

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 15th AUGUST 2023 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Bowden (Chair)
Councillors East, Jenkins, Knight, Lines, Mason, Norman, Short and Tucker.

NDC Councillors Knight and Norman

DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 3

88. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Lofthouse and Needham.

89. PUBLIC SESSION

Parishioners raised the following issues:

Bus Gate – Why are cars still going through the bus gate?

The Chair stated that the cameras were still waiting to be installed. DCC Councillor Henderson stated that he thought that DCC were waiting to combine the installation with cameras at another location in Barnstaple. DCC Councillor Leaver stated that she had informed the Police. DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver agreed to chase up.

Councillor Norman reported that the trees needed cutting back and cars were driving over the Verge. Councillor Knight reported that poles had now been installed on the verge.

Sign at Junction of Gratton Way opposite Larkbear – It was stated that the sign was confusing to drivers. Councillor Norman agreed to take some pictures and send to the DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver

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

The following item was brought forward as a matter of urgency:

Dog Related PSPO Review – Pre Public Consultation

The Clerk reported the receipt of a pre – application consultation (previously circulated) from NDC regarding a review of the Dog related PSPO. The views of Councillor Needham had also been previously circulated.

It was agreed that the proposed Dog related PSPO be supported and that legislation be sought to require that Commercial Dog Walkers are licensed.

91. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

92. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following response from Ken Miles, NDC regarding the request for a Community Governance Review of Parishes.

‘We are looking at the timetable that might apply to a CGR to work out when would be best to look at this. The team have your comments though and these are being taken into account’.

93. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£623.44
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£12.45
Gavin Hendry – Grounds Maintenance	£1,476.00
Sticklepath Methodist Church – Hall hire	£110.00
Ucanstore.com Storage (Jan-July)	£182.00
PKF Littlejohn External Audit	£252.00
D. Jenkins New gate/fixings – Tower View	£145.96

b) The current financial position at 5 July 2023 Current A/C £44,481.47 (includes £12,001 ringed fenced for Tower View Project) and Business Reserve A/C £16,117.95 was noted.

c) It was noted that the accounts for 2022/23 had been signed off by the external auditor.

The Chair on behalf of the Parish Council thanked the Clerk for his work in preparing the accounts.

94. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no matters arising.

96. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(a) DCC REPORTS

DCC Councillor Henderson reported the following:

- Pavement near the Crematorium obstructed with vegetation. He had established that the woodland area was owned by Persimmon Homes. The hedge had been cut back by Councillor Tucker and he would speak to DCC Officers regarding

Persimmons responsibility for the hedge. He further stated that the hedge in Gratton Court would be cut in September.

- He suggested that the Probation Service may be able to help with the cutting of the 3 verges in Tudor Drive.
- That a decision was awaited regarding the withdrawal of the mobile library service.
- That there had been a reprieve on the proposed budget cuts to the homeless budget and the LINKS Centres.
- That he had sent detailed maps and a detailed explanation to the Clerk in respect of the proposed road closure from Old Sticklepath Hill to old Farm Court

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- That the additional Government Funding of £9.4 million that had been allocated to Devon County Council to deal with the back log of pot holes had instead been allocated to a different budget head to future proof the capital expenditure budget. Officers had been requested to provide information.

(b) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported that he would prepare a document outlining the responsibilities of each level of Council to aid Public understanding and accountability.

He stated that there had been a large number of complaints regrading missed bin collections due to staff holidays. In his role as Lead Member for Waste and Recycling he would be looking at the management of holiday entitlement.

(c) NDC Councillor Norman

Councillor Norman had no NDC issues to report.

97. HIGHWAY ISSUES

- a) Drains in Old Sticklepath Hill/Shorelands Road/Old Torrington Road: Update

Councillor Knight reported that the cleaning of drains was on a 3 yearly cycle. Old Sticklepath Hill was scheduled for cleaning next year.

- b) Pavement near the Crematorium obstructed with vegetation.
Councillor Tucker reported that he had cut the overhanging branches. Also see minute 96 (a) above.

- c) Maintenance of 3 verges in Tudor Drive.

It was agreed to contact the Probation Service to see if they could help to tidy up some areas within the Parish and meet Councillors Knight, Norman and Tucker to discuss possible areas for maintenance.

98. REPORT OF THE PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE ON APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED PRIOR TO THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Chair updated Council on the Planning Applications considered by the Planning Sub Committee.

99. PLANNING APPLICATION

77276 Variation of conditions 36 (range of goods) attached to planning permission 76038 (Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans), 3 (materials), 7 (outside seating area & details of balustrading) & 11 (roads and paths) attached to planning permission 72675 (hybrid planning application comprising the following: Outline application occupying a total area of 1.44 hectares consisting of a garden centre of up to 6,000 sq. m. (gross external floor area), car parking and, other associated ancillary infrastructure; and Full planning permission for a petrol filling station and associated shop and drive-thru coffee shop, occupying a total gross floor area of 1,215 sqm including the completion of a Toucan crossing on the eastern arm of the Roundswell Roundabout) to allow change to the range of goods that can be sold, Land adjacent to Roundswell A39 Roundabout, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Refusal on highway grounds as previously submitted.

100. PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE - ROAD FROM OLD STICKLEPATH HILL TO OLD FARM COURT.

Noted and agreed.

101. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT

- a) Central Bank
 - i) Quote to remove earth from the bottom of the bank on the play area side and place it on the top of the bank.
Councillor Tucker reported the receipt of a quote from D. Pile of £260.
It was agreed that the quote be accepted.
 - ii) Species of trees to be planted on top of the bank.
It was agreed that Councillor Tucker contact NDC to seek advice on the species of trees recommended to be planted.
 - iii) Wildflower Mixture
Councillor Short stated that a hedge row and semi shade mixture would be the most appropriate at £60 per kilo.
It was agreed that a kilo of the hedge row and semi shade mixture be purchased for the play area side of the central bank
- b) Lower Bank
 - i) Spraying nettles and bind weed.
Councillor Tucker agreed to contact NDC regarding the spraying of the nettles.
- c) Provision of new goal posts/net.
Councillor East reported that he had obtained free of charge 2 goal nets.
It was considered that for health and safety reasons advice should be sought before any nets are put up. Councillor Tucker agreed to contact NDC Officer Mark Kentell for advice.

102. TUDOR PARK

Councillors Bowden and Knight reported that they had met spoken to a resident regarding the locking and unlocking of the gate. He was willing to assist but required assistance from other residents.

It was agreed at present to leave the gate unlocked and that Councillor Bowden prepare a notice to go on the noticeboard.

Council thanked Councillor Needham for unlocking and locking the gate during the last 12 months.

103. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Council considered the draft Grounds Maintenance Committee terms of reference prepared by the Clerk (previously circulated)

The Council noted the comments of Councillor Needham.

It was agreed that the terms of reference be adopted and the Committee renamed – The Parks and Open Space Committee with a quorum of 3 Members and expenditure upto £500 excluding VAT.

104. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES

Councillor Mason presented a proposed Draft Social Media Policy and Facebook Group Policy (previously circulated)

It was agreed to defer consideration to the next meeting.

105. DEFIBRILLATOR

Councillor Mason agreed to investigate funding opportunities.

Deferred to the next meeting.

106. PARISH PRIORITIES FOR FOLLOWING 2-4 YEARS

It was agreed to defer consideration of Parish priorities to await the results a parish survey to be undertaken in the near future.

107. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There were no issues raised.

108. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 19th September 2023 @ 7.00 p.m.

Chairman The meeting ended at 8.59 p.m.