

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022 AT 7.00 p.m.**

**Present: -** Councillor Blackman (Chairman)  
Councillors Knight, Lines, Needham (minutes 9-23), Norman (Minutes 9-23), Short and Ward

NDC Councillor Knight.

DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver.

M Isaac (Clerk)

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bowden, Lofthouse and Steer.

**2. PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no issues raised.

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

The following issue was raised:

Larkbear – Dangerous Trees. The Clerk reported that he had no response from the Wrey Estate regarding their trees that abutted the Larkbear Development. He had however been advised that concerned residents should contact the NDC Environmental Protection to raise their concerns.

It was agreed that the Clerk inform the concerned residents.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest announced.

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

**(a) DCC Councillor Leaver**

Councillor Leaver reported:

- That following the reports in the local press and public consultation to threats to close the Link Centres in North Devon the Link Centre in Barnstaple would be relocated to St Georges Road and re-open for a period of 8 weeks for current users and a drop in element. After the 8 weeks period DCC would be looking to work with the Voluntary and Community Sectors to create a hub for people.
- That the design of Shorelands roundabout would be considered by HATOC on 24 June.

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- That there was a strong argument to remodel traffic movements along Old Torrington Road and obtain figures of traffic movements taking account of the additional development of Larkbear and the southern rat run.
- That further consultation will be required regarding the bus gate
- That the equipment to repair the Iron Bridge had been delivered and the work was due to be completed within a couple of months.

### **(b) DCC Councillor Henderson**

Councillor Henderson reported:

- That there was no longer any Covid Testing teams
- That 99% of parents in Devon had been successful in getting their first choice Primary School place.
- That the rules regarding Care Homes had now been changed and visitors were now requested to get a test before attending.
- That Devon had welcomed a number of Ukrainian refugees to the County.
- That DCC had undertaken a review of its Strategic Officer team.
- That DCC had placed two traffic counters one by the Crematorium and the other by the Bus Gate.
- That Matt Collins was dealing with the Old Torrington Road pavement and lighting scheme.

The Clerk reported that the grant to cut the overgrown hedge in Old Torrington Road had been received from DCC

It was agreed that the Clerk seek a further grant from DCC Henderson to cut the hedge again next year

### **(c) NDC Councillor Knight**

Councillor Knight reported:

- That work on the wildlife area in the Tower View Recreation area had been almost completed.
- That he had had a meeting with NDC Officers and Persimmon regarding the cutting down of all the trees on the application site and the delivery of the cycle link (Application 72227) from Larkbear to Highgrove. A re-design would be received soon.
- The cycle link, however, did not connect to the cycle link in Highgrove. DCC Councillor Henderson agreed to discuss with DCC Officer Matt Collins.
- He would continue to make formal representations regarding the knock-on cumulative effect of the developments and increased traffic along the Fremington/Bickington corridor on roads in and around Barnstaple.

## **6. MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no issues raised.

**8. CO-OPTION**

The Clerk reported that he had received two applications for co-option onto the Parish Council. There were currently two vacant seats on the Parish Council.

The Council considered presentations from Jeffery Needham and Chris Norman to be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

It was agreed that Jeffery Needham and Chris Norman be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

**9. HIGHWAY ISSUES**

- a) Provision of traffic signs in Tawstock Village

No Update to report

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

See minute 5 b) above

- c) Speeding Survey/Location of cameras and Shorelands Road roundabout – Update

The Chair updated Members on the on-site meeting she and Councillor Bowden had had with DCC Officer Matt Collins to discuss the problems regarding the Shorelands Road roundabout and traffic issues in Old Torrington Road.

- Ideally, DCC would like to leave the Shorelands junction as it was but had drawn up plans for some changes which included rumble type strips on the north and south sides of the roundel and to move the stop line forward on the Shorelands Road access. The Roundel would also be moved over a little. There were 106 monies available to do a small amount of work and possibly Highways may be willing to add a little more. Members views were sought on the new drawings.
- Since the meeting DCC had agreed to undertake and pay for another speeding survey.
- He was prepared to investigate a review of traffic conditions on the OTR which would involve the Police and the special Highways Team. He did not know the cost, but that would be paid for by DCC Highways if they decided that it was worth doing.

The possibility of the neighbourhood volunteering to borrow a speed gun and carry out a survey themselves was also discussed. This would need to be discussed with the Police.

A number of Members stated that they would be interested in undertaking speed gun training.

The proposed design was considered acceptable but it was noted that residents living near the Shorelands Road roundabout were concerned regarding noise from traffic driving over the rumble strips designed to slow traffic down.

