

# TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 17/02/16, 19:00 at Tawstock Village Hall

### PRESENT:

Cllr D Brailey M.B.E. (Chairman)  
Cllr N Lines  
Cllr D Luggar

Cllr C Prideaux

Cllr N Short  
Cllr C Thorne  
Cllr M Ward

### In Attendance:

County Cllr R Edgell  
County Cllr J Mathews

District Cllr G Lane

3 Members of Public  
P Dunn - Clerk

### 1. Public Session.

The Chairman welcomed all present.

Representations were received concerning the location of the new noticeboard in Elizabeth Drive, costs of a proposed new dog waste bin for Tower View, Grange Avenue play area being locked and a query as to the location of the proposed new school.

Taking each in turn, the Chairman stated:-

- The location of the noticeboard was determined at the last meeting and asked councillors if it had been erected in the agreed position. Cllrs Prideaux and Ward confirmed it was.
- The District Council did not procure dog waste bins for the Parish Council, however could request the clerk to make enquiries of the District to see if it could purchase from their supplies. The clerk advised [as per instruction of the last meeting] an order had already been placed with the parish council's grounds maintenance contractor. The clerk highlighted the quote did include installation cost, removal and disposal costs of the old bin; online bin prices did not include installation and removal of old costs.

The clerk advised there were two gates to the play area at Grange Avenue and that it was a requirement to keep the service gate locked, and queried whether this had been mistaken for the pedestrian gate which should not be locked.

Cllr Mathew reported there would be at least one new school provided in the Larkbeare development.

### 2. To Approve Apologies for Absence.

**RESOLVED:** Apologies approved from Cllr Short.

### 3. To consider application(s) for co-option.

The clerk reported one application from Mrs Ayres, the Chairman invited Mrs Ayres to introduce herself to the council. Mrs Ayres advised she had re-considered and wished to withdraw her application at this time. The Chairman thanked her for her interest.

### 4. To Receive the following Reports:-

#### 4.1. Police.

None.

#### 4.2. Chairman.

Chairman's report appended.

#### 4.3. County Cllrs.

Cllr Mathew reported:-

- A recommendation going to council for a 3.99% increase in the county council tax.
- Supporting a grant application from the parish council for provision of new bins, replacement service gate and tree works at Tower View recreation field in addition to the new noticeboard at Elizabeth Drive [now installed].
- Proposed drainage works in Tawstock 10/03/16.

Initialled:

Chairman.

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Cllr Edgell reported:-

- Clarified an additional 2% for social care was included in the 3.99% county council tax increase. The remainder of the increase would almost cover the County Council's implementation costs of the new Living Wage costs increase.
- Expressed concern at the disparity between urban and rural government funding and ongoing lobbying of MPs continued.
- The government one off grants to local authorities in return for council tax being held to a by government specified limit had now finished.
- There was a briefing for county councillors 18/02 on the future proposals for improvements to the North Devon Link Road.
- Outlined the current safety improvements to the Newbridge causeway walls costing approximately £310k for 400m of wall to mitigate errant vehicles straying from the causeway. These walls had to be built up from below as the width of the existing carriageway did not permit the installation of barriers.

**4.4. District Cllrs.**

The Chairman reported:-

- The District had restricted its recommendation for council tax increase to 1.99% albeit North Devon District was one of a limited number of authorities that government had agreed could apply an increase up to 5%.

Cllr Luggar reported:-

- CCTV review nearing completion with a recommendation for consultation to reduce the number of cameras.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow a question from a member of the public. A question was put seeking the number of current working cameras the response to which was approximately 35.

Standing Orders resumed.

- The Car Parking review was looking to rationalise the charging structure across the District.
- Neighbourhood Planning seminar 18/03 at Newton Abbot for anyone interested.

**5. Code of Conduct.**

**5.1. To consider any councillor dispensation requests.**

None.

**5.2. To receive Declarations of Interests in the business to be transacted.**

Agenda	Councillor	Type	Reason	Dispensation
	None.			

**6. Minutes.**

**6.1. 27/01/16.** To sign if approved, minutes of the Council.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Prideaux proposed, Cllr Lines seconded and all were in favour approval.

Cllr Edgell gave apologies and left the meeting.

**6.2. To note matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.**

None.

**7. To consider the following Planning Matters:-**

**7.1. Planning list.**

See planning report appended.

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It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow a question from a member of the public. The status of proposed changes to the mini roundabout at Sharlands was requested. It was clarified that subject to future section 106 funding it would be reverted to a T junction.

Standing Orders resumed.

**7.2. Planning applications received after publication of agenda.**

None.

**8. To consider the following Finance matters:-**

**8.1. Note account balances.**

Noted, see appended.

**8.2. Sanction payments due & instruct cheque signatories.**

**RESOLVED:** The Chairman proposed, Cllr Prideaux seconded and all were in favour settlement accounts 8.2.1 through 8.2.5, with the Chairman and Cllr Lines to sign. **Clerk to action.**

**9. To consider the following Property/Environment matters:-**

**9.1. Highways issues.**

Proposed drainage works in Tawstock resulting in road closure was reported.

