

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE  
VILLAGE HALL, TAWSTOCK ON  
WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 AT 7.00 pm**

**Present: -** Councillor Blackman (In the Chair)  
Councillors Knight, Lines and Lofthouse  
  
NDC Councillors Knight and Lofthouse  
  
DCC Councillor Edgell  
  
M Isaac (Clerk)

**In Attendance:** Parishioner/Members of the Public - 2

**186. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors I. Capon, L. Capon, Luggar, Short, Thorne, M. Ward and S. Ward, NDC Councillor Saxby and DCC Councillor Mathews

**187. PUBLIC SESSION**

Parishioners raised the following issues:

Pot Holes – A Parishioner asked why the pot holes previously reported on the Histacott to Pristacott Road that had been recently repaired were now in need of further repair as the holes had re appeared.

DCC Councillor Edgell stated that due to the recent adverse weather conditions pot holes could not be repaired properly and were repaired on the assumption that there would need to be a return visit.

He further stated that the DCC would in the next financial year be prioritising funding on drainage works and giving more emphasis to patching roads.

He reported that for the first time in 9 years there had been an increase of 1.63% in Government funding. He added that approximately 72% of the Council Tax went to the DCC and next year's budget included increase of 10% for Adult Social Care, 8.7% for Children Services and 5% for Highways.

Provision of Bus Gate, Old Torrington Road – A Parishioner stated that insufficient consideration had been given to those residents at the bottom end of Old Torrington Road who would be forced to use Gratton Way through the Industrial Estate to gain access and egress and be unable get into Barnstaple via the quickest and easiest route via Sticklepath roundabout.

Councillor Edgell stated that there had been an extra briefing meeting of HATOC that he had called to raise the issue. He had expressed his concerns at the proposal and that there needed to be flexibility to use the two accesses.

It was noted that Phase 1 of the Larkbear development included the provision of a bus gate and that DCC would be advertising the proposed location of the bus gate for public consultation.

**188. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest announced.

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

**a) DCC Councillors Reports**

DCC Councillors Edgell stated that he nothing further to report. See minute 187 above.

**b) NDC Councillor Knight**

Councillor Knight stated that he had no issues to report

**c) NDC Councillor Lofthouse**

Councillor Lofthouse stated that he had no issues to report

**190. MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no issues to report

**192 CO-OPTION**

The Clerk reported that there was one vacancy on the Parish Council and that he had received a request from Graham Lofthouse to be co-opted onto the Parish Council

It was RESOLVED that Graham Lofthouse be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Councillor Lofthouse signed the declaration of acceptance

**193. PLANNING MATTERS**

The Council considered the following planning applications:

- a) Application 71145 Extensions to dwelling, 15 Old Bideford Road, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

Recommended APPROVAL subject to concern being expressed at the location of the proposal abutting the boundary to the adjoining property

- b) Application 71204 Conversion of barn to two dwellings, Roodge, Harracott, Barnstaple  
Application 71205 Listed Building Consent for Conversion of barn to two dwellings, Roodge, Harracott, Barnstaple

It was agreed that the following comment be made, that the access road indicated on the submitted plans was not shown on google maps and not part of the application.

#### **194 HIGHWAY ISSUES – COUNTY COUNCIL**

- a) Provision of Warning Signs on Elizabeth Drive advising of entrance to Tower View children’s play area: Update

NDC Councillor Lofthouse stated that he was awaiting a response from DCC

- b) Shorelands Road Roundabout - Removal

Councillor Knight stated that the s106 agreement from Gatcombe Mews had allocated a sum of £20,524 towards highway works that included the alteration/removal of the existing mini roundabout at the junction of Shorelands Road.

It was agreed that the existing mini roundabout at the junction of Shorelands Road be removed and the allocated s106 funds be used to pay for the costs of its removal

- c) Overgrown Pavement Old Torrington Road by the Bus Stop.

Councillor Knight reported that, this situation was first reported to DCC in September 2019. Only two thirds of the pavement had been cleared but the area by the bus stop had still not been cleared.

It was agreed to again report to DCC for action.

- d) Condition of Old Torrington Road Repairs.

Councillor Knight stated that the pot holes had not been repaired to a satisfactory standard but that following DCC Councillor Edgell’s report (see Minute187) he was hopeful that there would be some progress in future.

#### **195 NOTICE OF MOTION**

The Council considered the following notice of motion submitted by Councillor Knight to North Devon Council and considered at North Devon Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020:

“This Council believes that it is not acceptable for construction traffic to be directed up Old Torrington Road to Sticklepath Hill. This area and its neighbouring wards are extremely congested already, and the extra traffic will seriously harm public amenities.

Regardless of the repositioning of the bus gate within Gratton Way or Old Torrington Road, and any hypothetical timescales attached to the traffic order.

Neither access road in its own right has the adequate capacity at their junction with the wider highway network to enable the extra traffic to leave the area efficiently. The added complications of the fluctuating funeral traffic only compound the issue.

