

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st JUNE 2022 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Ward (In the Chair)
Councillors Bowden, Knight, Lines, Lofthouse, Needham, Norman and
Steer.

NDC Councillors Knight and Lofthouse.

DCC Councillor Leaver

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 2

46. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Blackman and Short, NDC Councillor Saxby and DCC Councillor Henderson.

The Clerk read a statement by the Chair Councillor Blackman who could unfortunately not attend the meeting welcoming all to the first meeting in the Methodist Hall, which was more accessible for residents to attend Parish Council meetings.

47. PUBLIC SESSION

A Parishioner raised the following issues regarding the wild flower areas in the Tower View Recreation area and the perceived lack of maintenance. Nettles and brambles were flourishing in the wild flower areas and the seeded area comprised of a lot of mud. The area looked neglected. It was noted that a lot of ragwort a controlled plant that was harmful to grazing animals was also growing. There were animals grazing about 800 metres away.

Councillor Ward stated that the creation of the wild flower areas was work in progress. The Council had planted 100 hedge saplings in the bank which need time to establish themselves and quotes had been sought to trim the main bank. Ragwort was a good sustainable food for bees, butterflies and birds.

Councillor Bowden stated that she had researched the DEFRA web site which categorised ragwort and low/medium/high risk dependent upon its distance away from livestock. If the distance was less than 100 metres it was classified as low risk.

It was agreed that the ragwort risk be assessed on an annual basis.

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

There were no issues raised.

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

50. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

(a) DCC Councillor Leaver

DCC Councillor Leaver stated that she was very angry at the officer recommendations to the HATOC meeting on 27 June 2022 regarding the bus gate on Old Torrington Road. Following public consultation 118 representations had been received, 11 representations in favour of the proposal and 107 against the proposed modification, yet the report recommended that the consultation views be only noted and the proposed modification be adopted.

(b) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported:

- That the Official opening of the new leisure centre was on the 24 June 2022 and would be opened by Eddie ‘the eagle’ Edwards and s106 monies was being used to provide play equipment outside the site.
- That it had officially been recognised that heavily trafficked areas ie by the train station, Petroc and Coney Gut to avoid contamination of the watercourse etc required special measures and additional litter bins.

(c) NDC Councillor Lofthouse

Councillor Lofthouse reported that information was being circulated regarding application 66229 the Grange Avenue School site.

51. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no issues raised.

53. HIGHWAY ISSUES

a) Shorelands Road roundabout – Update

Councillor Knight stated that he was not happy with the response from DCC regarding the Councils views on the roundabout.

b) Bus Gate – Old Torrington Road. Update

See minute 50 (a) above

c) Community Speed Watch

Councillor Bowden reported that 6 Members had signed up to the Community Speed watch team and that training with the Police was on 20 July and the locations approved.

54. PLAY AREAS

The Clerk reported the following:

a) Tower View

i) Damaged Surface Area

The Clerk reported that he awaited an itemised quote from TK Play.

ii) Access Request

The Clerk reported that the required information as requested by the Council had been supplied by Mr Jones and circulated to Members.

The request by Mr Jones to access the rear of his property to undertake maintenance to his property was agreed.

b) Tudor Park

i) Damaged Benches

The Clerk reported that Barnstaple Town Council had re-braced and secured the two damaged benches to the ground using a new chain and creating new anchorage at no charge.

ii) Locking and unlocking the gate

Councillor Needham reported that he had spoken to the previously mentioned resident regarding the locking and unlocking of the gate to the Tudor play area, who had agreed to consider the request. He suggested that the gate be opened at 9 am and closed at dusk. He also reported that the bolts on the gate were stuck and the padlock missing. He agreed to loosen the bolts. Councillor Ward stated that Gavin Hendry may have the padlock.

He also suggested that a letter similar to that sent to residents backing onto the Tower View area be sent to all residents backing onto the Tudor play area.

Councillor Bowden agreed to amend the letter and Councillor Needham agreed to deliver it to residents.

He also reported that the heading on the Noticeboard was confusing as it read Grange Avenue.

55. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT.

a) Recommendations of the Site meeting held on 30 May 2022

Councillor Ward reported that she had painted the insect houses and prepared a list of things for Members to obtain to fill them. It was suggested that each Member identify 1/2 things to bring to the next meeting.

Councillors Knight and Lofthouse stated that the removal of the concrete roller/shingle and preparation of the gates would be done in the coming few days.

The Council considered a quote and various options from Gavin Hendry regarding the maintenance of the bank.

It was agreed that the quote to undertake 1 initial clearance of the pathway along the side of the bank facing the play park only, up to a metre from the path edge at £60 plus VAT and then 3 further strims throughout the season please at £60 plus VAT per strim be accepted and the situation monitored over the next 12 months.

b) Bulbs and maintenance of the trees

Councillor Bowden reported the receipt of a quote from Gardeners Delight Nursery to maintain the trees. It was noted that the quote did not include the supply of bulbs.

It was noted that it was recommended that no pruning of the trees was required at this stage.

