

# **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,  
SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2017**

**Present:** Couns. Davies, Connor, Taylor ,Entwistle, Brookfield, East, Rothwell, Smith, Slater, Hollings, Browne and Perkins.

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

**2.Apologies:** Couns. Salton.

**3.Declarations of Interest:** Coun. Rothwell on Darwen Dance Live and Coun. East on Darwen Heritage Centre and Coun. Taylor on Ex-Mayor's charity. Coun. Taylor said anyone with a pecuniary interest should fill in an appropriate form when necessary. The clerk to check with BWD.

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

These were agreed, with the minor amendment on item 9 to add Coun. Browne to the attendees at the Armed Forces Day ceremony.

### **4.1 Flags**

It was agreed to keep the flags up until after the heritage day events.

## **5 Mayor's report**

The Mayor had attended three meetings of the Darwen Heritage Centre committee and also the Friends of Darwen Tower. He had attended the Whitehall Supporters Group BBQ, Darwen Vale dance, youth festival, 1940's day, gala and a Lancashire Fire and Rescue activity.

## **6 Deputy chairman's report**

Coun. Connor paid tribute to the volunteers who had helped run the various events organised by the town council over the summer.

### **7 Ex-Mayor's charity**

Coun. Browne said he had been asked where the former Mayor, Coun. B. Taylor's fund had gone. Coun. Taylor said it had been donated to the Cardiac Risk In The Young fund, a charity close to his heart due to a death of a relative. Mrs Irene Wickers from the fund attended the meeting and explained the latest news from the group and the good work it is doing. Coun. Rothwell said information from the charity could be made available on the Life Education bus. It was agreed to donate £200 to the charity. Coun. Taylor abstained from the vote.

### **8. Planning applications**

Coun. East asked if planning applications could be added to the agenda so controversial applications can be looked at. Coun. Smith said because of the volume of applications, it had been originally agreed that people could comment individually, rather than bring to the town council. It was agreed to keep on the agenda.

### **9. Council website**

Samantha Taylor has created a new website, [www.darwencouncil.co.uk](http://www.darwencouncil.co.uk) The clerk was asked to write to Adam Melia of Find a Business to thank him for organising the previous website and to ask for it to be now closed down. Also to write to Mr T Maxfield confirming the domain of [www.darwentowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.darwentowncouncil.org.uk) is not now needed.

### **10. Finance**

Paid in: £10,000 –BWD for Darwen Live contribution.

Authorised payments were made in August to:

P. Browne - £100 - floral basket  
Four Seasons Garden Centre - £100 - floral basket.  
G. Gent - £280 - Union flags erection and removal.  
Lancashire Police - £4,187.50 - Darwen Live police - this is a replacement cheque as the original was lost. The £12.50 charge for cancelling the cheque was paid for by the police.  
M. Ali - £100 - Darwen Youth Festival.  
B. Whittaker - £150 - Darwen Youth Festival.  
R. Hay - £632.99 - salary and expenses including £56 for postage stamps  
R Hay pension - £25.85  
J. Barritt - £30 - PAYE.  
Samantha Taylor - £440 – social media.

September::

George Richard - £100 - Darwen Youth Festival.  
R Hay pension - £25.85  
R. Hay salary and expenses - £599.94  
Blackburn and Darwen Band - £3,100 - brass band comp.  
BWD - £6,000 - entertainment for 1940s day.  
Showsec - £5,538.52 - Darwen Live security.  
Union Flags - £1,287 - union flags.  
G. Gent - £300 - erection and removal of flags.  
Faith Holden - £150 - Darwen Youth Festival.  
Henry Christopher - £141.20 - 1940s day leaflets.  
BDO - £480 - audit.  
BWD - £220 - bus stop suspension for Darwen Live.  
BWD - £100 - soundtrack performances for Darwen Youth Festival.  
BWD - £100 - soundtrack performances for Darwen Youth Festival.  
James Gibson Ironmongers - £641.84 - brush steels and cable ties for flags.  
Samantha Taylor - £579.21 – social media.  
Sour Square - £450 – 1940's day.  
Liam Dargan - £195 – 1940's day.  
Cardiac Attack Risk In The Young - £200 – donation.

The annual audit had been carried out successfully, with no matters raised.

## **11 Correspondence**

The Electoral Review of Blackburn with Darwen review has been completed. Coun. Smith said the commissioner had agreed with the town council's suggestions.

Information regarding AFC Darwen's community social responsibility was received and the council to send a letter of support.

Information re the food alliance network was received.

Coun. Smith said he had discovered a letter had been sent to BWD by Jake Berry MP and The Mayor of Darwen, Coun. Davies on council headed paper asking for the return of the Darwen mace and other regalia which is on display at Blackburn. He said the letter had been sent without the permission of the council and without discussion between the whole council. Concern was expressed that if the mace was returned, there is no where safe in the council chamber to keep it. Coun. Davies said BWD had declined the request.

## **12 Updates**

Coun. Rothwell gave details of Darwen Dance Live and said she was slightly over the budget due to the purchasing of security wristbands, which could also be used at future events. She thanked all the volunteers and said the event could not have gone ahead without the help of the sea cadets.

Samantha Taylor gave details of the 1940's day event and her struggle to organise the event in a short time. She said it had gone over budget, but that was due to the branding of the product, which would now be kept for future events. Coun. Smith congratulated her on the event, but questioned the money spent on professional help. He said he accepted this was a one off and if it was to be repeated, a decision by the whole council was needed.

Crown Awards committee are to meet. The representatives from Crown Paints are keen to attract smaller groups and it was suggested this be publicised via the Press and council website and social media.

### **13 Any other business**

Coun. Davies gave an update on the Friends of Darwen Tower group. He said they had 25 towers which they wished to sell. It was agreed that Coun. Davies ask for the cast and dye to be returned to the council, as the council paid for the work and that any profit from the sale of the towers should be returned to the council. Coun. Davies also asked to find out what the Friends intended to do with the money it had in its bank account.

### **14 Public forum**

Mr S. Duncan gave an update from The Whitehall Supporters Group and advised of past and future events. He asked the town council to write to BWD and officially ask for a breakdown of the green area budgets. Coun. Hollings said there are not figures for individual park spending. The request was turned down.

Concern over litter in Perry Street and the lack of landlords looking after their properties and surrounding areas was raised by Mr M. Atkinson who also raised the problem of flags which need looking at in Hollingsgrove Church.

### **15 Date of next meeting.**

October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 p.m. in Darwen Town Hall. Agenda items to be with the clerk by September 27<sup>th</sup> please.