

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 17th AUGUST 2021 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Blackman (Chairman)
Councillors Knight, Lofthouse, Short, Steer (for minutes 65 – 77) and
Thorne.

NDC Councillors Knight and Lofthouse

DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver.

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – None.

58. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Bowden, Lines and Ward and NDC Councillor Saxby.

59. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from Parishioners.

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

Councillor Blackman updated Council on the progress of her wildflower verge project. She stated that 60 hedging plants had been obtained from the Forestry Commission and would be delivered in November; that if permitted provide a backless bench under the cherry trees (cost approx. £300 + fixings) and that she would be applying for available grants.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

62. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

a) DCC Councillor Leaver

Councillor Leaver reported the following (full report appended):

- DCC Children's Services Scrutiny update.
That the Standing Overview Group of the Children's Scrutiny committee had discussed the Ofsted Focused Visit. It was acknowledged that the current workload of social workers had increased to around 30 cases each, which was unsustainable.

The key actions and responses recommended for approval were:
 - i) To focus on trying to recruit more social workers (currently 30 vacancies).
 - ii) The effectiveness of the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) and decision making. DCC was being supported by Leeds City Council on this, and officers

were working on improving processes to match Leeds approach as well as developing a MASH Action Plan.

- iii) The consistency of practice, Children's Services culture and staff training, and the effectiveness of the council's scrutiny and challenge function. The council was looking at these issues.
- Shorelands Road Roundabout. The design for the new Shorelands Road Roundabout had been drawn up, addressing items B1 and B3 in the stage 4 road safety audit.
 - Old Torrington Road bus gate. The bus gate would now be progressed under the highway agreement between DCC and Persimmon. The officer had been in touch with Persimmon and told them to progress with building of the bus gate. Any changes to the timing of the gate, or its removal entirely, would need a further separate resolution from DCC.
 - Covid update – the SW has the highest percentage in the country of people who had received the first and second vaccination, at 74% and 63% (at 13 August). North Devon was seeing increasing numbers of infections – up 144 cases to 396 (57% increase) in the seven days to 10 August 2021. The case rate per 100,000 was 403.4
 - Team Devon seeking more devolved powers for the county - Council leaders across Devon have agreed to develop a bid to Government for devolved powers
 - North Devon Biosphere - The North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Partnership has launched a major initiative to support nature's recovery across northern Devon, as part of their contribution to tackling the global ecological emergency.
 - Bus Back Better consultation. She had consulted with the local public transport user group and submitted comments regarding the need to ensure the infrastructure for buses and other non-private car use were included at the outset in major developments.
 - Police and Crime Commissioner consultation. That the Police and Crime Commissioner, had now launched a survey for her second Police and Crime Plan. Organisations and individuals were encouraged to complete the survey.

b) DCC Councillor Henderson

Councillor Henderson re-iterated the points raised by Councillor Leaver. He stated that thanks to Councillors Knight and Lofthouse following a site meeting he was aware of the issues relating to overgrown footpaths. He had been in contact with DCC Officer Steve Short who would be liaising with DCC Estates to resolve the problem. It was hoped that BT would have sorted the manhole issue in Old Torrington Road by the end of August, but this was not considered likely. The provision of drop kerbs in Sandringham Gardens was being actioned. Temporary repair work was being undertaken on the A377.

In relation to the Bus Gate he stated that if Persimmon did not progress the installation of the bus gate DCC could use the bond money to install the gate.

It was RESOLVED that authority be delegated to Councillors Blackman, Knight, Lofthouse and Ward to consider and make comments to DCC regarding the proposed design for the alterations to the Shorelands Road roundabout.

c) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported:

- That the litter picking teams were doing well and the Residents Against Pollution Action Team had set up a face book page.
- That a meeting had been arranged the following week with Persimmon, Pearces and the Panning Officer to discuss the delivery of the cycle path as part of application 72227.
- That the road surface in Clarendon Gardens had been repaired.
- That further complaints had been received regarding obstructed pavement that he had passed to DCC Councillor Henderson.
- That the Bus Gate was required by the planning permission to be delivered within 9 months of the granting of consent.
- That he was concerned with the delivery of the pavement scheme in Old Torrington Road due to the delay caused by BT.

