

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 20th JUNE 2023 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Bowden (Chair)
Councillors Jenkins, Knight, Lines, Lofthouse, Mason, Needham,
Norman (for minutes 59 – 67), Short and Tucker.

NDC Councillors Knight and Norman (for minutes 59 – 67)

DCC Councillor Henderson

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 3

45. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor East and NDC Councillor Renshaw.

46. PUBLIC SESSION

A Parishioner asked the following question:

What can be done about hedges overhanging the pavement especially in the Broadclose Road and Grange Avenue areas?

It was stated that the issues should be reported on the DCC Website.

It was also asked if the Parish Council poster on the Methodist Church noticeboard could be updated.

The Chair agreed get a new poster made up.

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

There were no items brought forward as a matter of urgency.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

49. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence reported.

50. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

Tawstock Parish Council Minutes 20th June 2023

North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£623.44
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£10.30
Gavin Hendry – Grounds Maintenance	£1,374.00
C. Waldron Website Maintenance	£72.00

b) Financial Position

The current financial position at 5 June 2023 Current A/C £43,625.37 (included £12,001 ringed fenced for Tower View Project) and Business Reserve A/C £16,102.73 was noted.

51. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to Councillor Lofthouse being added to the Grounds Maintenance Working Group.

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

There were no issues raised.

53. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(a) DCC REPORTS

DCC Councillor Henderson reported the following:

- That in year 2022/23 there was an increase in the General Fund Balance of £156,000 against the approved revenue budget but savings of £45 million still needed to be made.
- That following an OFSTED report on Childrens Services the Council was making some progress in the service.
- A complete review of all DCC services was being undertaken.
- That funding for homelessness had been reduced.
- That grant funding of £10 million had been received from Government to support low income families. The Council had ring fenced an additional £15 million.

In answer to a question regarding the Bus gate it was agreed that DCC Councillor Henderson and Councillor Knight would distribute a letter to all relevant residents updating them on the delivery and operation of the new bus gate.

Councillor Henderson also agreed to send a copy of a letter to the Chair regarding overgrown hedges.

(b) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported the following:

- Land at Broadclose Road (Planning Application 55503). That the granting of planning consent had been delayed due to discussions relating to the s106 agreement. No

communication had been received from NDC regarding the delay and he had requested a formal response from the District Council. The s106 agreement had now however been signed.

- Larkbear Phase 2. That as the land had been allocated for housing the application would be considered under delegated powers. Phase 2 does not include a link onto the A361.
- Larkbear Phase1. That a revised design was awaited from the developer regarding the cycle link.
- Grange Avenue (Planning Application 66229). That a revised design had been requested.
- E Scooters. That if the use of E Scooters was abused an offence could be linked to a person's driving licence.

54. HIGHWAY ISSUES

- a) Pavement near the Crematorium obstructed with vegetation.

Councillor Knight reported that the overgrown hedge/vegetation was obstructing the pavement and required trimming back to the pavement edge.

It was agreed that Gavin Hendry be requested to trim the hedge/vegetation back to the pavement edge and clear the material from pavement surface.

- b) Shorelands Road Roundabout: Update

It was noted that the final design and budget had been agreed by DCC to undertake works at the junction but no action yet taken.

It was agreed to contact Matt Collins, DCC to find out the current position and point out that further development would be taking place in Broadclose Road that would impact on the roundabout.

55. 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.

56. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) 76293 - Outline application for up to 450 dwellings including access (appearance, landscaping, layout & scale reserved) - EIA development (Further information as requested by Regulation 25 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017) at Land South of A39 Brynsworthy Barnstaple.

RECOMMENDED REFUSAL for the following reasons:

- i). The site was outside the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan.
- ii). Loss of valuable agricultural land
- iii). The proposal to have a junction onto the A39 with traffic lights was considered dangerous and would cause increased congestion on an already very busy A39 a major road.
- iv). The existing infrastructure; Roads, Hospital, Doctors surgeries, dental services and schools cannot cope with the existing demand for services.

- v). The reasons as stated by the Environment Agency that the land was part of the marsh/wetland and the development could lead to flooding.
- vi). There were two grade 2 listed buildings in close proximity which would be negatively impacted
- vii). On ecological grounds as the land formed part of an important corridor for endangered bats

57. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT

- a) Update on work undertaken.
Councillor Tucker reported that the central bank had been cleared and he would cut again in the next month. He stated that the top of the bank was very narrow and needed widening to support the growth of the trees.
It was agreed to consider the matter at the Grounds Maintenance Working Group.

- b) Watering and mulching of Central Bank.
Councillor Knight reported the top of the bank was now protected with mulch.
It was noted that 3 trees had died.

It was agreed:

- i) that authority be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with Members, in the case of dry weather for up to 3 weeks, to action the watering of the plants/trees in the Tower View Recreation area
 - ii) that the Clerk contact the Nursery who had provided the trees to see if they would supply free replacements.
- c) Seeding of cover crop, red clover and/or phacelia.
Councillor Lofthouse stated that ground cover plants were required to suppress the weeds and were also good for bees and insects.
It was agreed to consider the matter at the Grounds Maintenance Working Group.
- d) Noticeboard-Update and Installation.
The Clerk reported that the new noticeboard was nearing completion and that for approximately £40 (to include delivery, digging the holes and concreting the posts in) could be installed. The cost of installation of the noticeboard was agreed.
- e) Information Signs/Dog Fouling Enforcement.
Councillor Knight reported that he had made a temporary sign that could be installed at the Tudor Park. He would make another temporary sign for the wildflower area in the Tower View Recreation Area.
He stated that he had spoken to Ray Jones, NDC regarding dog fouling and he had given him some dog poo signs. It was suggested that Ray Jones be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss tackling the dog poo problem.

