

**MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 20th JULY 2021 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Blackman (Chairman)
Councillors Knight, Lines, Lofthouse, Luggar, Thorne and Ward.

NDC Councillors Knight and Lofthouse

DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver.

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public - 3

42. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Bowden and Short and NDC Councillor Saxby.

43. PUBLIC SESSION

A Parishioner who was undertaking a wildflower verge project sought support from the Parish Council to act as a guarantor/sponsor for the project to enable grant funds to be drawn down. The Parish Council as a properly constituted body would hold any funds awarded.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would act as a guarantor/sponsor for the project.

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

Councillors Ward and Knight updated the Council on the installation of new play equipment in the Tudor Park.

The contractor was currently on site and there had been a misunderstanding regarding the material for the slide. A stainless steel slide had been supplied which was considered inappropriate as it would get very hot in hot weather and would need to be north facing. A plastic slide would be ordered but would take approximately 10 weeks for delivery. The contractor had however, installed the new Playhouse and would block off the slide area to make it safe for use pending the installation of the plastic slide.

Councillor Knight stated that he had received a complaint from a neighbour regarding the position of the new swings. He had advised the resident to submit a formal complaint to the Clerk for consideration by the Council.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

46. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

a) DCC Councillor Leaver

Councillor Leaver reported the following (full report appended):

- Ofsted focused visit to Children's Services May 2021
- Reports from committees and various motions to be considered by the Full Council in particular:
 - i) Investigation of how to implement Quiet Lanes and Home Zones Regulations 2006 – parishes may be invited to suggest roads suitable for inclusion in the scheme that limited the speed and size of large agricultural vehicles and HGVs in the interests of the safety of other road users – it was largely directed towards minor roads in rural parts of Devon.
 - ii) Introduction of speed limits of 20 mph near schools to be included in Newton Abbot trial.
 - iii) Calls for more action on having 20mph schemes without having to wait for the end of the Newton Abbot trial – to reduce carbon emissions, increase safety and support more Active Travel measures.
- Covid Response Update
- Traffic Schemes/Orders
- Old Torrington Road Bus Gate
The HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee) had approved the bus gate subject to investigation of times of operation.
- Shorelands Road Roundabout
That the Highways Planning Officer would receive a drawing from the designers to discuss with her in a few weeks' time. Following that, implementation should take place this financial year – subject to contractor availability.

It was agreed that an item be placed on the next agenda regarding 20 m.p.h. limits and quiet lanes.

b) DCC Councillor Henderson

Councillor Henderson stated that there were issues regarding speeding and large vehicles breaking up road surfaces in many Parishes.

c) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported:

- That the Planning Application for the development of the Leisure Centre site had been submitted and was out for consultation.
- That the local litter picking groups in the area had gone from strength to strength.
- That the NDC Litter Picking Committee of which he was a member was looking at a new mapping tool to list the location of litter bins (using What 3 words) and who was responsible for their emptying.

- That he had met the new Planning Manager on site to discuss applications 61119 and 72227.
- That application 70954 Larkbear Phase 2 would be considered by the NDC Planning Committee but due to lack of information the consultation period had been extended to obtain clarification of the amendments to the application.

d) NDC Councillor Lofthouse

Councillor Lofthouse reported that he was meeting an NDC Officer to discuss the cost of cutting of the wildflower/meadow area in the Tower View Recreation Area.

d) NDC Councillor Saxby

The Clerk presented a report by Councillor Saxby. She stated that she was aware of concerns from residents about many different aspects of local planning. Planning decisions do reside with the district council, but reforms were being discussed at Westminster, and she had met with ministers, spoken in debates, written articles and would be asking the Prime Minister a question about planning reforms, specifically about our coastal communities. The housing issues across North Devon had a knock-on impact and she very much hoped that the new Head of Planning at the District Council would have a positive impact on some of the local issues.

47. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th June be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no matters arising.

49. HIGHWAY ISSUES

a) Bus Gate: HATOC meeting Update and Timing/Permitted Access

Councillor Knight reported that following public consultation HATOC had approved to move the Bus Gate subject to investigation of times of operation.

It was agreed that the following be raised with the Chair of HATOC:

The Parish Council wishes to challenge the legality of the decision of ND HATOC to give consideration to proposed operating times of the new Bus Gate. This was not part of Traffic Regulation Order public consultation or part of the planning process to move the existing bus gate. It was always envisaged that there would be no 'Through Road'.

b) Overgrown Pavements.

Councillor Knight reported that there were a number of overgrown pavements which had been reported to DCC Officers who had advised that they were not sufficiently overgrown to warrant action in accordance with DCC policy.

It was agreed that Councillor Knight and DCC Councillor Henderson meet on site.

- c) Devon County Council (Various Roads, North Devon) (E-Scooters Traffic Regulation) Experimental Amendment Order 2021.

The Order was noted and agreed to be put on the Parish Council website.

50. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT/MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE.

The Council considered the recommendations of the Site Meeting (previously circulated).