It was agreed to include an item on the next meeting agenda to consider the delivery of the pavement on the Western side of Old Torrington Road and the Gratton Way junction in advance of the works required by BT.

d) NDC Councillor Lofthouse

Councillor Lofthouse reported that ASDA had arranged a litter pick along the Tarka Trail on Sunday 22 August 2021 and that the Residents Against Pollution Action Group was progressing well.

d) NDC Councillor Saxby

The Clerk reported that Councillor Saxby had no issues to report.

63. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:

Minute 49 (c) the inclusion of Councillor Lofthouse

Minute 50 the deletion of the reference to the provision of water dishes.

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

There were no matters arising.

65 CO-OPTION

The Clerk reported that he had received a request from Tim Steer to be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

It was RESOLVED that Tim Steer be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

66. HIGHWAY ISSUES

a) Overgrown Pavements

See minute 62 (b) above.

It was agreed to request DCC Councillor Henderson to seek repayment of £195 costs incurred by the Parish Council from DCC in getting an overgrown hedge along the pavement between the Larbear development and the crematorium for safety reasons.

b) 20 mph speed limits and quiet lanes

It was agreed to support the introduction of 20 mph speed limits and quiet lanes in the villages in Tawstock Parish.

Councillor Lofthouse stated that due to no advance height restriction warning signs large vehicles were getting stuck and causing traffic problems and damage to structures.

It was agreed to consider the provision of traffic signs in Tawstock Village at the next meeting.

67. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT.

a) Recreational Area Project: Update

The Council noted a quote from NDC Grounds Maintenance Team to undertake ground preparation work of £136 for the top section around the Copse area and £947 for the bottom section amenity grass area.

Councillor Lofthouse reported that he and two others had cleared the bind weed from the top and bottom areas of the bank.

b) Damaged Tree

Councillor Knight reported that fencing had been installed without permission in park and in the recent wind had come loose and damaged a tree.

It was agreed to write to the resident to ascertain how long it was proposed to retain the fencing and seek recompense for the damage the fence had done to the tree.

68. TUDOR PARK

a) Invoice Received from Contractor

It was agreed to pay two thirds of the total invoice amount £13,200 in advance of the completion of the work.

b) Letter from Resident of 13 Tudor Drive.

The Council considered a letter from the resident regarding concerns at the location of the new swings.

It was agreed that the resident be informed that the Parish Council would allow the mentioned bush to grow and be re-shaped and suggested that the resident put a bush/plant on their side of the fence to obscure the swing.

69. BURIAL GROUND.

Councillor Thorne reported that following the meeting on site with Gavin Hendry it was agreed that the trees needed lopping. It was noted that a planning application was required for any works as the trees were covered by a tree preservation order.

It was also reported that there was a problem with water running down the path.

It was agreed to obtain a specification of the works required with costs to the trees from Gavin Hendry for consideration and to discuss the water problem at the next Parish Council meeting.

70. VILLAGE HALL: UPDATE

Councillor Short reported that Broadband had been installed in the Village Hall.

He stated that the Village Hall Committee were seeking quotes to install solar panels on the roof to save on energy costs and would look at the level of lighting in the hall.

The Parish Council agreed that it would act on behalf of the Village Hall Committee in the purchase of the solar panels if progressed.

71. NOTICEBOARD: LAKE

The Clerk reported that new posts were part of the agreed costs of the purchase of a new Noticeboard.

It was agreed ascertain if the posts had already been attached to the noticeboard and to seek quotes to fix the new noticeboard on site.

72. POLICE COMMISSIONER LOCAL LIAISON OFFICER

The Council considered a request from Mike Harrison, Local Liaison Officer for the Police & Crime Commissioner to attend a Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk reported that the Maria Bailey newly appointed NDC Service Manager for Development Management.

