

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 16th AUGUST 2022 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Blackman (Chair)
Councillors Knight, Lines, Needham, Norman, Short, Steer and
Ward.

NDC Councillors Knight and Saxby.

DCC Councillor Leaver

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 8

90. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Bowden and Lofthouse.

91. PUBLIC SESSION

Parishioners raised the following issues:

- a) Overgrown undeveloped field in Broadclose Road, Sticklepath, Banstaple.

A Parishioner reported concerns of several residents that an overgrown undeveloped field in Broadclose Road was considered a fire risk. Planning Permission for development had been granted several years ago but never materialised and the site had now been left neglected and overgrown. The grass was now up to waist height and was considered a fire risk, especially due to the recent hot and dry weather. A Plastics Factory was on the site.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to NDC Planning Enforcement and Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue requesting that they investigate this matter as a matter of urgency due to safety concerns of residents.

- b) Planning Application 75615 Land adj. to Roundswell A39 Roundabout.

A Parishioner stated that he could not find any details on the website re the above application. It was stated that the application details were on the NDC website not DCC website.

- c) Planning Application 72282 Land South of Lake Roundabout

A Parishioner expressed concerns that the Highways comment in relation to the above application stated that they would require use of the proposed industrial estate to access Tawstock and remove the existing road bridge over the A39.

- d) Planning Application 66229 Application for residential development and Extra Care Housing, Old Bideford Road

A Parishioner asked what the decision of NDC Planning Committee was in respect of the above application.

Councillor Knight stated that he would be updating Council later in the agenda.

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

There were no issues raised.

93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

94. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

(a) DCC Councillor Leaver

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- Bus Gate: Update. That following the decision of HATOC the next stage was to sort the legal agreements between DCC and Persimmon. DCC had tried to contact Persimmon but no response had been received to date.
The Chair reported that she had written direct to Persimmon and the Technical Director and would report his response later in the agenda.
- Pot Holes – Budget. That the local pot hole budget had been transferred back to Exeter.
- Planning Application 66229 Application for residential development and Extra Care Housing, Old Bideford Road. That planning permission had been granted in outline to establish the principle but with detailed consent given for accesses onto Old Bideford Road and Old Torrington Road. The development on site the eastern side of the site would be a maximum of 2 full storeys with the taller buildings at the Sainsbury's end.
- Children's Services. That the service was still inadequate with a huge gap in the number of Social workers.
- Chief Executive. That Phil Norrey was retiring and that it had been agreed to offer the newly appointed Chief Executive a 12 1/2 % increase in salary (not performance related).
- Overspend. That there was a current forecasted overspend of approx. £40 million.
- Locality Budget. That the locality budget for local projects had been frozen.

(b) NDC Councillor Saxby

Councillor Saxby reported that she had no issues to report but was happy to be contacted on any planning issues relating to the Tawstock Rural area.

(c) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported:

- Planning Application 66229 – That he had been informed by NDC Planning Officer that application could not be refused on highway grounds and was cited the Inspectors decision re Yelland Quay and that the covenant issue was a civil legal matter.

- That he had received draft documentation regarding the Parish Council Tower View s106 application.

95. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Needham reported that he had received a positive response from residents regarding the locking and unlocking of the Tudor Park gates and that he had removed discarded items including a trolley from the Park.

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

There were no issues raised.

97. HIGHWAY ISSUES

- a) Shorelands Road roundabout – Roundabout Traffic calming.

Councillor Knight report that a pair of blocks was approx. £1,000.

It was agreed:

- i) That the Clerk seeks details from Barnstaple Town Council of the St Georges Road , Barnstaple traffic calming scheme.
- ii) That in principle the Parish Council pay for the provision of rubber blocks to act as a traffic calming measure.

- b) Installation of pavement, Old Torrington Road.

Councillor Ward read the following response from Matt Collins, DCC

‘Devon County Council is currently facing significant budget pressure and all schemes are under scrutiny in an attempt to reduce costs. While this financial issue has caused some delay, it is not the only issue holding up these works.

Persimmon Homes’ Larkbear development is to change the Gratton Way junction and footway, and we have been awaiting confirmation of their designs for this for some time so that our scheme ties in with theirs properly without the need for extra works to fill in a gap or the need for one party to dig up what the other has done.

We are also awaiting a traffic regulation order for double yellow lines on part of the road which is needed to stop vehicles parking near the new crossing of the road which would affect visibly of pedestrians using the crossing. Obtaining this traffic order has been delayed for many reasons including a lack of staff in the relevant team dealing with such work. Recruitment of staff is an issue across the Council, including in our Northern engineering team which is also understaffed and has a significant amount of projects to design and progress across the area.

The availability of contractors and the increased prices for civil engineering works is also a major issue, which is compounded with the financial pressures on budgets.

We are therefore looking into a value engineered option, using only the money paid by developers of nearby housing. However, we still need to agree detailed plans and a final cost with contractors for this work, and I am sorry to say that I cannot give any indication of when this path will be built.'

The Chair reported that she had written direct to Persimmon and the Technical Director who had informed her that detailed elements of the design now needed to be passed to the Highways Engineers within Devon County Council for approval prior to construction. Technical Approval and Legal Processes had to be adhered to before Contractors could be authorised to enter the Public Highway to construct the Bus Gate which was a Statutory Process that had to be adhered to. Persimmon would, however, be shortly submitting a detailed design and the Technical Approval process would commence, with a number of other elements required before the works could be completed. There were signage implications which the TRO required to enable the traffic to be re-directed away from the area once the bus gate was active, to ensure that abortive traffic movements were minimised within Old Torrington Road. She had been assured that they were working towards the construction of the bus gate as quickly as the legal processes would permit, which could take some months to complete before Construction could commence.