It was considered that rumble strips were not acceptable and rubber blocks should be provided instead to slow down traffic as located in St Georges Road, Barnstaple in conjunction with a revision of traffic orders to allow more on street parking.

Councillor Knight expressed concern regarding pedestrian safety at the top section of Old Torrington Road. There was no pavement down one side of the road and with the current bus gate decision to allow traffic to flow freely in the southern direction, the existing pavement did not comply with the requirements for the visually impaired. He stated that a formal bus stop and pavement should be installed as a matter of urgency.

It was considered that a mobile 'solar panel flashing speeding sign' that shows the current speed of the vehicle should be purchased and suitable locations in the Parish identified. DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver stated that they would be willing to part fund its cost and DCC Officer Steve Short was the person to contact.

- d) Bus Gate – Old Torrington Road. Update

See minute 5 a) above.

## **10. PLAY AREAS -ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORTS**

The Clerk reported the following:

- a) Tower View  
The Clerk reported that Gavin Hendry had agreed to fix the raised areas around the surface edges of the play units at no charge but had highlighted that the highly trafficked ground by the entrance gate needed the matting to be extended and suggested that TK Play be contacted.

It was agreed to request an on-site meeting with TK Play.

## **11. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT.**

- a) S106 Application for Phase 3. To seek quotes for New Benches, Tarmacking of Path, Purchase of Bulbs and replacement goal post.

It was agreed that 2 Hedgehog houses at a cost of £90 and 2 Bug houses at a cost of £100 be purchased from the Men Shed, Bideford.

- b) To consider draft letter to residents re access over the recreational area.

The Council considered a draft letter from Councillor Bowden (previously circulated) regarding adjoining park residents rear access over the park to their properties.

The draft letter was agreed and Councillor Needham agreed to deliver it to the required addresses.

- c) To consider a request to access rear of property over the recreational area.

It was noted that due it being bird nesting season and hedges were not able to be cut consideration of the request was deferred to later in the year

**12. PROVISION OF DEFIBRILLATORS – TAWSTOCK PARISH**

The Council considered information provided by Councillor Bowden. (previously circulated).

It was agreed that 1 defibrillator be purchased and its location to be decided.

**13. BURIAL CHARGES**

The Council considered information provided by Councillor Bowden comparing existing charges with those charged by Fremington Parish Council (previously circulated).

It was agreed that the current burial charges be re-affirmed but that there be 'no charge' for a person at the time of death whose age does not exceed 16 years.

**14. MEETING VENUES**

The Chair reported she was looking at alternative venues for Parish Council meetings in the urban area of the Parish.

**15. NEW CODE OF CONDUCT AND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

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

**16. PRECEPT CALCULATION**

The Clerk outlined the information (previously circulated) provided by NDC regarding the calculation of the Council Tax. The Council tax each year was based on the tax base that was based on the number of properties within each parish once various adjustments were made regarding single occupancy, empty properties etc. The tax base changed each year.

It was agreed to seek a laypersons explanation of the calculation from NDC.

**17. TAWSTOCK VILLAGE HALL ACCOUNTS**

The Council noted that Village Hall Accounts for the year end December 2020 (previously circulated)

**18. PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) 74956 Installation of replacement roof to existing conservatory, 4 Old Bideford Road, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Approval

- b) 74498 Extension to dwelling 27 Elizabeth Drive, Sticklepath, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED No comment as already determined by NDC

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- c) 74389 Retrospective application for siting of a caravan and shipping container together with erection of hay barn and straw barn at Caravan, Stoneyland Stables, Newton Tracey, Barnstaple

RECOMMENDED Refusal due to concerns regarding the disposal of foul sewage into the stream and there being no other properties on that side of the road.

### **19. TRACKER.**

The Tracker was noted.

### **20. CORRESPONDENCE.**

There was no correspondence to report

### **21. FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

#### **a) Payments**

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary	£686.46
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£12.38
Gavin Hendry Cutting of Hedge	£234.00
Village Hall Hire	£15.00
DALC Annual Membership	£643.24
Naturescape Yellow Rattle seeds	£32.00 (Debit Card payment)
Brandon Hire Station Hire of Rotovator	£177.19 (Debit Card Payment)
Habitat Aid Wildflower Seeds	£67.50 (Debit Card Payment)

#### **b) Financial Position**

The accounts 2021/22 and the Bank Reconciliation 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31 March 2022 were noted.

### **22. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

There were no issues raised.

### **23. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting on Tuesday 17th May 2022 @ 7.00 p.m. would be the Annual Parish meeting and Annual Parish Council meeting.

#### **Chairman**

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

