

**MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON WEDNESDAY 19th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.00 pm**

Present: - Councillor Luggar (Chairman)
Councillors Blackman (In the Chair for minute 172), Bowden, Knight,
Lofthouse, Short, Thorne, M. Ward and S. Ward.

NDC Councillors Knight and Lofthouse

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public - 1

152. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Lines and DCC Councillors Edgell and Mathews

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

There were no issues raised.

154. PUBLIC SESSION

A Parishioners asked if there was an update regarding the moving of the Bus Gate.

See minute 160 below.

155. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Luggar declared an interest in item 9 (b) Condition of track adjacent to the Village Hall Car Park and School, item 10 Provision of Heritage Trail in the Village and item 11 Provision of School warning signs.

He also stated that he had been advised by NDC Solicitor not to take part in the consideration of Planning Applications as he was a Member of NDC Planning Committee.

156. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

a) DCC Councillors Reports

The Clerk presented a report from DCC Councillor Mathews:

- i) Traffic calming on OTR and proposed removal of Shorelands Road roundabout

Nothing further to report.

- ii) Pavements/Footway Crossings/Parking Restrictions, Old Torrington Road, Gratton Way - Sandringham Gardens

Awaiting the outcome of meeting in February.

iii) Lighting Problems

That he and Councillor Knight had received an update from DCC. Most if not all have had been resolved apart from one in Elizabeth Drive.

The Clerk reported that DCC Councillor Edgell had informed that he and DCC Councillors Mathews, Greenslade and Biederman had contributed a total of £2,000 to the Devon Wildlife Project at Uppacott Farm to improve access for disabled people.

b) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported the following:

- That the light in Elizabeth Drive had been reported to DCC.
- A successful litter pick had been held just before Christmas.
- That he had spoken to the Site Manager of Persimmon and the street sweeping had been increased and the fencing tidied up. It was hoped that the work would be finished by February and the fence would be placed behind the portacabins. He was also chasing up the surfacing of the pavements.

c) NDC Councillor Lofthouse

Councillor Lofthouse had nothing further to report.

157. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

The Clerk reported that Zoom had been upgraded so that meetings had unlimited time and pursuant to minute 129 of 17 November 2020 that Landkey Parish Council had agreed to pay half the monthly costs.

159. BROADBAND REVIEW

Matt Barrow, DCC Stakeholder Officer Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS), outlined the role out of fibre broadband for Tawstock Parish and surrounding area.

He stated that Airband was the appointed contractor for the role out in North Devon. The fibre broadband coverage for the area would be split into three types of coverage: Fixed Wireless, Fibre to the premises and fibre to the cabinet. The work was scheduled to be complete by end of March 2021.

In answer to questions Matt confirmed that the Village Hall and Holywell School were in line to be connected by fibre to the premises.

The Clerk reported the receipt of letter from Airband seeking to address the Parish Council on the role out programme.

The Council recorded its thanks to Matt for updating the Parish Council.

160. HIGHWAY ISSUES

- a) Traffic calming on OTR and proposed removal of Shorelands Road roundabout and Pavements/Footway Crossings/Parking Restrictions, Old Torrington Road, Gratton Way – Sandringham Gardens: Updates

See minute 156 above.

- b) Verge Maintenance and Pavement Obstruction, Southern End of Old Torrington Road.

Councillor Knight reported that he had spoken to DCC Councillor Mathews as DCC were reluctant to do anything regarding cutting the verges or the hedge along by the pavement to the right of the crematorium, that residents needed to use, to walk north up OTR causing them to walk in the road. A quote had been obtained from Gavin Hendry to provide a proper cut for £195.

It was agreed:

- i) That as a one off, the quote from Gavin Hendry be accepted by the Parish Council to cut the hedge along the pavement between the Larbear development and the crematorium for safety reasons.
- ii) That a letter be sent to DCC informing that it had a legal obligation to cut the hedge on health and safety grounds and meet the cost of the cut.
- c) DCC Highways s106 funds

The Clerk reported that the response from the FOI request and Paul Young, DCC had been circulated to Members.

A copy of the s106 agreement that DCC seemed unaware of in respect of Application 60845 Clarendon Gardens had been sent to Paul Young.

It was agreed that an email be sent to Paul Young asking where the s106 funding from Clarendon Gardens Development had been spent.

- d) Larkbear.

- i) Ownership of land to link onto A361: Update.

The Clerk reported that he had received a response from Jean Watkins, NDC informing that the Planning Authority did not hold land ownership records but it was understood that there were intervening landowners.

Councillor Knight stated that Persimmon would only purchase the land if planning permission was granted.

- ii) Applications 61119/70954 Combined Sewage Pipes

Councillor Knight stated that the sewage from the properties approved under application 61119 would be pumped into the sewage pipe at the top of Phillip Avenue and that the properties in the latest application 70954 would also be pumped into the same sewage pipe.

Concern was expressed at the capacity of the drain at the top of Phillip Avenue to take anymore sewage. During heavy rain there was currently a problem of flooding and any additional sewage pumped into the drain would exacerbate that problem as it was at full capacity.

It was agreed to find out the capacity of the drain and the number of dwellings that it could accommodate.