- c) Bus Gate – Old Torrington Road: Update.

See minute 94 (a) above

98. PLAY AREAS

- a) Tower View - Deterrent for birds perching on top of the swings.

It was agreed to take no action at present.

Mr Joe Tucker volunteered to undertake regular visits and clean the seats if required.

- b) Tudor Drive – Security Issues.

Councillor Needham reported that 4 residents had approached him regarding safety concerns in respect of the properties with a rear access gate into the Park and requested that the Council seek the permanent closure of the gates. There were also concerns regarding the dumping of animal waste in the Park.

It was agreed that the residents should make formal representations to the Clerk.

99. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT.

- a) Progress report & actions.

The Chair reported that complaints had been received from residents regarding the Tower View Recreation Area. The Park generally looked good except for the banks

and wildlife areas. She had spoken to the Grounds Maintenance Contractor who had provided a quote to brush cut the central bank and the bottom back and also to cut both sides and the top to clear the bank. The larger trees and the elm would be left and the rest would be brush cut. It was also proposed to brush cut and trim the two wild flower areas, one at the top of the park and one at the bottom.

It had also been suggested that in order to make cutting easier that the wire fence be removed and that some of the trees in the wildlife area needed pruning.

It was agreed that a formal Parish Council Site meeting be arranged with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor.

b) Goal post.

Councillor Blackman reported that the proposed goal posts could be fixed into the ground for safety reasons.

c) Tree watering, bulbs and Noticeboard.

The Clerk reported that quotes had been received for the provision of bulbs £165 and a new noticeboard £997 + £45 delivery/fixing, the costs of which had been included in the s106 grant application.

It was also reported that the quote for the tree watering from Dan Perrin Landscapes had been £350.

It was agreed that the above quotes be noted and agreed.

d) Unauthorised removal of signs.

It was agreed that no action be taken on this matter.

100. TOWER VIEW VERGE MARKERS

The Clerk reported that the receipt of quotes from Gavin Hendry, North Devon Home and Gardens and A Jewell for the provision of the verge markers.

It was agreed that the more detailed quote from Gavin Hendry of £1,961.67 for timber marker posts be accepted.

101. LOCAL PLAN: UPDATE.

Councillor Knight reported that NDC would be consulting Parish Council's when the formal consultation commenced. He suggested that Members read the section relating to Tawstock in advance of the formal consultation.

102. DEFIBRILLATOR

Councillor Blackman reported the receipt of a quote from R.J. Weatherly of £225.00 to instal the defibrillator at the Methodist Church.

It was agreed that the quote be accepted.

Councillor Norman agreed to investigate the safety/insurance requirements for the new defibrillator.

103. WEBSITE

No update to report.

104. TAWSTOCK CEMETERY – GREEN BIN AND COLLECTION PERMIT.

Councillor Lines stated she currently took green waste from the cemetery home to put in her green waste bin and suggested that the Council may consider the provision of a green bin by the cemetery.

Councillor Ward agreed to speak to the Grounds Maintenance Contractor to ask if he would collect when cutting the area by the cemetery.

105. WI COMMEMORATIVE TREE.

Councillor Needham reported that he had met with representatives from the WI who had agreed to plant a native species tree with deep roots as far back from the car park as possible.

The WI proposal was agreed.

106. APPOINTMENT AS A GOVERNOR OF THE ROYAL DEVON UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST.

Due to lateness of time, the above matter was deferred to the next meeting.

107. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) 75465 Creation of new access to serve dwelling (approved under 74835), installation of roof mounted solar panels and associated works at Barn, West Pristacott Farm, Harracott.

RECOMMENDED that concerns be raised regarding land ownership.

- b) 72282 Outline application for 22 industrial/business units and service station with some matters reserved except access (amended description, amended Flood Risk Assessment, Heritage Statement), Land South of Lake Roundabout.

RECOMMENDED REFUSAL on access and highway safety grounds.

- c) 75615 Approval of details in respect of discharge of condition 4 (Unit Size Concessions and Subdivision - Petrol Filling Station) 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

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1,215 sq. m. including the completion of a Toucan crossing on the eastern arm of the Roundswell Roundabout (amended description, plans & Flood risk assessment)), Land adjacent to Roundswell A39 Roundabout, Barnstaple.

RECOMMENDED REFUSAL for the reasons of refusal as previously recommended to the application.

108. TRACKER.

The Tracker was noted.

109. CORRESPONDENCE.

There was no correspondence reported.

110. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£578.55
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£8.74
Gavin Hendry Grounds Maintenance	£1,380.00
Methodist Hall Hire	£50.00
J. Needham Purchase of keys/locks Tudor Park	£69.18
Tawstock Jubilee Celebrations Grant	£250.00

b) Financial Position

The financial position at 5 August 2022 Current A/C £33,972.21 Business Reserve £16,009.27 was noted.

111. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

The following issues were raised:

Noticeboard – Eastacombe
Parish Gateway signs

112. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be on Tuesday 20th September 2022 @ 7.00 p.m.

113. CLERKS CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT - REVIEW

Due to lateness of time, it was agreed to defer the above matter to the next meeting.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.