

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022 AT 7.15 p.m.**

**Present: -** Councillor Blackman (Chairman)  
Councillors Bowden, Knight, Lines, Lofthouse, Needham, Norman, Short,  
Steer and Ward

NDC Councillors Knight and Lofthouse.

M Isaac (Clerk)

**In Attendance:** Parishioner/Members of the Public – 1

**24. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2022/23**

RESOLVED that Councillor Blackman be appointed Chairman for 2022/23.

**25. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Thorne and DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver.

**26. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR 2022/23**

RESOLVED that Councillor Ward be appointed Vice Chairman for 2022/23.

**27. PUBLIC SESSION**

A Parishioner raised the following issues:

St Johns Chapel – By Pass.

It was stated that DCC had agreed some 30 years ago to a St Johns Chapel By pass. However, the proposal had been withdrawn at the end of 2020. He asked why it had been withdrawn and by whom?

It was stated that this was a DCC matter and the Clerk would pass the questions to DCC Councillor Henderson for action.

Vehicle Damage to Property.

The Parishioner stated that over a number of years his property had been damaged over 30 times by vehicles and asked how many more times his property had to be damaged before any action was taken.

It was agreed to pass the comment to DCC Councillor Henderson.

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

The following issue was raised:

Bank Signatories – The Chair asked if the agreed additional signatories had been added to the bank account.

Councillor Short stated that he had applied to add Councillor Bowden but had had no response. He had been waiting to hear if it had been correctly submitted before adding Councillor Lines.

Councillor Bowden stated that she had not received any confirmation. She agreed to go into the bank to find out what was happening.

**29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Bowden declared an interest in Planning Application 75166 as the applicant.

**30. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

In the absence of DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver there were no DCC reports.

**(a) NDC Councillor Knight**

Councillor Knight reported:

- That he had emailed DCC Councillor Henderson and Matt Collins regarding Application 72227 asking when Pearce homes were going to deliver the remaining part of the Cycle path that would connect to Highgrove.
- That a site meeting was required at the Tower View recreation area to discuss a strategy for the maintenance of the wildlife areas.
- That Application 66229 Land off Old Bideford Road was being considered by the Planning Committee on 25th May.
- That the Litter Bin Strategy Group had identified that additional resources were required in Barnstaple and Ilfracombe and also the possible provision of mobile cameras. A report would be considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee.

**(b) NDC Councillor Lofthouse**

Councillor Lofthouse reported on behalf of DCC Councillor Leaver that she was still seeking clarity on the Old Torrington Road Bus Gate and that decisions re allocation of the road maintenance budget had been taken back to County Hall.

**31. MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to:

Minute 8 – the spelling of Councillor Needham’s first name being amended to Jeffrey  
Minute 9 c) – the inclusion of the agreed action.

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

There were no issues raised.

**33. HIGHWAY ISSUES**

- a) Provision of traffic signs in Tawstock Village

The Clerk reported that DCC had undertaken a review of the signs and had deemed the existing signs as adequate.

- b) Shorelands Road roundabout – Update

The Council noted the following response from DCC Matt Collins regarding the provision of rubber blocks. - ‘Such rubber blocks and other vertical measures were considered in this location but ruled out due to the impact on hearses accessing the crematorium and bus passengers, we therefore ended up at the ‘rumble strip’ proposal. Additionally, the ‘rubber blocks’ do also result in noise when driven over’

It was agreed that the Clerk respond to the response from Matt Collins stating that the Council disagreed with this response and that Hearses were wide enough to straddle the rubber blocks and only drove at about 10 mph.

- c) Bus Gate – Old Torrington Road. Update

There was no update.

- d) Highway Schemes

Councillor Knight presented the proposed DCC traffic light scheme at the Wrey Arms junction to mitigate against further development.

It was agreed that the proposed scheme would not alleviate the proposed increase in traffic from further development in the area.

- e) Speed Watch

Councillor Bowden reported she had set up the Old Torrington Road residents speed watch group and was the group co-ordinator. Devon & Cornwall Police only accept 1 group for the area.

In order to be able to be part of the group an online training course which will take about half an hour has to be taken and passed. The scheme required that at least 3 people are required to be part of the group.

**34. PLAY AREAS**

The Clerk reported the following:

- a) Tower View

i) Damaged Surface Area

The Clerk reported that he and the Chair had met Terry from TK Play on site to discuss the damaged highly trafficked ground area by the entrance gate. At the meeting the Chair had identified areas within the play area that should be addressed.

An itemised quote was awaited from TK Play.

ii) Litter Bin – Emptying

The Clerk reported that NDC had ceased emptying the Parish Council litter bin in the play area. The litter was now full and required emptying.

It was agreed that the Clerk contact Mark Kentell, NDC Head of Service to discuss/resolve the problem.

b) Tudor Park

i) Damaged Benches

The Clerk reported that Barnstaple Town Council had provided a quote of £50 inclusive of materials to re-brace and secure the two damaged benches to the ground using a new chain and creating new anchorage.