It was agreed:

- a) That Mike Harrison, Local Liaison Officer for the Police & Crime Commissioner be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting on 21 September 2021
- b) That Maria Bailey NDC Service Manager for Development Management be invited to attend the Parish Council meeting on 19 October 2021.

73. PLANNING MATTERS

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

RECOMMENDED REFUSAL for the following reasons:

- (i) The cumulative effect of traffic on the A3125 Sticklepath Hill to Cedars roundabout was of great concern to members. There are multiple developments especially around the Bickington area, and they all use this section of road for access to Barnstaple and further afield. The suggested scheme to install traffic lights at the Wrey Roundabout was not accepted as a solution to the traffic issues in the area.
- (ii) Larger traffic volumes on the A3125 Sticklepath Hill Road would only increase the congestion and pollution from slow moving traffic, and in turn have a detrimental effect on the health and well-being of residents who live in this area.
- (iii) It was agreed that if planning approval was to be considered, the development must deliver the primary vehicle access onto the A361 (Policy BAR02), and members also questioned the lack of cycle path infrastructure (policy ST10).
- (iv) The Development is not in accordance with Policy ST03 of the North Devon and Torridge Local Plan (2011 - 2031), relating to the developments resilience and adapting to climate change. The lack of Solar panels will not help to address the Climate Emergency.

- b) 73537 Extension and alterations to dwelling 9 Grange Avenue, Sticklepath, Barnstaple.

RECOMMENDED Approval

- c) 73704 Prior Approval for Erection of one agricultural building for the storage of machinery and animal feed, Land near to Ensis Cross, Harracott.

Delegated authority to Councillors Short and Thorne to consider and agree a response.

- d) 73425 Supply and install a new Premier Aqua HDPE ASP8 Fed Sewage Treatment Plant with 700mm invert, Rosewood House, Tawstock, Barnstaple.

RECOMMENDED Approval

- e) 73678 Conversion of loft space for additional living accommodation, erection of replacement conservatory and erection of raised decking, 22B Philip Avenue, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

74. THE TRACKER

The Tracker was noted.

75. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) SUEZ -Recycling & Recovery UK. Consultation re permission to alter the times when deliveries and collections of waste can take place at the Brynsworthy Waste Transfer Station.

It was agreed to object to the proposed changes on Sundays.

76. FINANCE MATTERS

a) Payments

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary	£568.74
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£16.95
Gavin Hendry Grounds Maintenance	£1,374.00
Tawstock Village Hall Hire	£30.00

b) FINANCIAL POSITION

That the current financial position at 5 August 2021 Current A/C £44,329.43 Business Reserve £16,003.09 be noted.

c) POLICIES/STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED that the Internal Controls, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment, Safeguarding Policy and Community Engagement documents be agreed and adopted

77. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Report of Cllr Caroline Leaver, Barnstaple South

August 2021

1. DCC Children's Services Scrutiny update - The Standing Overview Group of the Children's Scrutiny committee met 29 July 2021 and discussed the Ofsted Focused Visit – as noted in my previous report to this council. It is acknowledged that the current workload of social workers has increased to around 30 cases each, and that this is unsustainable.

The key actions and responses recommended for approval focus on trying to recruit more social workers (currently 30 vacancies) using a number of measures. These include matching and exceeding the Cornwall Council offer to employees and using IT systems to reduce the administrative burden on social workers (if additional funds are allocated to this in the 2022/23 budget).

Another key area of concern raised following the Ofsted Focused Visit was around the effectiveness of the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) and decision making. DCC is being supported by Leeds City Council on this, and officers are working on improving processes to match Leeds' approach as well as developing a MASH Action Plan.

Other areas of concern are the consistency of practice, Children's Services culture and staff training, and the effectiveness of the council's scrutiny and challenge function. The council is looking at these issues.

2. Shorelands Road Roundabout – The design for the new Shorelands Road Roundabout has been drawn up, addressing items B1 and B3 in the stage 4 road safety audit. This moves the give way line on Shorelands Road and the roundel, and makes the roundel raised.