It was agreed:

- i) To invite Ray Jones, NDC to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss tackling the dog fouling problems.
- ii) That the Clerk make a formal complaint to NDC regarding the dog fouling problems in the Recreation Area.

- f) Fallen Fencing rear of property in Elizabeth Drive.
The Council noted an email from the resident. Councillor Jenkins offered to remove the fencing free of charge.

58. TUDOR PARK

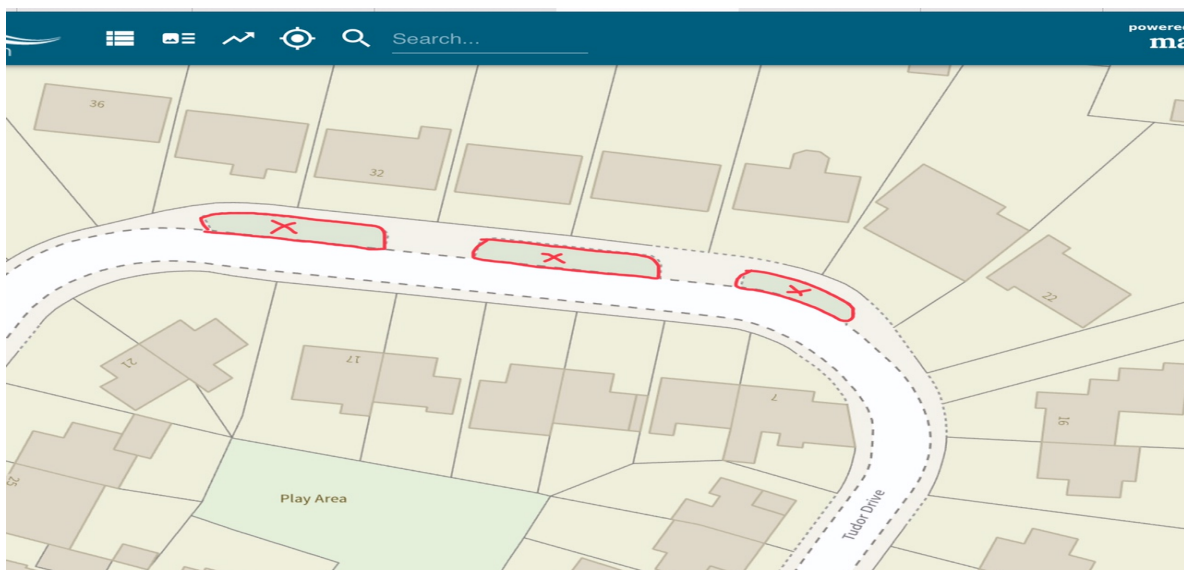
Deferred to the next meeting to enable Councillors Bowden and Knight to meet residents regarding the locking and unlocking of the gate.

59. TUDOR DRIVE.

Councillor Knight reported that 3 verges in Tudor Drive required the vegetation trimming back to just beyond the pavement edge including the road side. DCC owned the verges but had not previously done a good job and did not think that they required cutting back.

It was agreed:

- i) that as a one-off a quote be sought from Gavin Hendry to Trim vegetation back to just beyond pavement edge around all three areas including road side and collect and remove the waste from the site.



- ii) That a letter be sent to all residents informing the action of the Parish Council and seeking residents to take on the future responsibility to maintain the 3 verge areas.

60. METHODIST HALL – Wi Fi

Councillor Knight suggested that Wi-Fi be provided in the Methodist Hall and a contribution made by the Parish Council.

It was agreed that no action be taken at present but kept under review.

61. DEFIBRILLATOR

Councillor Bowden suggested that a defibrillator be provided in Tawstock Village as there currently none in the rural part of the Parish.

Councillor Short stated that he thought that there was a requirement for every school to have a defibrillator.

Councillor Mason considered that a defibrillator would better located in the centre of the village.

It was agreed that a defibrillator similar to that provided at the Methodist Hall be investigated.

62. PROVISION OF BENCHES

Councillor Bowden asked if in principle the Council wished to explore the provision of benches in the Parish

The Council noted suggested proposed sites by Councillor Norman (previously circulated).

It was agreed in principle that the provision benches in the Parish be explored and that Parishioners views/ideas be sought via posters, the website, Eastacombe newsletter and social media.

63. WEBSITE: UPDATE

Councillor Bowden reported that the website would shortly go live and that Mark Thake was currently switching the domain name to the new website.

64. TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION WARDS AND BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Clerk informed Members of the previous decision made in November 2019 when the Council agreed the following:

- a) That the Parish Wards be re-named Tawstock Urban and Tawstock Rural.
- b) That the existing boundary be re-aligned (see below) as the existing boundary line cut straight through buildings in Roundswell Business Park and then headed off straight across the field that cut halfway through the new Business Park south of the A39 which was considered ridiculous.



Tawstock Parish Council Minutes 20th June 2023

Unfortunately, this request had not been progressed by North Devon Council

It was agreed that a formal consultation be requested from the North Devon Council so that the Council can submit formal representations as part of a Parish Governance Review.

65. PARISH PRIORITIES FOR FOLLOWING 2-4 YEARS

Consideration was deferred to a future meeting

66. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

The following issue was raised:

Provision of new goal posts/net – Tower View Recreation area

Councillor Tucker stated that the drains in Old Sticklepath Hill and Shorelands Road blocked with grass growing out of some of them.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to DCC requesting that they be urgently cleaned and cleared

67. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 18th July 2023
@ 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.