It was agreed that the quote of £50 be accepted.

Councillor Needham reported that he had spoken to a resident who had stated that they used to lock the gate to the play area at night and unlock it again in the morning. This, however had not occurred for a long period of time. PETROC students were now using the play area to inhale helium.

It was agreed

- A) That Councillor Needham speak to the resident with regard to locking and unlocking the gate.
- B) That Councillor Lofthouse contact the Safeguarding Officer at PETROC regarding the problem with students using the play area.

**35. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT.**

Councillor Ward reported that someone had planted a tree in the bottom wildlife area.

Councillor Knight stated that a site meeting was required to discuss a number of issues relating to the project.

It was agreed:

- a) That the unauthorised tree be removed and the hole filled in.
- b) That a site meeting be held to discuss issues relating to the project.

### **36. LOCATION OF DEFIBRILLATORS**

Councillor Bowden reported that two possible sites had been suggested to locate a defibrillator in the urban area of the parish: the Methodist Church and the Wrey Arms.

She suggested that the preferred site would be at the Methodist Church as it was in Tawstock Parish. An electrician would be required to connect the defibrillator to the electricity supply.

Councillor Short stated that the village hall would be willing to have a defibrillator and all schools were required to have one on site.

It was agreed that a defibrillator be located at the Methodist Church in Rhododendron Avenue and that quotes be sought to connect it to the electricity supply. Councillor Bowden agreed to seek prices/quotes and report to the Parish Council meeting

Councillor Lofthouse agreed to investigate whether s106 funds allocated to the village hall could fund a defibrillator.

### **37. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE**

Councillor Short reported that Village Hall Committee had organised the following platinum jubilee events. A beacon would be lit at 9.45 on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Residents had agreed to cut the wood for the beacon and burghers and hot dogs would be served. Following the Sunday Church Service there would be a cream tea.

He further stated that a local family if they could plant a tree to replace a broken tree outside the Church by the railings.

He was seeking support from the Parish Council to contribute towards the supply of burghers and hotdogs

It was agreed:

- a) That a native tree be planted by the Church
- b) That a maximum of £250 be allocated towards the jubilee celebrations for the supply of burghers and hot dogs to paid on the receipt of appropriate invoices.

Councillor Bowden wished it recorded that she abstained from voting on b) above.

### **38. MEETING VENUES**

The Chair reported that she had looked into moving the venue of Parish Council meetings in order to encourage more parishioners to attend and engage with the Council.

She stated that the Methodist Church Hall, Rhododendron Avenue was available on the third Tuesday of each month at a cost of £25. The camera club who used the hall had installed Wi-Fi and she was waiting to hear if they would be happy for the Parish Council to use it during meetings.

It was agreed that future meetings of the Parish Council be held at the Methodist Church Hall, Rhododendron Avenue.

Councillor Ward stated that following attendance at a Fremington Parish Council meeting with Councillor Bowden it was noticed that they used audio video and recording equipment to record Council meetings. She also stated that Members should look at updating the Clerks contract of employment to check that the Clerk was being compensated for the hours worked considering the expansion of the Parish.

Councillor Needham recorded his thanks to the Clerk for all the help and assistance given to him as a new member.

It was agreed that Councillor Ward investigate the provision of audio video and recording equipment for Council meetings.

### **39. WAR MEMORIAL**

The Chair stated that she had been asked to do a reading at the Platinum Jubilee Church Service.

She reported that the steps and banisters up to the War Memorial needed repairing and suggested that as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee the Parish Council undertake the work.

The Clerk reported that the War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923 and subsequent amendments enabled local councils to carry out work to war memorials within their area whether they officially owned them or not.

It was agreed that the Parish Council undertake the project and the Clerk ascertain if planning permission was required and the Chair speak to the Vicar and seek quotes.

### **40. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) 75166 Proposed roof extension and alterations, 25 Old Torrington Road, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

Councillor Bowden declared an interest in the above application as the applicant and was not present at the meeting during the discussion or voting thereon.

- b) 75045 Extensions and alterations to dwelling, 18 Sandringham Gardens, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- c) 75196 Erection of a detached three bay timber garage, Woodlands, Eastacombe, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

### **41. TRACKER.**

The Tracker was noted.

### **42. CORRESPONDENCE.**

There was no correspondence to report

**43. FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

**a) Payments**

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£578.55
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£17.33
Gavin Hendry Grounds Maintenance	£1,194.00
Village Hall Hire	£15.00
K. Body Maintenance Weeding Banks Tower View	£700.00

**b) Financial Position**

The current financial position at 5 May 2022 Current A/C £41,574.76 Business Reserve £16,005.28 was noted.

**44. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

There were no issues raised.

**45. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 @ 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 9.08 p.m.