Cllr Lines reported rubbish at the bottom of Old Sticklepath Hill. **Cllr Mathew to action.**

Cllrs Lines reported a blocked drain. **Clerk to action.**

**9.2. Memorial approval.**

Councillors considered a non-standard memorial stone design proposed for grave number 133.

**RESOLVED:** The Chairman proposed, Cllr Prideaux seconded and all were in favour no objection to the design incorporating a dolphin carving. **Clerk to action.**

**10. Correspondence / Consultation Received for consideration:-**

**10.1. NDC – “Clean for the Queen”.**

Correspondence dated 01/02/16 was considered. Cllr Lines reported the local WI periodically litter pick the village. **Cllr Ward expressed an interest in organising a litter pick in the urban ward and would liaise with the Chairman on organisation.**

**10.2. Local Gov. Boundary Commission – Electoral Review of Devon Final Recommendations.**

Noted.

**11. Items for report only and future agenda items.**

**11.1. To consider tabled items received following agenda publication.**

An invitation from Barnstaple Town Council to a Planning training day was noted. The Chairman stated that if councillors were interested in more information on Neighbourhood Planning he would arrange a presentation from a Forward Planning Officer from the District to attend council.

**Chairman and clerk to action.**

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow a question from a member of the public. A request for a police report at this event was requested.

Standing Orders reinstated.

**11.2. To receive items brought through the Chairman and future agenda items.**

Cllr Ward reported hosting a residents' social at Elizabeth Drive attended by approximately 30 residents and requested an agenda item at the next meeting to report issues arising. **Clerk to agenda.**

Cllr Ward requested the parish council consider meeting in the urban ward occasionally. **Clerk to research venues.**

Cllr Ward queried the status of the parish newsletter. **Clerk to agenda.**

Cllr Luggar queried a small memorial plaque in respect of the late Cllr Derek Harper. **Clerk to agenda.**

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### 12. Date of Next meeting recommended 30/03/16 – deadline for agenda items 18/03/16.

Noted.

Meeting closed **20:10**.

### Planning Report

7.1.1.	<b>No. - 56724</b> <b>Type - Application</b>	<b>RESOLVED:</b> Approve LAND ADJACENT BRANNAMS OLD TORRINGTON ROAD BARNSTAPLE DEVON - RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ERECTION OF 30 DWELLINGS (AMENDED PLANS) (AMENDED DESCRIPTION)
7.1.2.	<b>No. - 60471</b> <b>Type - Refusal Report</b>	<b>RESOLVED:</b> Noted ROUNDSWELL SERVICES BARNSTAPLE DEVON EX31 3RZ - EXTENSION TO SALES BUILDING

### Chairman's Report

The council budget has been set and we have set a zero budget which we are required to do by law.

Our income has decreased from £15.5m in 2010/2011 to £11.7m in 2016/2017. Or almost £4m I am sure you will agree this is a huge amount. This is mainly due to the government grant reduction to council. We have reduced our workforce from 484 to 357 and we have achieved this without major redundancies.

This year our settlement was cut by a further 15% which is why we have had to take some difficult decisions. However, following my lobbying of our MP Peter Heaton-Jones he has managed to get us an increase in our rural settlement of £230k which will assist us in subsequent years to help balance the books.

This has been no mean task as we started from a minus £781k. At Full Council next week we will recommend an increase of 1.99% on our council tax contribution. That equates to 6 pence a week rise for a band D property. To help us balance the books we at Executive have taken a decision to reduce our grants that we pay out outside organisations by 15% also. I felt it only right that we do this the alternative would be to reduce our staffing further.

The devolution debate will go before North Devon Council next week. This is a high level document that we hope will open the door to the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government. Naturally there is some apprehension about devolution which one would expect and I will ensure we bat our corner hard to ensure that we obtain the best possible deal for Northern Devon because we have joined forces with Exmoor Nation Park and Torrington to have a stronger voice.

The A361 Central Government have now given £1.6m to the county to carry out the necessary studies to see what will work on the North Devon Link Road. This will not be a dual carriageway because that would cost way in excess of the possible £100m that enhancement might cost.

Initialed:

Chairman.

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### Bank Balances & Payment Schedule.

Bank Balances		£	
	Current	36735.93	29/01/16
	Deposit	15933.23	29/01/16
		£52,669.16	
	Less uncleared cheque payments	3386.68	
	Plus uncleared deposits	0.00	
	<b>Council Accounts Balance</b>	<b>£49,282.48</b>	
	Earmarked Funds – Burial Ground	<b>7595.17</b>	
	Tawstock Village Hall	<b>600.00</b>	

Item	Ref.	Payee	Purpose	£
8.2.1.	537	Harracott Village Hall	Grant	300.00
8.2.2.			2015 Bookings	45.00
8.2.3.	538	Tawstock Village Hall	Jan Meeting	12.00
8.2.4.	539	HMRC	Feb	11.60
8.2.5.	540	Clerk	Salary – Feb	488.68

Signed:

Chairman.

Dated:

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BRAND D. £164-58 INCREASED TO £167-86 = £3-28

102 TO NDC  
102 TO PCC  
58 TO FIRE AUTH  
32 TO PARKS  
728 TO COUNTY