This council proposes the immediate evaluation of a slip road out of the bottom of Old Torrington Road to join the A39, to relieve the traffic congestion around Sticklepath Hill and the Cedars roundabout. More importantly to safeguard the viability of the crematorium to deliver its services effectively, avoiding severe traffic congestion which will harm its tight schedules that it works to.

The Crematorium should have at the least, emergency access to shut down the new bus gate system, to relieve extreme traffic congestion, and to protect its services’.

It was Resolved that the following actions be agreed:-

- a) An immediate meeting with all parties concerned regarding the routing of the construction traffic, to try and resolve the issues that have been highlighted.
- b) The County Council and planning department to provide a new realistic time scale for the works to be completed.
- c) The planning department consider an urgent amendment to the local plan, and evaluate the proposal presented.
- d) The County Council to consider urgent action at the next HATOC meeting to expedite changes to the bus gate.
- e) The County Council to evaluate the proposal of a slip lane out of the bottom of Old Torrington Road, to aid the traffic trying to leave the area.
- f) The Council in conjunction with the County Council need to formulate an action plan suggesting ways to deliver the highway infrastructure improvements that are already detailed in the local plan

#### **196 TOWER VIEW PLAY AREA**

- a) Tarmacking of narrow lane to the rear of the play area

Councillor Knight reported that he had received a quote via NDC from Devon and Cornwall Surfacing Ltd to undertake the work but that he needed to clarify the specification and standard.

It was agreed:

- a) That Councillor Knight be authorised to seek clarification of the specification and seek further tenders
- b) That the s106 funding of £21,000 allocated for the Tower View Area be used to fund the cost of the works

#### **197 GRANT AND DONATION PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURE**

In the absence of Councillor M. Ward it was agreed to defer the above matter to a future meeting

#### **198 TREE PLANTING/WILD FLOWER AREAS**

NDC Councillor Lofthouse stated that he had been successful in being granted 105 saplings from the Woodlands Trust, which would be delivered in November.

With regard to the wildflower areas Councillor Knight stated that in light of the advice given by DCC he and Councillor Lofthouse would prepare a draft document identifying the areas and sizes with images/details for consideration.

It was agreed that Councillor Lofthouse contact and seek advice from Jo Pullen, Tarka Country Trust Project Co-ordinator

**199 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - VENUE**

Councillor Blackman stated that she considered that it would be a good idea to hold this years' Annual Parish meeting in a more central venue in order to encourage parishioners to attend.

It was agreed that this years' Annual Parish meeting be held in the Roundswell Community Centre on a date/time to be agreed.

**200 TAWSTOCK BURIAL GROUND - REVIEW**

In the absence of Councillor Thorne it was agreed to the above matter to a future meeting.

**201 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT/PLAY GROUND INSPECTION CONTRACT 2020/21/22/23**

The Council considered the Grounds Maintenance and Play Ground Inspection tenders (previously circulated) to Members.

The Clerk reported that 3 tenders had been received for the Grounds Maintenance contract and 2 for the Playground Inspection contract

It was agreed that the following lowest tenders be accepted:

Grounds Maintenance contract.

Gavin Hendry

2020/2021 £7,910

2021/2022 £8,068.20

2022/2023 £8,229.56

Playground Inspection contract

Barnstaple Town Council - For each of the 3 years £750

**202 DOG BIN ISSUES, TOWER VIEW AND LITTERING OLD TORRINGTON ROAD**

Councillor Knight reported that he spoken to Ray Jones, NDC Environmental Neighbourhood Officer who was looking to enable residents to report dog fouling/littering issues. He would also be looking at the provision of more litter bins

**203 CLIMATE EMERGENCY WEEKEND**

Councillor Knight reported that due to the present situation this event had been postponed.

**204. FINANCE MATTERS**

The Council considered the following Payments:

**a) Payments**

RESOLVED that the following payments be agreed:

Tawstock Village Hall Hire of Hall	£	15.00
Clerks Expenses – Mileage/Postage	£	10.90
North Devon Council Clerk Salary/Admin Fee	£	553.72
Tivoli Grounds Removal of Play Equipment	£	116.60
C. Waldron Web Site Maintenance and uploading minutes etc	£	83.00

**b) Current Financial Position**

The current financial position as at 5 February 2020 was noted

Current A/C £44,429.77, Business Reserve £15,990.81

**205. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following correspondence:

- a) Renewal of CPRE Membership. It was agreed to renew the Councils' membership for 2020/2021 for £36.
- b) The Council noted an E Mail from NDC regarding 'Operation London' - The procedure for marking the death of a Member of the Royal Family.
- c) The Council noted a letter from Selaine Saxby MP (previously circulated to members) in response to the Parish Councils' letter regarding the Larkbear development and cumulative effect of multiple developments on the transport network

**206. AGENDA MATTERS FOR NEXT MEETING**

There were no issues raised

**207. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at 7.00 p.m. at Tawstock Village Hall

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.48 p.m.