



Parish Council

Clerk: Martyn Isaac, DMS, FInstAM

Email: tawstockparishcouncil@gmail.com



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21st JULY 2026 AT 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Councillor Bowden (Chair)

Councillors Bates, East, Jenkins, Lofthouse, Mason, Norman, Short and Squires.

NDC Councillors Coombs and Norman

DCC Councillor Leaver

M. Isaac (Clerk)

In attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – None

48. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Knight and DCC Councillor Tyldesley.

49. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from Parishioners.

50. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

There were no issues raised.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

52. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following correspondence:

- a) E Mails from 2 residents regarding the thorny hawthorn tree and hedge directly behind the goalposts in Tower View Recreation Area and a number of burst footballs. To be considered later on the agenda .
- b) An Email from a resident seeking help regarding Petroc/North Devon College proposal to remove all smoking and vaping areas from its campus as from September.

The Council noted the receipt of an email from a resident regarding the above. It was agreed to write Petroc informing of the concerns raised by the resident. The Council whilst realising the health benefits of such a proposal raised concerns that the knock on affect would lead to students smoking and vaping outside the College premises having an effect on local residents and the surrounding area. The College's policy on smoking and vaping was sought.

It was also agreed that issue of smoking in the Council's 2 recreation areas be considered at the next Parks and Open Spaces Committee meeting.

- c) An Email from DCC Councillor Tyldesley regarding his appointment as a Road Warden and that Highways had confirmed that he could be a nominated as a Road Warden for all the parishes in his division.
It was agreed that Councillor Ed Tyldesley be appointed as a Road Warden for Tawstock Parish.

53. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council – Clerk Salary + Admin Fee	£843.69
M. Isaac - Clerks Expenses	£10.03
L. Evelyn – Grounds Maintenance	£979.05
Uncanstore.com – Storage	£30.77

- b) Online Banking.

Councillor Bowden reported that online banking had been set up with Nat West Bank.

- c) The current financial position at 3 July 2026 Current A/C £37,716.77 (includes £6,581.62 ringed fenced for Tower View Project) and Business Reserve A/C £16,725.20 was noted.

54. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

55. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

DCC Councillor Leaver

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

That due to the extreme heat and the direct impact on Devon's highways. Devon County Council has been using a process known as "dusting" on some roads, spreading a fine layer of stone to stop bitumen becoming soft and sticky. treated roads

That a 4 unitary model with an expanded Plymouth, expanded Exeter, expanded Torbay and the rest of Devon in a Rural/Coastal authority had been adopted by the Government. The new authority that includes North Devon and Torridge areas will be part of the Rural/Coastal authority and will have a population of approximately 455,000. Elections for the new authority will take place in May 2027 to run alongside the existing local authority arrangements until May 2028 when the existing local authorities will be dissolved and the new unitary authority will be in place. There was a lot of detail still to be worked out re warding, number of Councillors etc Including any devolution of powers to Parish Councils.

That she still had some of her Locality Budget available for local projects.

That the Government due to perceived barriers to development would be restricting the range of planning applications that would be determined by Councillors to developments of only between 10 and 150 dwellings.

DCC Councillor Tyldesley

The Council noted a report by DCC Councillor Tyldesley previously circulated.

56. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

NDC Councillor Coombs

Councillor Coombs encouraged residents to respond to the current Local Plan Scoping public consultation.
It was agreed to include a link on the Council's website.

NDC Councillor Norman

NDC Councillor Norman outlined his report to be circulated to all Members.

57. HIGHWAY ISSUES

There were no highway issues raised.

58. PLANNING MATTERS

The Chair updated Council on the Planning Applications considered by the Planning Committee prior to the meeting.

59. PEOPLE AND PLACE TEAM, NORTH DEVON COUNCIL AND TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL PUBLIC SCOPING CONSULTATION.

The Council noted the Consultation. It was agreed to seek an update of people in Tawstock Parish currently on the Devon Choice housing waiting list register.

60. LARKBEAR PLAY AREA.

Councillor Bowden reported that since her request for the item to be placed on the

Agenda the grass in the play area has been cut but persons unknown. It is currently understood that the responsibility has not yet been passed to the Management Company by the developer. It was agreed that the Parish Council was willing to assist in the interim if required to keep the area tidy.

61. TOWER VIEW RECREATION AREA.

a) To consider email from two residents regarding the Central Bank.

Councillor Bowden reported the receipt of two emails from residents regarding the hawthorn hedge behind the goal area and burst footballs.

It was stated that the Devon bank was replaced with a mixture of plants to be a more natural (Devon) bank that would normally be seen in a Bank and was primarily designed to keep dogs off the bank who were fouling & digging the bank up. The fencing around the bank was another reason to try and keep dogs and children off the bank. The thorny shrubs/trees were not considered a health and safety issue as they were behind fencing which children should not be using.

It was agreed to refer the matter to the Parks and Open Space Committee to consider the provision of signage and in the interim Councillors assess any risks.

b) Replacement Fencing.

Councillor Lofthouse reported that there were 5 posts that were broken at the base. It had been suggested by Councillor Short who had donated some new fence posts, that rather than replacing them, which would be expensive, that the new posts should be driven into the ground next to/behind the existing positions. Then the old ones fixed to them

It was agreed that authority be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair to seek a quote from Lewis Evely as outlined above and accept the quote up to a maximum of £500.

62. TUDOR PARK – REMOVAL OF HEDGE.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a quote of £1,290 from Lewis Evely to remove the hedge. The quote was accepted.

63. TAWSTOCK WAR MEMORIAL STEPS.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a quote of £620 from Lewis Evely to repair the steps. The quote was accepted.

64. VACANCY.

The Clerk reported that there was still one vacancy on the Parish Council

65. DRAFT IT POLICY

It was agreed that the IT Policy (previously circulated) be adopted subject to the deletion of reference to personal use.

66. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Taw/Torridge Estuary Forum – Appointment of representative

67. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 15th September 2026.

NB There may be a requirement for a Planning Committee meeting on 18th August.

Chair the meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.