun. Davies had attended many Christmas events.

## **7 Deputy leader's report**

Coun. Connor outlined the events for the year and said a programme of events has gone to BWD to try and avoid a clash of dates, there was concern that BWD is holding a music event on the same day as Darwen Live in Blackburn, however this is a paid ticketed event and run by an outside company.. Coun. Connor discussed the World War I budget and said there had been discussions with the town centre partnership board to provide a roundel of poppies in the town centre and poppies in other places as suggested by Coun. Taylor and the Friends of Darwen Heritage Centre. Coun. Smith said there were ideas from the borough council for an arts project.

## **8 Finance**

Following the circulation of requests from both AFC Darwen and Darwen Cricket Club for funding, it was agreed to grant £2,500 to each.

A request for funding from a teenager raising funds for the British Horse Society via a trip to Iceland, was passed to Coun. East to respond to with details of the Lloyds Trust.

Authorised payments:

January:

£500 – Peter Lockwood – food market lighting.

£598.94 Rebecca Hay, salary and expenses for clerk.

£25.85 – LCC – clerk's pension contribution.

£1,813.86 – Tristar printers – Christmas market (since the cheque was issued, it has been discovered one bill for £1,440 should have gone to the borough council and so Tristar are to reimburse the town council).

£5,881.54 – BWD for repairs to Bold Venture Park play area.

£2,040.30 – Professional security for Christmas market.

February:

£599.15 Rebecca Hay, salary and expenses for clerk.

£25.85 – LCC – clerk's pension contribution.

£2,500 – AFC Darwen grant.

£2,500 – Darwen Cricket Club grant

The budget prepared by Coun. Connor was agreed and the precept of £122,000 agreed.

## **9 Correspondence**

Requests for funding of £3,000 for granite benches and £3,000 for pathways, both in Darwen Cemetery to mark the World War I celebrations, were received. The finance committee to discuss.

## **10 Updates**

Coun. East gave an update on his work on combating litter, fly tipping and dog fouling and said ideas had been muted for firms to sponsor bins and also for more education in schools. Coun. Smith said the cost of emptying bins also had to be costed into any project. He said there had been prosecutions in Darwen for litter picking and dog fouling.

Coun. East gave details of the planned World War I project and anniversary of the suffragettes by the Friends of Darwen Heritage Centre. He said the group were working with the RBL to produce booklets, a war map and large poppy projects.

Coun. Browne said £9,406.28 had been spent on parks so far. There was a request for cemeteries to be included in the parks budget, but Coun. Smith said there are too many in Darwen to be included and any change would have to be made at the AGM.

It was agreed that the Crown awards remit should be looked at to encompass

smaller groups and individuals.

Coun. East said planning applications are being sent to the town councillors and there have been no significant projects so far which need discussing.

**11 Any other business**

None.

**12. AGM meeting date**

To allow for the elections and internal auditor, this will take place on Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**13. Part 2 – public and press excluded.**

**14 Date of next meeting.**

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7 p.m. in Darwen Town Hall. Agenda items to be with the clerk by February 28th please.