It was agreed:

Wildlife/Wildflower Area

- That 2 insect houses (1 with a roof and guttering and 1 with a green roof) be installed.
- That 2 Hedgehog Houses be provided and 2 water dishes.
- Provision of bat and bird boxes
- That the plugs/seeds/ and B. Bombs be planted (Hybrid approach) and the area scarified in appropriate spots.
- That a water butt be provided.
- That a pond be NOT provided.
- That a Wet Area be provided.
- That Quotes be sought for the above and on-going maintenance.
- That the old fencing/gate be used as a feature

Fencing

- That Councillor Knight seek a quote to provide and erect picket fencing that conforms to British Standards for safety.

Litter Bin

- That a new litter bin be provided in the recreation area to replace the existing broken litter bin.

Devon Bank Area

- That there be no strimming or mowing within the fenced area and within 1 foot of the outside of the fenced area
- That the area around the bottom of the trees be NOT sprayed with weed killer
- That only the weeds on the path kerb edge be sprayed with weed killer.
- That Councillor Lofthouse organise a residents Devon Bank maintenance group to be managed by a Councillor.

Bottom Footpath

- That the resident whose hedge abuts the footpath be requested to cut back their hedge
- That Councillor Knight provide the Clerk with the specification for the tarmacking of the bottom footpath and further quotes be sought.

Outstanding s106 Funding

- That the s106 underspend of grant be put back into the s106 grant pot for future phases of enhancement.

Councillor Knight advised that he had received a quote from Mole Valley Farmers of £30 per 1.8 metres of fencing. The quote included 22 posts, 15 panels and 3 gates for £850 excluding VAT. This did not include screws etc. Likely total costs approximately £1,000. He would get a specification to tarmac the bottom path to obtain further quotes.

51. COMMEMORATIVE COINS – HOLYWELL SCHOOL.

Councillor Luggar stated that the Parish Council had traditionally worked with the school to commemorate specific events. Next year was the Queens 70th anniversary and he sought the Council's approval to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee by providing the children of Holywell School with a commemorative souvenir. There were approximately 110 pupils at the school.

It was agreed to earmark £2 per child (£220) in the budget to provide a commemorative souvenir.

52. BURIAL GROUND.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter regarding the overgrown trees in the Tawstock Burial Ground.

It was agreed that Gavin Hendry be requested to meet Members on site to assess the trees and any action required.

53. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) 73193 Change electricity supply from single phase to three phase to supply two air supply heat pumps 1 x 14kW and 1 x 11.2kW, The Barn, Tawstock.

RECOMMENDED Approval

- b) 73568 Erection of replacement porch, 5 Broadclose Road, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- c) 73579 First floor extension to and conversion of annexe to form one dwelling, Lower Court, Hiscott, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- d) 73601 Extension and alterations to dwelling, 5 Grange Avenue, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- e) 70954 Erection of 252 dwellings together with associated works (amended plans) Larkbear, Tawstock, Barnstaple.

Councillor Knight reported that the NDC Planning Manager had agreed an extension of

time to clarify the proposed amendments.

Deferred to the next Parish Council meeting.

- f) 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 sq. m. including the completion of a Toucan crossing on the eastern arm of the Roundswell Roundabout (amended description & plans), St Johns Garden Centre, Roundswell, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Refusal on highway safety grounds and lack of details regarding the implementation of the Toucan crossing and how vehicles will effectively slow down on the A39.

54. THE TRACKER

The Tracker was noted.

55. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Biosphere Nature Plan.

The Council agreed to sign the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Partnership declaration for Nature's Recovery.

56. FINANCE MATTERS

a) Payments

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary	£568.74
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£15.10
Gavin Hendry Grounds Maintenance	£1,722.00
Barnstaple Town Council Watering	£240.00
UcanStore.comStorage	£72.00
Holywell School Grant-Laptops	£250.00

b) FINANCIAL POSITION

That the current financial position at 5 July 2021 Current A/C £46,378.53 Business Reserve £16,002.96 be noted.

57. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 17th August 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Barnstaple South Report, July 2021

Cllr Caroline Leaver, Devon County Council

1. Ofsted focused visit to Children's Services May 2021

What needs to improve in this area of social work practice

- Making sure that decisions taken by the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) are acted on.
- Professional curiosity and the quality of assessments.
- How effectively plans drive progress for children.
- The quality of recorded management oversight and critical challenge.

Findings:

- Covid has been challenging but school attendance rates by children with social workers, and those with an education, health and care plan have been consistently above the national average
- Improvements identified by previous poor Ofsted reports have not really started yet. Recruitment and retention very big problem. The help and protection, care and support that many children receive is still poor. Work is on-going to improve the way MASH and Initial Response Teams work together. Home schooling monitoring systems are working well.
- Relationships with the Children and Family Court Advisory & support Service and the judiciary are much improved. Pre-proceedings are being used effectively to promote meaningful change in families.
- Placement stability remains an issue in the foster care service and some children face uncertainty over time.
- There are differences in practice and performance between teams, services and districts that contribute to the general lack of consistency in the quality of the help and protection, care and support that children receive. While improvements have been made to the way monitoring data is displayed and interrogated it is not clear how effectively that information is being used to improve the experience and progress of children.
- The quality and effectiveness of scrutiny and critical challenge provided by elected members and the corporate centre need to improve.
- Statutory partners are enthusiastic about the potential for safeguarding partnership arrangements to make a real difference. During the pandemic agencies were forced to find solutions and

work together in a way they had not done before. With restrictions being reduced it is important that these new ways of working are not lost.

