

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 15th MARCH 2022 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Blackman (Chairman)
Councillors Bowden, Knight, P. Lines, Lofthouse, Steer and Ward

NDC Councillors Knight and Lofthouse.

DCC Councillor Leaver.

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 1

193. APOLOGIES

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

194. PUBLIC SESSION

A Parishioner raised the following issues:

Concern regarding a broken BT manhole in Old Torrington Road between Larkbear and Gratton Way. The manhole has been secured but people are being forced to walk in the road. Also, there is a damaged tree close to the Old Bus Gate.

When was another public consultation on the Bus Gate going to happen?

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

The following issues were raised:

a) Noticeboard Tower View

Councillor Bowden reported that only one side of the noticeboard had a glass lockable door. The other side was open to the elements and also required a glass lockable door.

It was agreed that quotes be sought for a lockable safety glassed door to be fitted and the Parish Clerk in consultation with the Chair be authorised to accept a quote up to a maximum of £200.

b) Trees – Larkbear

Councillor Bowden reported that following the recent storm a 100-foot tree had fallen into the garden of an adjoining property in Larkbear and damaged the house roof. The developer Elan Homes had agreed to rectify and pay for the repairs. However, the trees were on land owned by Wrey Estate. Residents either side of the damaged property were concerned that other trees maybe unsafe and had written to NDC.

It was considered that the landowner should seek an arborist report on the condition of the trees.

The Clerk reported that following a conversation with Councillor Knight he had sent an email to both Sir George Wrey and Caroline Wrey but not yet had a response

196. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

197. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

(a) DCC Councillor Leaver

Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- That the recent OFSTED report indicated an improvement in the DCC Children's Services.
- That following an audit, DCC was preparing an action plan regarding internal opportunities and the provision and delivery of services to include minority groups.
- That there had been no further progress regarding the bus gate. The March HATOC meeting had been cancelled and the next HATOC meeting was scheduled for 27th June. No date had been set for another public consultation and DCC was now not sure if it had the legal powers to use cameras to monitor vehicle movements going through the bus gate. This would not be resolved until end of June.
- That she had submitted a request for traffic calming in Old Torrington Road but this was on hold pending a decision on the bus gate.
- That she was pushing to resolve the long-standing problem of flooding along Bickington Road by Deptford Villas.

b) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported:

- That NDC has several litter bin lists in different formats and were looking to amalgamate them into one comprehensive list.
- That he and Councillor Lofthouse had arranged to meet a Planning Officer the following day to discuss Application 72227 Larkbear.
- That he had asked the Clerk to gather information regarding the calculation of the Precept payment for Band D properties in the Parish area for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting.

c) NDC Councillor Lofthouse

Councillor Lofthouse reported:

- That a litter bin survey spread sheet had been circulated. This did not include all litter bins and asked Members to notify him and/or Councillor Knight of locations of litter bins so that they can be identified on the mapping tool.

- That there had been recent problems with recycling collections. This was due to multiple reasons that were being addressed.
- That he would be organising a mass litter pick during the period of the Great British Spring Clean between 25th March and 10th April.
- That there was an NDC survey seeking views on an electric car and cycle hire scheme to ascertain demand.

198. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no issues raised.

200. PLANNING PRESENTATION

Maria Bailey outlined her role and plans to improve communications and service to Parish Councils.

- There was currently a resource shortage due to recruitment problems. She was looking to undertake a graduate and apprentice recruitment exercise with in-house training.
- Additional Enforcement Team resources had been provided.
- Improve the capacity of the software to process applications more efficiently (currently only using 10% capacity)
- Now on top of the application validation process and up to date. Prior to Christmas there was a 5-6 weeks backlog. This was now down to 2 days.
- Look at improving and updating the website and quality of decisions.
- Two Planning Teams – North and South. Lead Officer for Landkey Jenni Meakins (South Team)

201. HIGHWAY ISSUES

- a) Provision of traffic signs in Tawstock Village

No Update to report

- b) Update on hedge/vegetation cutting in Old Torrington Road

It was noted and agreed that in lieu of the reduction in grass cutting at the bottom end of Tower View, the Contractor had agreed to cut the verge in Old Torrington Road at the end of Philip Avenue.

- c) Speeding Survey – Update

It was agreed to seek an on-site meeting with Matt Collins.

- d) Bus Gate – Old Torrington Road. Update

See minute 197 (a) above.

202. PLAY AREAS -ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORTS

The Clerk reported the following:

- a) Tower View
It had been highlighted that the ground was raised around the surfacing edges of the play units and the edges were becoming exposed.

It was agreed to seek a quote from Gavin Hendry.

- b) Tudor Play Area
It was noted that the old wooden bench needed some repair.

203. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT: PHASE 2.

It was noted:

- a) That the wire fencing around the bottom wildflower area had been completed.
b) That the picket fencing around the top wildflower had been erected but that there was still some cementing required around the posts.
It was agreed that additional sand/cement be purchased.
c) It was agreed that a rotavator be hired for the weekend at a costs of £80 to prepare the areas for seeding. Councillors Knight and Lofthouse had agreed to undertake the work.

204. PROVISION OF DEFIBRILLATORS – TAWSTOCK PARISH

Deferred to next meeting.

205. BURIAL CHARGES

It was agreed to defer consideration of the charges.
Councillor Bowden agreed to seek charges from other cemeteries for comparison.

206. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) 74835 Demolition of existing barn and erection of one dwelling and associated works (following planning permission 66520) (fall-back position of the Class Q approval) The Cattle Shed, West Pristacott Farm, Harracott, Barnstaple.

RECOMMENDED Approval

- b) 74765 Prior approval for change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class Q) Barn at Upcott Farm, Roundswell, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- c) 74815 Retrospective change of use of land from agricultural to residential to allow for access to property and proposed garage with associated turning, 2 Stoneylands,

Newton Tracey, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- d) 74917 Demolition of conservatory together with extensions and alterations to dwelling, Steepways, Old Sticklepath Hill, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval subject to a soakaway being provided to mitigate any additional water being discharged into an already overburdened combined sewer.

207. TRACKER.

The Tracker was noted.

The Clerk reported that he had been informed that the Village Hall Committee no longer required the Parish Council to become a trustee.

It was agreed that a set accounts be again requested and sent to the Parish Council before the next Parish Council meeting.

208. CORRESPONDENCE.

The Clerk reported the following correspondence:

- a) The receipt of a letter from the Tawstock WI regarding suggestions for a site for a tree to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.
It was noted that the triangle area in the Square was not suitable as there were service drains underneath.
- b) That the Annual CPRE membership was up for renewal.
It was agreed that the membership be renewed at a cost of £36.00

209. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerk Salary + Admin Fee	£568.74
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£15.20
Tawstock Village Hall Hire	£15.00
Gavin Hendry Removal of tree branch	£60.00
Mole Valley Farmers Fencing Tower View	£698.04 (Paid by Debit Card)
Devon Building Supply Fence Fixing Tower View	£75.60 (Paid by Debit Card)
C. Waldron Maintenance Fee	£36.00
RoSPA Annual Play Area Inspections	£168.00
Mark Hendry Fencing Tower View	£564.42
Barnstaple Town Council Swing Repair	£60.00
Colin Wallis Fencing Tower View	£580.00
CPRE Annual Membership	£36.00

b) Financial Position

The financial position as of 4 March 2022 was noted.

c) National Pay Award 2021/22

The national pay award increase of 1.75% for 2021/22 was noted.

210. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There were no issues raised.

211. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 19th April 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 9.12 p.m.