It was agreed:

- i) that the quote of £566 to clear weed growth, mulch and correctly stake 28 trees be accepted
- ii) that 2 solitary bee houses be supplied and installed at a cost of £10 each.

c) Noticeboards

It was agreed that quotes be sought for both wooden and aluminium noticeboards, one to be located in the Tower View Recreation Area and the other at the Tudor Play Area.

56. TOWER VIEW VERGE MARKERS

It was noted that DCC had agreed and advised of the size and position of verge markers to stop vehicles mounting the grass verge.

Councillor Ward agreed to seek quotes for the provision of the verge markers.

57. DEFIBRILLATOR

Consideration of the above matter was deferred to the next meeting.

58. METHODIST HALL - INTERNET

The Clerk reported that Councillor Blackman had spoken to the Barnstaple camera club who had installed the internet in the Methodist Hall. The camera club had suggested a charity donation of £6 per calendar month.

It was agreed that internet connection was not required.

59. WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Clerk reported that Councillor Blackman had spoken to Gavin Hendry regarding to the cutting of the grass in the Memorial Garden and cutting the hedge.

He had agreed to cut the hedge free of charge and submitted a quote to trim the grass in the Memorial Garden and outside road verge.

Councillor Lines stated that her son currently cut the Memorial Garden grass free of charge and was willing to continue.

It was agreed:

- a) That Gavin Hendry be thanked for agreeing to cut the hedge free of charge.
- b) That the quote from Gavin Hendry of £5 plus VAT to cut the outside verge grassed area be agreed.
- c) That a letter of thanks be sent to the son of Councillor Lines for cutting the grass in the Memorial Garden free of charge.

60. WEBSITE

Councillor Bowden stated that the current Parish Council was outdated and required revamping. She had obtained a quote from Idea Engine to design and build a WIX website for £800.

Councillor Knight stated that his partner may be willing to design and build a new WIX website free of charge.

It was agreed that the website needed updating and the way forward considered at the next meeting.

61. WHAT'S APP GROUP

Councillor Needham stated that his phone continually pinged with messages going back and forward on the Councils What's App Group and perhaps messages should be only used for important matters.

It was stated that it was a good communication app for Councillors to interact with each other outside of Council meetings and the sound notification could be muted.

It was agreed to continue to use the App for Members to communicate with each other.

62. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) 75341 Installation of eight solar panels to the west-facing roof of the house, The Smithy, Tawstock, Barnstaple.

RECOMMENDED Approval

- b) 75425 Rear extension to existing garage, 21 Rhododendron Avenue, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

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RECOMMENDED that concern regarding the proposed drainage statement into the combined sewer be raised and seek confirmation that the previous extension had been superseded by the current application.

- c) 75326 Re-alignment of existing vehicular entrance to farmhouse, Collabear Farm, Tawstock, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED that it be queried why there was no Highway statement.

- d) 75426 Variation of condition 2 Approved plans attached to planning permission
74218 Extension of single garage to create ancillary accommodation together with erection of porch and canopy to allow updated plans for build, Mocks Cottage, Lake, Tawstock, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED that concern be raised regarding the lack of onsite parking as no garage provided

- e) 75356 Reserved Matters application for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale (outline planning permission 73332 (erection of 3 detached dwellings with some matters reserved)), Carrick, Tawstock

RECOMMENDED that clarification be sought regarding the cumulative adequacy of the septic tank drainage.

63. TRACKER.

The Tracker was noted.

64. CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence was reported:

- a) Planting of tree between the school and village hall. To consider a request from Tawstock WI to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

Councillor Needham agreed to meet representatives of the WI on site

- b) Letter from resident regarding the Tower View re maintenance of wildflower areas

See Minute 47 above

- c) Letter re Planning Application 66229 land off Old Bideford Road

The Council noted a letter from Mr Brailey (previously circulated) regarding issues relating to the above application.

65. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

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North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£578.55
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£12.66
Gavin Hendry Grounds Maintenance	£1,296.00
Village Hall Hire	£15.00
G. Maynard Noticeboard door	£207.00
Ucanstore.com Storage (Feb – July)	£156.00
J. Snooks Internal Audit	£225.00
Bideford Men's Shed Provision of Hedgehog and Bug Houses	£190.00
C. Waldron Website renewal + maintenance	£106.96

b) Financial Position

The current financial position at 1 June 2022 Current A/C £38,995.97 Business Reserve £16,006.68 was noted.

c) Audit 2021/2022

- i) That the Annual Internal Audit Report be noted.

Resolved that:

- ii) The Annual Governance Statement as outlined in section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22 be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk
- iii) The Accounting Statements as outlined in section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accounting Return 2021/22 be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk

66. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

The following issues were raised:

Health and Safety Risk Assessments
Unauthorised removal of signs in Tower View Recreation Area
Tower View Recreation Area s106 application

Councillor Lines stated that she no longer wished to a signatory on the Councils accounts.

67. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would be on Tuesday 19th July 2022 @ 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

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