In answer to a question from a Parishioner, Councillor Knight stated that the relocation of the Bus Gate was part of the agreed planning permission. At present there was no timescale but it's proposed re-location would be advertised for public consultation and be discussed at HATOC.

161. VILLAGE HALL

Councillor Luggar raised the following issues:

a) Collapsed Drain outside Village Hall

That the drain by the War Memorial and entrance to the Village Hall Car Park had collapsed and had caused flooding in the area. The pipe went under the highway.

It was agreed to report to DCC for action.

b) Condition of Track adjacent to the Village Hall Car Park and School

The condition of the track had deteriorated but it was not known who owned the track.

It was agreed to contact the Wrey Estate to ascertain if it was owned by the Estate.

c) Condition of Wall outside Village Hall

That the wall outside the village hall kitchen window required some repair. It was not known who owned the wall.

It was agreed to contact the Wrey Estate to ascertain if it was owned by the Estate.

162. PROVISION OF HERITAGE TRAIL IN TAWSTOCK

Councillor Luggar reported that the School were interested in extending the Heritage Trail in Tawstock Village to highlight the history of the village.

163. PROVISION OF SCHOOL WARNING SIGNS

Councillor Luggar stated that there were no School warning signs along the main road through the village.

It was agreed to raise the issue with DCC.

164. TAWSTOCK BURIAL GROUND

The Clerk reported that the Burial Ground was divided into phases. Phase 1 was now almost full and phase 2 now needed to be released for use.

It was agreed that phase 2 be released for use.

165. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA

a) S106 Funding Grant

The Clerk reported that the s106 grant application had been agreed by North Devon Council.

b) Purchase of hedging plants and trees and pollarding of large tree.

It was agreed:

- i) that the quotes as previously reported for the hedging plants and trees be accepted and purchased
- ii) that the quote as previously reported for the pollarding of the large tree be accepted and the work undertaken as soon as possible.

Councillor Lofthouse reported that his son had 18 surplus apple trees and was willing to offer them to the Parish Council.

It was agreed that authority be delegated to Councillors Blackman, Knight, Lofthouse M. Ward and S. Ward to consider and accept or decline the offer and determine their location in the Tower View Recreational area.

c) Timing for agreeing remainder of future work.

It was agreed that the banking work would be next phase and the wildflower area the last phase.

166. PLAY PARKS – LITTER BIN EMPTYING

Councillor Knight stated that the litter bin in the Tower View play area had not been emptied since just after Christmas. He had received complaints and had written to NDC to resolve the problem.

167. PARISH GREEN AREAS: INSTALLATION OF TEMPORARY 'KEEP OFF THE GRASS' SIGNS

The Clerk reported that he had not yet received a response from DCC.

168. NDC GRASS AREA: MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Councillor Knight stated that there were several small triangled grassed areas at the top of Elizabeth Drive, owned by NDC that were being cut by residents but were being charged by the contractor. There were also several grassed areas at the bottom of Philip Avenue that could be possible wildflower areas. He would discuss with NDC Officers.

169. DEVON CARBON PLAN

Councillor Lofthouse that the interim carbon plan was on the DCC Website and individuals could complete the on-line survey. He had a copy of the survey in word format if required.

170. CARBON FOOTPRINT TOOL FOR PARISHES

Councillor Lofthouse reported that he was involved in a project by Exeter University and Carbon Sustainable Energy (CSE) to prototype a carbon footprint tool for Parishes to identify where there was most carbon emissions and therefore identify where efforts were required to reduce the emissions. It was hoped that the tool would be available in February.

171. NEW NOTICE BOARD: LAKE

The Clerk reported that Russell Maynard had provided a quote of £750 for an English Oak notice board.

It was agreed to ascertain if the quote included the provision of a header board and defer consideration to the Parish Council meeting.

172. PLANNING MATTERS

Councillor Luggar informed Council that he had been advised not to take part in planning applications as he had been appointed to the NDC Planning Committee

- a) 72650 Extension to barn to store machinery and general farm storage, Collabear House Farm, Uppacott, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- b) 72680 Siting of 1no. flagpole, 2no. fascia signs, 1no. bubble sign, 3no. wall mounted billboards, 2no. small wall mounted billboards & 1no. poster display unit (all signs are illuminated), Lidl, Brannam Business Park, Oakwood Close, Roundswell, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval subject to the signs not being illuminated when the store is closed and lighting being environmentally friendly.

- c) 72607 Erection of two storey extension and loft conversion, Marnie, Tawstock, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

173. THE TRACKER

The Tracker was noted.

It was agreed to have a different colour text for pending actions.

174. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that notification had been received that at the present time the Devon County Council and Police Commissioner Elections would be held on 6th May 2021.

175. FINANCE MATTERS

a) Payments

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary		£568.74
M Isaac	Expenses	£12.94
Gavin Hendry	Grounds Maintenance	£560.00
Zoom Upgrade	Paid by Debit Card	£14.39 p. month
Ashley Scott	Refurb. Telephone Boxes	£1,956.77
Ucanstore.com	Storage	£72.00

b) Current Financial Position

That the current financial position as on 5 January 2021 was Current A/C £45,553.83 and Business Reserve £16,002.18 be noted.

176 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was agreed to add the following items on the next Parish Council agenda:

Storage of Parish Council records
Grounds Maintenance Review of 2020/21

176. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next virtual Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.