

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022 AT 7.00 p.m.**

**Present: -** Councillor Blackman (Chair)  
Councillors Bowden, Knight, Lofthouse, Needham, Norman, Short,  
Thorne and Ward.

NDC Councillors Knight and Lofthouse.

DCC Councillor Leaver

M Isaac (Clerk)

**In Attendance:** Parishioner/Members of the Public – 7

**68. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Lines and Steer, NDC Councillor Saxby and DCC Councillor Henderson.

The Chair stated that NDC and DCC Councillors who could not attend a meeting should provide either a written report to the Clerk or contact the Clerk with an update of issues to be reported.

**69. PUBLIC SESSION**

Parishioners raised the following issues:

Mr Tucker on behalf of the Methodist Church welcomed the Parish Council to the hall and thanked Parish Council, District and County Members for their support on behalf of residents in sorting the bus gate issue.

A Parishioner again raised issues regarding the ragwort in the Tower View Recreation Area and that it was strangling the recently planted shrubs.

Councillor Bowden re-iterated the points she made at the last meeting that she had researched the DEFRA web site which categorised ragwort as low/medium/high risk dependent upon its distance away from livestock. If the distance was more than 100 metres it was classified as low risk. Councillor Ward stated that Ragwort was a good sustainable food for bees, butterflies and birds.

A Parishioner reported that vegetation along Old Torrington Road opposite the Crematorium was overhanging and encroaching onto the pavement causing people to either walk in the road or cross over onto the pavement on the other side of the road.

It was also reported that the footpath between Windsor Gardens and Kensington Close was gradually disappearing due to dense over growth. It was noted however that the footpath passed the Crematorium had been cleared.

It was agreed to report to DCC Councillor Henderson

It was also reported that the flower bed in Tudor Drive had encroached onto the footpath. DCC Councillor Leaver agreed to action.

**70. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD WHICH IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

The following issues were raised:

- a) Planning Application 70954 - Erection of 252 dwellings together with associated works (amended plans) at Larkbear, Tawstock.

The above application was considered as a matter of urgency as it had been received after the agenda deadline and a 14-day response was required.

RECOMMENDED REFUSAL for the following reasons:

- i) The infrastructure requirements on the original planning permission had not been delivered therefore the increase traffic flows would exacerbate the current traffic problems and have a detrimental impact on pedestrians and cyclists.
  - ii) The current Gratton Way - Old Torrington Road was extremely unsafe for all users, especially pedestrians.
  - iii) The appalling condition of the junction was putting lives at risk as there was no provision for pedestrians.
  - iv) The information provided by the applicant is out of date and did not meet the requirements of the development as prescribed in the Local Plan and the recent HATOC decision regarding the Bus gate which would have an additional impact on the situation.
- b) Tree watering Tower View

It was agreed that Barnstaple Town Council be requested to water the 29 newly planted trees.

**71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest announced.

**72. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

**(a) DCC Councillor Leaver**

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- Bus Gate. That HATOC at its recent meeting had agreed to revert to its original decision regarding the bus gate. There was no timetable available for the bus gate works on Old Torrington Road as they were to be done by the developer Persimmon Homes, and they had not yet signed the legal agreement under section 278 of the Highways Act for the works. DCC were, however, now working with Persimmon Homes to finalise the plans for the bus gate, including legally enforceable signage, and changes to all signs around the town pointing to the crematorium which all needed to be changed.
- Growing Communities Fund. That a new fund had been set up to support proactive, effective, measurable, and sustainable actions to enable individuals and communities to build self-reliance and community resilience, reduce food and fuel inequalities and

improve mental health and wellbeing and respond to the climate emergency. The Fund would provide grant awards of between £500 and £3,000.

- Local waiting Restricting Programme. That waiting restrictions had been agreed in Cleave Road, Westfield Avenue and along Bickington Road by the Industrial Estate. She stated that if the Parish Council considered that further areas should be considered for waiting restrictions for notification was required by end of September.
- That Phil Norrey DCC Chief Executive was retiring.
- That a public consultation would be held regarding a Local cycling and walking infrastructure plan to make cycling and walking between Barnstaple and Bideford easier.

**(b) NDC Councillor Knight**

Councillor Knight reported:

- That the new leisure centre was now open
- That a site meeting had been held regarding litter bins that had identified several issues re maintenance, provision of new bins and trailing recycling bins.
- That the local plan we being reviewed.

**(c) NDC Councillor Lofthouse**

Councillor Lofthouse reported that the Local Plan would address the provision of more affordable homes and bringing disused houses into use.

**73. MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to minute 47 last sentence of penultimate paragraph being amended to read: If the distance was more than 100 metres it was classified as low risk.

Councillor Needham reported that he had not yet had an opportunity to meet with the WI regarding the proposed commemorative tree but would arrange as soon as possible.

It was agreed following a comment by Councillor Lofthouse that the contractor be requested to remove the cuttings after strimming the footpath along the side of the bank facing the play park.

**74. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

There were no issues raised.

**75. SPEED WATCH.**

The council received a presentation from PCSO Andy Frisby, Devon & Cornwall Police regarding speed watch. He outlined the process and stated that the aim was to educate drivers on speed and was a proven an effective way in which to reduce speed.