Please make any additional comments to me at caroline.leaver@devon.gov by 2pm Thursday 19 August. I will ask the Officer to estimate the cost of the works, and if this comes in at less than £25,000 implementation can follow without the need for HATOC approval.

3. Old Torrington Road bus gate. The bus gate will now be progressed under highway agreement between DCC and Persimmon. The officer has been in touch with Persimmon and told them to progress with building of the bus gate. Any changes to the timing of the gate, or its removal entirely, would need a further separate resolution from DCC.
4. Covid update – the SW has the highest percentage in the country of people who have received the first and second vaccination, at 74% and 63% (at 13 August). The next highest is the South East (71% and 61%) followed by the North East, East of England, East Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber, North West, West Midlands and London. (source NHS England, coronavirus.data.gov.uk). Covid update. 13 August

- Sadly, North Devon is seeing increasing numbers of infections – up 144 cases to 396 (57% increase) in the seven days to 10 August 2021. The case rate per 100,000 is 403.4 (source: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>)
 - The highest rates in the district are in the urban areas of Barnstaple, Braunton, Ilfracombe and Bideford as well as Exeter, Torbay and Plymouth.
 - Higher infection rates are noted as being the result of a combination of the more infectious Delta variant and the lifting of many restrictions by the government. Continued caution is advised.
 - 907,209 adults in Devon have had the first jab, and 764,726 have had the second.
 - More than three quarters of 18-24 yr olds in Devon have had their first dose and over 20% have had both.
 - For 16-17 yr olds vaccinations are likely to be delivered by GP surgeries and work is taking place to see how this can be done safely.
 - For 12-15 yr olds with the following conditions new guidance suggests vaccinations are appropriate (severe neuro disabilities, Down's Syndrome, underlying conditions resulting in immunosuppression, profound and multiple learning disabilities, those on the learning disability register, and those living in households or having close contact with people who are immunosuppressed).
5. Team Devon seeking more devolved powers for the county - Council leaders across Devon have agreed to develop a bid to Government for devolved powers, and Officers have been asked to start preparing proposals that we can discuss with Ministers and Whitehall over the summer. The idea is that better coordination and trust developed during the pandemic would continue.
6. North Devon Biosphere - The North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Partnership has launched a major initiative to support nature's recovery across northern Devon, as part of their contribution to tackling the global ecological emergency.

Aligning with the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and the Prime Minister's pledge for 30% of the UK land to be protected by 2030, the Biosphere's initiatives include:

- **A Declaration for Nature's recovery.** As well as being adopted by individuals, schools, businesses, and community organisations across the Biosphere it is hoped that many council members will sign this Declaration and also encourage their local residents to sign it. Even if council areas are outside the [Biosphere area](#), organisational and individuals' signature on the Declaration are welcomed as this helps to illustrate your commitment to nature's recovery. Please share your signing on social media and tag the Biosphere on Twitter @NDevonBiosphere and Facebook @NorthDevonBiosphere. Posters can also be requested from the Biosphere.

- **A Nature Recovery Plan** – this sets out the priorities for Nature’s Recovery and the actions that the partners of the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere will be pursuing with the community.
 - **Pledge for Nature grants** - available @PledgeforNature with more information available at biosphere.org.uk/pledgefornature. The grants are called Community Nature Recovery Plan Challenge Fund – up to £250 will be awarded to community groups and spaces (parks, school grounds, villages, community woodlands etc) that have shown a commitment to making space for nature.
7. Bus Back Better consultation – I have consulted with the local public transport user group and submitted comments regarding the need to ensure the infrastructure for buses and other non-private car use are included at the outset in major developments
8. Police and Crime Commissioner consultation - The Police and Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez, has now launched a survey as regards her second Police and Crime Plan. Organisations and individuals are encouraged to complete the survey, and encourage others to do the same. Full details including a link to the survey can be found here –
- [Safe, resilient and connected communities – Alison Hernandez launches survey into Police and Crime Plan · Devon & Cornwall Police & Crime Commissioner \(devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/safe-resilient-and-connected-communities)

Cllr Caroline Leaver

17 August 2021