2. Full DCC meeting

Reports from committees and various motions. The motions of particular interest include:

- Investigation of how to implement Quiet Lanes and Home Zones Regulations 2006 – parishes may be invited to suggest roads suitable for inclusion in the scheme that limit the speed and size of large agricultural vehicles and HGVs in the interests of the safety of other road users – it is largely directed towards minor roads in rural parts of Devon, but it would be interesting to see how this applies to urban areas.
- Introduction of speed limits of 20 mph near schools to be included in Newton Abbot trial
- Calls for more action on having 20mph schemes without having to wait for the end of the Newton Abbot trial – to reduce carbon emissions, increase safety and support more Active Travel measures.
- Allied to the above, there is a motion suggesting that council consider diverting financial resources away from new road schemes and instead to re-invest funds in an improved network of non-vehicular routes to allow more Active Travel measures to be implemented.

Audit committee considered various reports including one of the External Audit Plan for DCC 2020/21. Two areas of significant weakness were found. 1 – the council's response to the January 2020 Ofsted inspection of Children's Social Care Services and 2 – the council's plans to reduce its SEND overspend.

3. COVID response Update

90% of adults in Devon have had first dose of vaccine. 70% of adults have had both doses. More than two thirds 18-24 yr olds have had their first jab

Despite the government relaxing rules on 19 July, health care, social services and many other areas of council and NHS services will continue with mask wearing and social distancing. Some restrictions will stay in place for visiting care homes. A survey of more than 17,000 users of GP surgeries found that 90% in Devon rated their service as good, despite

demand having increased by 14%. Devon was rated above the England average in all categories.

Public Health England's weekly figures on the Delta variant shows increases across Devon. In North Devon the increase this week is to 94, up from 57 last week.

4. Traffic Orders Barnstaple (South) Tawstock

- Temporary prohibition of cycling Sticklepath terrace (oneway) 23 – 25 August for works to manhole by Jurassic fibre. Noted that Cllr Lofthouse has been in touch to express concerns that as this is a busy path there will need to be an alternative in place.

5. Traffic Schemes – go to [All proposed traffic schemes - Roads and transport \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/all-proposed-traffic-schemes-roads-and-transport)

- Temporary traffic notice Anne Crescent 15-21 July – closure to allow for excavation and replacement of damaged pipework
- Temporary closure of Old Bideford Rd, 2 – 4 August, Jurassic fibre.
- Consultation on **experimental E-scooter traffic** Regulation order opened 7 July and runs until 15 January 2022.

6. Old Torrington Road Bus Gate

HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee) approved the bus gate subject to investigation of times of operation. I have contacted the relevant DCC officer to explore this matter further, and will report back in due course.

7. Shorelands Road Roundabout

I have discussed this matter with the Head of Highways that this matter who tells me that the intention is that the Highways Planning Officer will receive a drawing from the designers to discuss with me in a few weeks' time. Following that, implementation should take place this financial year – subject to contractor availability.

8. Sign cleaning

Community self-help - Cleaning of highway signs on the minor road network may be undertaken by Parish or Town Councils and community organisations through the Highways Self Help initiative, or more formally through a Road Warden agreement. DCC advise that those involved in organising the works should undertake a Highway Safety Awareness course or equivalent. The Highway Safety Awareness course is provided by DCC and is free of charge.

If work is carried out on the live carriageway (open to traffic) then those carrying out the works must have undertaken their SWQR Unit 2 Signing, Lighting and Guarding qualification (or equivalent) at a ratio of 1:2 (one qualified worker to 2 unqualified). This is a two day course. DCC will provide free training for 3 representatives per organisation.

If you'd like to carry out a self-help project and would like further advice call 0345 155 1004 or email hwaymain@devon.gov.uk
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/opportunities/highway-self-help>
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/communities/opportunities/road-warden-scheme>

Reporting - Any defective signs including those that are illegible and requiring cleaning can be reported online on the "Defective Road Markings and Signs" link on the Report It page.
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/> Safety defects

A regulatory or hazard / warning sign that is obviously faded or covered in dirt or algae is a defect, and when identified through inspection or a public report will be cleaned or replaced in accordance with the Highway Safety Policy.

https://devoncc.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/PublicDocs/Highways/EWfse9s_zT9GkOyeeMffXaoBRrOOTAH1VullpUDySA0d3Q?e=PumwN2

Routine maintenance - Each Neighbourhood Team has a small revenue budget for sign maintenance. Cleaning of direction and information signs may be considered for this budget dependant on other priorities