**76. HIGHWAY ISSUES**

- a) Shorelands Road roundabout – Update

It was agreed to consider an option of the Parish Council meeting the cost of providing 'rubber blocks' at the next meeting.

- b) Bus Gate – Old Torrington Road. Update

See minute 72 (a) above

## **77. PLAY AREAS**

The Clerk reported the following:

- a) Tudor Park - Locking and unlocking the gate

Councillor Needham reported that he had again spoken to the previously mentioned resident regarding the locking and unlocking of the gate to the Tudor play area. The resident, however, no longer wished to undertake the task.

He also reported that the gates were not parallel and not fixed to the base. He had repaired the bolts on the gate and purchased a new padlock and the gates were now rigidly fixed. He was happy to be the gatekeeper and the Chair had agreed to be substitute when he was not available. He also stated that the double gate wasn't used.

He further stated that he would draft a letter to the residents backing onto the Tudor play area regarding the Parish Council's responsibility for the park and its upkeep.

It was agreed:

- i) that the gate be opened by 9.30 am and closed at dusk.
- ii) that a temporary sign be erected notifying the opening and closing times
- iii) that Councillor Needham draft a letter to residents backing onto the Park area notifying them of the Council's responsibility.

- b) Tower View – Quote to re-surface areas.

The Clerk reported that TK Play had given a quote of £450 to surface the area outside the gate entrance to the play area. Additional areas within the play area would be approx. £120 per sq. metre. It was questioned why weeds were growing in the previously surfaced areas.

Councillor Knight agreed to investigate ways in which to deter birds perching on top of the swings.

It was agreed that the quote for the area outside the entrance gate be accepted.

## **78. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT.**

- a) s106 Application - Noticeboards/Goal post/Backless Benches/Footpaths Quotes

It was agreed that the following items be included in the s106 application:

Footpath tarmacking, Purchase of Bulbs, New Goal post, 2 Backless benches and a noticeboard.

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The following quotes were noted and agreed:

Tarmacking footpaths £6,550 + VAT  
Aluminium Free standing goal posts and net £1,242.90 + £75.00 carriage + VAT  
2 Backless Benches £415.76 each = £831.52

The quotes for the Noticeboard and bulbs were awaited.

- b) Insect Houses – List of items to fill houses. Councillor Ward to report

Councillor Ward stated that she would agree a date with Councillors Lofthouse and Knight to install the insect houses.

- c) Bulbs Quote. Councillor Bowden to report.

Councillor Bowden stated that she would chase up a quote for the supply of 1,000 bulbs.

- d) Unauthorised removal of signs.

Deferred to the next meeting.

### **79. TOWER VIEW VERGE MARKERS**

Councillor Ward reported that she awaited the receipt of further quotes for the provision of the verge markers and would report to the next meeting.

### **80. DEFIBRILLATOR**

Councillor Bowden reported that the defibrillator had been received and that Councillor Blackmans son, a qualified electrician, would be providing a quote to install and connect it to the electricity supply.

### **81. WEBSITE**

Councillor Knight stated that due to a formal quote being received his partner considered that it would not be appropriate for her to design and build a new WIX website but she was willing to prepare draft signs for the wildlife areas.

It was agreed that Councillors Blackman, Bowden, Needham and Ward be authorised to meet with Idea Engine to discuss ideas for the design and build a WIX website and report to a future meeting.

### **82. HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK ASSESSMENTS.**

Councillor Norman stated that the Council should have a Health & Safety Policy to cover lone working and Councillors when undertaking Council duties/work.

It was agreed that Councillor Norman prepare a draft policy for consideration at the September Council meeting.

**83. TAWSTOCK CEMETERY – GREEN BIN AND COLLECTION PERMIT.**

In the absence of Councillor Lines this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

**84. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) 75508 Erection of conservatory, new open porch, extension and conversion of garage to create additional accommodation and store, 20 Highgrove, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- b) 75525 Demolition of garage & conservatory together with erection of detached garage, extensions and alterations to dwelling Silver Springs, Eastacombe, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval subject to the Environment Officers views being taken into consideration.

- c) 75550 Conversion of barn to dwelling and associated works at Barn, Little Higher Rolleston, Harracott, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- d) 75545 Listed Building consent for part removal of curtilage wall and insertion of new hedgbank to existing driveway Collabear Farm, Uppacott, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- e) 75569 Replacement of redundant livestock building, Nottiston Close Farm, Newton Tracey, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- f) 75570 Erection of one general purpose agricultural building for the storage of machinery and fodder, Nottiston Close Farm, Newton Tracey Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- g) 75045 Extensions and alterations to dwelling, 18 Sandringham Gardens, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- h) 75604 Rear extension to form a kitchen diner and a new porch and roof arrangement, 21 Grange Avenue, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

**85. TRACKER.**

The Tracker was noted.

**86. CORRESPONDENCE.**

There was no correspondence reported.

**87. FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

**a) Payments**

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£578.55
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£14.96
Gavin Hendry Grounds Maintenance	£1,542.00

**88. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

There were no issues raised.

**89. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 @ 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 9.14 p.m.