

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Blackman (Chairman)
Councillors Bowden, Knight, N. Lines, P. Lines (minutes 85 - 97),
Lofthouse, Steer and Ward.

NDC Councillors Knight and Lofthouse

DCC Councillor Leaver.

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 1.

78. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors and NDC Councillor Saxby.

79. PUBLIC SESSION

A Parishioners raised the following issues:

Quiet Roads – Had any routes/roads been mentioned?

It was stated that quiet roads criteria only applied to rural areas and unclassified roads that were frequently used by large vehicles.

Signs – It was reported that the re-active lorry lights at St Johns Chapel had been damaged a number of years ago and not repaired. The lights on the northern end were permanently on 24 hours a day and the lights on the southern end permanently off. It was asked how much longer would it take to get them repaired?

It was suggested that the Parishioner needed to contact DCC Councillor Henderson and report the issue.

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

The Clerk reported that he had received the following planning application consultations after the close of the agenda that required a response before the next Parish Council meeting.

- a) Application DCC/4270/2021 Variation of Condition 4 of planning permission DCC/4154/2019 for Waste Transfer Station including a waste transfer hall, single storey weighbridge office and welfare facilities building, hardstand including staff parking and external weighbridge, internal access road, new access from the existing highway, drainage, lighting and landscaping, Brynsworthy Waste Transfer Station.

RECOMMENDED that there be no vehicle movements on Sundays.

- b) Application 74019 Works to trees subject to a tree preservation order in respect of removal or reducing to a standard stem/monolith, 9 Ash trees (T1, T3, T4, T5, T6, T8A, T8B, T10 & T11), Elm Park Copse, Tawstock, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED no objections and that the Officers recommendations be supported.

81. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lines declared an interest in item 7 Co-Option as his wife had submitted an application for co-option.

82. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

a) DCC Councillor Leaver

Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- That a steering group had been set up to prepare a Local Cycling & Walking infrastructure plan from Barnstaple to Bideford to inform the up-coming Local Plan review. She would liaise with the steering group on behalf of Parish Councils.
- That she was aware of the Parish Council's views regarding the proposed Shorelands Road roundabout design and had arranged a meeting with the DCC Officer on site.

It was agreed to write to Matt Collins, DCC thanking him for meeting Parish Councillors on site and agreeing to undertake a further speed audit.

- That she had had a meeting with Maria Bailey NDC Service Manager for Development Management regarding the lack of a link onto the A361 and had asked the ND Cycling Campaign Group to look at the planning application for the new cycle bridge

b) DCC Councillor Henderson

There was no report from Councillor Henderson.

c) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported that the Local Plan was being reviewed and the Parish Council needed to look at identifying possible housing sites.

It was agreed to include an item on the next Parish Council agenda.

d) NDC Councillor Lofthouse

Councillor Lofthouse reported that he was looking to get volunteers to clear the bine weed at Tower View.

d) NDC Councillor Saxby

The Clerk reported that Councillor Saxby had nothing to report. She however still had funds available in her Community Grant fund.

83. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th August 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no matters arising.

85 CO-OPTION

The Clerk reported that he had received requests from Pat Lines and Chris Norman to be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

It was RESOLVED that Pat Lines be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

86 LOCAL POLICE ACTIVITY

Mike Harrison, Local Liaison for the Police & Crime Commissioner stated that the Police & Crime Commissioner was seeking to engage with Parish Council's and encourage up to two Parish Councillors from every Parish Council to act as Councillor Advocates and be part of a mailing list to receive regular Police updates.

Councillors Bowden and Steer agreed to volunteer to be part of the scheme on behalf of Tawstock Parish Council.

87. HIGHWAY ISSUES

- a) Shorelands Road – Proposed New Roundabout

See minute 82 (a) above.

- b) Delivery of the pavement on the western side of Old Torrington Road and the Gratton Way junction in advance of the works required by BT.

Councillor Blackman reported that Jurassic Fibre had encountered a blockage in the BT manhole that would require it being dug up. She agreed when the opportunity occurred to meet a representative of Jurassic Fibre to identify the exact location of the blockage.

Concern was expressed that BT was taking too long to undertake the lowering of the BT manhole cover and delaying the delivery of the new pavement in Old Torrington Road.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to DCC Councillor Henderson and Ian Sweetland DCC Officer expressing the Council's concerns and frustrations at the delay and requesting that if no action has been taken by BT by Christmas, DCC progress the delivery of the pavement on the western side of Old Torrington Road and the Gratton Way junction.

Councillor Knight reported that some groundworks had been undertaken to reinstate the temporary pavement to enable pedestrians to cross from Gratton way to the eastern side of Old Torrington Road. However, soon after the ground works team had put the final

tarmac finish on the area it was then covered over with mud. He had reported to DCC Councillor Henderson who equally flabbergasted to investigate.

Councillor Bowden agreed to meet Persimmon's site foreman.

c) Provision of traffic signs in Tawstock Village

Councillor Loffhouse stated that due to the lack of an advance warning sign, problems were being caused with vehicles having to back up due to large vehicles being unable to pass through the narrow bridge.

It was agreed that DCC Councillor Henderson be requested to seek the provision of an advanced narrow bridge ahead – last chance to turn warning sign located near the Tower entrance.

d) Hedge Cutting: Update

Councillor Knight reported that NDC had cut the hedge from Grange Avenue through to Old Bideford Road. However, DCC had still not cut back any of its hedges.

88. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT.

a) Recreational Area Project: Quotes to purchase seeds and fencing and the ground preparation work for the top section around the Copse area.

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following quotes:

NDC Parks Section:

Top section around copse area (305m²) To scarify area and create a scrape to a depth of around 50mm

2 operatives at 4 hours each. Total cost £136

Bottom section amenity grass area (400m²)

Hire of turf cutter £117

Hire of rotavator £120

To cut turf and remove from site and take to Spreacombe

2 operatives at 7 hours each £238

Dispose of green waste £200

Rotovate area to produce a good tilth ready for seeding

2 operatives at 4 hours each £136

Total cost £947

Provision of seeds £82.50

Councillor Knight reported that 1 roll of fencing and the use of the existing fencing should be sufficient to protect the area once scarified.

It was agreed that the above quotes be accepted.

b) End of Summer Wintering.

Councillor Ward raised the following issues:

- Bottom Bank. Currently covered in nettles and brambles. Two options either cut back or allow to naturally die back.
It was agreed to allow the nettles and brambles to naturally die back and clear area just before the start of regrowth.
- Old Wall. The wall currently protected by harris fencing has a bad crack caused by the fig tree.
It was agreed to write to the homeowner seeking a timescale for the wall to be repaired.
- Green Cricket Fencing.
It was agreed to write to the homeowner seeking when the fencing will be removed.
- Bulb Donation. Sought views on a bulb donation scheme.
It was agreed that it was a good idea but that wild varieties of flower bulbs native to Devon and grown in the UK be sought.
- Dog Poo Bin. That consideration be given to a dog poo bin being sited at the bottom of the recreational area.

89. BURIAL GROUND: QUOTE TO CROWN LIFT 5 BEECH TREES

The Clerk reported the receipt of a quote from Gavin Hendry to Crown Lift 5 Beech trees in the Burial Ground of £678.00.

It was agreed that the quote be accepted but that confirmation be sought that the price included seeking planning permission.

90. LITTER BINS

Councillor Knight reported that there was a problem in emptying the litter bins in the Tower View Recreation ground. NDC had been servicing the bins in Tower View Recreation Ground but since the end of the contract with Tivoli this had stopped. The Parish had never had a contract with anyone to empty the bins.

It was considered that NDC should continue to service the 3 bins in the park as they were in very close proximity to each other.

It was agreed that:

- The Council purchase and install 2 new litter bins, 1 to replace the rusted litter bin in Tower View Park entrance and the other to be located around the Larkbear area; the location to be decided in due course.
- The Parish Council pay for the emptying of the new litter bin in the Larbear area once a week and that NDC be requested to pay for one extra per week in busier times if necessary.
- That the Clerk to liaise with NDC regarding the above and purchase bins from the District Council or online.

91. NOTICEBOARD: LAKE

The Clerk reported that the new noticeboard was ready for delivery and installation.

Mr Russell who has made the noticeboard had offered with the assistance of a local handyman to deliver and install the noticeboard for approximately £30.

It was agreed that the offer to deliver and install the noticeboard for approximately £30 be accepted.

92. DECLARATION OF HOUSING CRISIS

The Council considered the declaration adopted by Braunton Parish Council regarding the local housing crisis.

Councillor Lofthouse reported that currently in North Devon there were 2,860 empty properties and 2,500 people on the housing waiting list. North Devon Council was currently looking at various methods to bring empty homes back into use.

Councillor Bowden stated that Estate Agents and Letting agents should be encouraged to offer properties to local people.

It was agreed that the declaration adopted by Brauton Parish Council be supported.

93. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) 73480 Erection of a single storey rear extension together with a 2 storey side extension, 14 Osborne Gardens, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

It was noted that NDC Planning had not granted an extension of time and had determined the application.

- b) 73779 Erection of double garage and associated works, Chapel House, Hiscott, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval subject to the materials being in keeping with the adjoining Buildings.

- c) 73898 Erection of a conservatory, 14 Philip Avenue, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval.

- d) Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 - Regulation 3 A new pedestrian and cycle bridge spanning the A361 carriageway and railway line, and associated paths, ramps, embankments, fencing and landscaping/mitigation planting at A361, Seven Brethren, Barnstaple.

RECOMMENDED Approval subject to the provision of soft lighting so not to disturb the wildlife eg moths, the lighting not being on during the daytime and to the chicane gates at the southern end being replaced with a more user friendly type of gate.

Tawstock Minutes 21 September 2021

- e) 73863 Extension and change of use of garage to ancillary accommodation, Orchard House, Newton Tracey, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- f) 73877 Erection of Conservatory, 22 Old Bideford Road, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

94. TRACKER.

The Tracker was noted.

95. CORRESPONDENCE.

The Council considered a letter from the Head Teacher at Holywell School regarding the dead beech hedge.

It was agreed that the dead hedge should be removed and replaced with a reasonably sized beech hedge.

96. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary	£568.74
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£18.05
Gavin Hendry Grounds Maintenance	£1,452.00
G Maynard New Noticeboard	£839.58
C. Waldron Website quarterly maintenance fee	£33.00

b) Financial Position

That the current financial position at 3 September 2021 Current A/C £42,105.00 Business Reserve £16,003.23 be noted.

c) External Audit

The Clerk reported that the external audit had signed off the 2020/21 accounts but had commented that the risk management arrangements had not been reviewed during the municipal year.

97. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 19th October 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

Tawstock Minutes 21 September 2021

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.