

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 20th JANUARY 2026 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Bates (In the Chair)
Councillors East, Jenkins, Knight, Lofthouse, Mason and Short

NDC Councillor Knight

M Isaac (Clerk)

In attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – None

168. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Bowden and Norman, NDC Councillor Coombs and DCC Councillors Leaver and Tyldesley.

169. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no issues raised by Parishioners.

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

There were no issues brought forward by the Chair.

171. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

172. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

173. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

i) North Devon Council – Clerk Salary + Admin Fee	£843.69
ii) Clerks Expenses	£8.06
iii) L. Evely – Grounds Maintenance	£979.05

b) Precept 2026-2027

The Clerk updated the Council on the new NDC Tax Base for Tawstock Parish.

It was RESOLVED that in light of the new tax base the precept be increased by 4.8% to £28,621.48 for 2026/27 (Band D £23.01).

174. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Councillor Short reported that the new noticeboard had been installed at Eastacombe. Two local people had volunteered to erect the board at no cost. It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the two residents.

175. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

There were no issues raised.

176. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

In the absence of the Devon County Councillors there was no County Council report.

177. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

NDC Councillor Knight reported the following:

- That NDC had decided to withdraw the Trade Waste Service from April. This was a non-statutory service the provision of which was losing money and had a detrimental affect on the statutory service requirement to collect black bin waste from 45,000 properties. The loss of the Trade Waste service would affect 1,800 businesses. However, a petition was being drawn up to request that the service continue and not be discontinued.
- Larkbear. That he, DCC Councillor Tyldesley and NDC Councillor Norman had earlier in the day met DCC and NDC Officers on site to discuss Larkbear Phase 2 and the connection between phase 1 and 2 of the Larkbear development and the phase 1 connection to Highgrove. The delivery of the play park was also discussed.
- Leisure Centre. That he had raised concerns regarding the pavement connectivity issues.
- NDC Asset – Tower View Recreation Area. That he had raised the issue of the transfer of the Tower View Recreation area to the Parish Council with NDC Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive Jon Triggs.
It was agreed to put the item on the agenda for the February Parish Council meeting.

178. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Councillor Knight raised concerns at the number of planned road works in the area and would raise the concerns with DCC Councillor Leaver.

179. PLANNING MATTERS

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

b) Planning Application **81180** Hedgerow removal notice for removal of 135m of various hedgerows to facilitate housing development, Land off Old Torrington Road, Sticklepath.

RESOLVED that the application be REFUSED for the following reasons:

- a) A proper habitat had not been undertaken and a habitat licence was legally required from Natural England to protect the impact on the dormice identified on site.
- b) Lack of detail/evidence regarding the necessity to remove 2 areas of 30 metre long hedges

180. VACANCIES/CO-OPTION

The Clerk reported that no applications for co-option had been received.

181. DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLATION– TAWSTOCK VILLAGE

It agreed to defer the above matter to the next meeting to consider a quote for the installation of the defibrillator.

182. FORMATTING OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.

It was noted that consideration of the Formatting of the Agenda and Minutes to meet the requirements of a Dyslexic person would be considered at the February meeting when the Chair was in attendance.

183. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The following issues were raised:

Litchardon Cross Solar Farm Project Fund: Update
Tawstock Jubilee Almshouse Charity: Update

184. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 17th February 2026 @ 7.00 p.m.

Chair the meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.