

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 17th OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Bowden (Chair)
Councillors East, Jenkins, Knight, Lines, Lofthouse (for minutes 135 – 148), Mason, Norman, Short and Tucker.

NDC Councillors Knight and Norman

DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 2

127. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Needham.

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

The following item was brought forward as a matter of urgency:

Tower View Play Area - Crack on the slide on the multi-play.

The Clerk reported that following an inspection a crack had been identified on the slide of the multi play unit.

It was agreed that the Clerk in consultation with the Chair be authorised to accept a quote for the repair/renewal of the slide if required.

129. PUBLIC SESSION

A Parishioner raised the following issues:

- a) That the street lights along the footpath at the bottom of Old Torrington Road were not working. Councillor Knight stated that he had received several representations.

DCC Councillor Henderson reported that the Energy Company had connected the lights but they were not working. Devon County Council were chasing the company to sort the problem.

- b) Concerns regarding Articulated lorries from SW Metals waiting on the double yellow lines in Gratton Way as they could not get access into the yard and there were no parking restriction signs in Gratton Way.

130. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

131. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was reported:

- a) A letter from Torrridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau seeking a donation was noted.
- b) E Mail re damaged wall – Cut through between Roundswell and Old Bideford Road Councillor Knight reported that the wall belonged to North Devon Council and he would seek its removal.

132. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£623.44
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£9.00
Gavin Hendry – Grounds Maintenance	£234.00
Ucanstore.com Storage (Aug)	£26.00
Zurich Municipal – Insurance renewal	£732.17

- b) The current financial position at 5 September 2023 Current A/C £43,647.98 (includes £8,615.37 ringed fenced for Tower View Project) and Business Reserve A/C £16,136.08 was noted.

133. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no matters arising.

135. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(a) DCC REPORTS

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- That she had raised the matter of the damaged bollard from Old Torrington Road to Elizabeth Drive with DCC Officers as a safety issue.
- That DCC was exploring the sale of some of its assets.
- That DCC was working with District Council's and it had been agreed to give care leavers – young people who had been in the care of the local authority 100% Council tax relief until they were 25 years old.
- That the consultation regarding the installation of cameras at various location in Devon had been completed and DCC had written to the Department of Transport for permission to use them.

DCC Councillor Henderson reported the following:

- That following the last Parish Council meeting he had held a meeting with residents at Roundswell Community Hall regarding the bus gate. Approximately 100 residents attend along with DCC Councillor Biederman. It was noted that issues were being experienced by undertakers attending the Crematorium especially with SW Metal lorries parking on the road waiting to access the site. He had had an informal talk with the Chair of HATOC regarding a review of traffic flows in the area including the Wrey Arms Roundabout, the Cedars roundabout and the possible suspension of the bus gate.
- That as a part of the above the provision of a slip road from Old Torrington Road South onto the A39 would also be considered.
- That cabinet had obtained £500,000 of Government funding and approved a scheme to create a bus lane from the Sainsbury's roundabout to the A39.

(b) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported the following:

- That a group of residents were still undertaking litter picks
- That he had arranged for increased street sweeping around the Crematorium
- That he had obtained new street name plates and a new litter bin at the bottom of Elizabeth Drive and Old Torrington Road.
- That he had been in contact with DCC regarding the street lights along Old Torrington Road that were obscured by the trees

Councillor Tucker reported that he had collected a large bags of rubbish from the bus stop at the Wrey Arms roundabout left by PETROC students.

It was agreed that the Clerk write to PETROC to request that they inform students not to drop litter.

(c) NDC Councillor Norman

Councillor Norman reported the following:

- That NDC were undertaking an Anti-Social Behaviour review consultation for Barnstaple and Ilfracombe.
- That Councillor Tucker was one of 4 former North Devon Councillors who had been appointed to be an Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman in recognition of the long and eminent service that each had given to North Devon Council, to local government and to the community. Council congratulated Councillor Tucker.
- That NDC were undertaking a Business Continuity Plan consultation.

136. HIGHWAY ISSUES

- a) Sign junction Gratton Way opposite Larkbear: Update
Councillor Norman reported all the signs for the bus gate had been completed with the exception of the one identified by a resident at the junction of Gratton Way opposite Larkbear. He had contacted DCC Councillor Henderson who had agreed to investigate.

- b) Devon County Council proposal for the Longbridge Junction in Barnstaple: Consultation
It agreed that the proposals be rejected as it was considered that with only one access into Seven Brethren it would only compound the existing problem and cause increased congestion.

137. SANDRINGHAM/HIGHGROVE DEVELOPMENTS AT THE SOUTHERN END OF OLD TORRINGTON ROAD (SOLICITOR SEARCHES).

Deferred to next meeting. Councillor Bowden reported that she still awaited information from the Solicitor.

138. REPORT OF THE PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE ON APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED PRIOR TO THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Chair updated Council on the Planning Applications considered by the Planning Sub Committee.

139. OLD TORRINGTON ROAD SOUTH SLIP LANE ONTO A39.

Councillor Bowden stated that her objective was to raise the issue re the provision of a slip road onto the A39 with the DCC Councillors and noted Councillor Henderson response. Minute 135 above.

140. NORTH DEVON COUNCIL REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS & POLLING PLACES/STATIONS 2023.

The Council noted the NDC review of polling districts & polling places/stations 2023.

141. COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH: POLICE UPDATE

The Chair reported that the Speedwatch group operated at various locations designated by the Police. A one and a half hour session at the Old Torrington Road junction with Old Bideford Road recorded 245 cars of which 17 were speeding; the fastest recorded speed was 46 mph in the 30 mph area. Another session was held at the bottom end of Old Torrington Road which was attended by the Police support staff. 4 drivers were caught speeding. A number of vehicles were also seen going through the bus gate. The Speedwatch team received a lot of abuse that had been reported to the Police.

142. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES

Councillor Mason presented a revised proposed Draft Social Media Policy and Facebook Group Policy following a meeting with Councillors Bowden and Knight (previously circulated).

It was agreed that revised policy be adopted

143. RECORDING OF MEETINGS

The Chair stated that Fremington Parish Council the recorded its meeting and considered that Tawstock PC should investigate recording its meetings.

It was agreed that the Clerk research available recording devices and cost options for consideration at a future Council meeting.

144. DEFIBRILLATOR

Councillor Mason reported that he had submitted 2 funding applications. The Department for Health and Social Care were no longer giving grants and he awaited a response from the British Heart Foundation (BHF)

145. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

The following items were agreed:

- Provision of a shelter and seat at the bus stop at the bottom end of Old Torrington Road
- Provision of a Noticeboard at Eastacombe
- Future meeting in New Year invite NDC Leader and Chief Executive to attend a meeting.
- DCC Traffic Review proposals
- Provision of Allotments at Tower View. Refer to Parks and Open Space Committee

Councillor East reported that the goal nets he had precured were beyond repair. It was agreed that Councillor East be authorised to purchase a new goal net up to a maximum of £100.

146. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 21st November 2023 @ 7.00 p.m.

147. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS AND RESTRICTION OF DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED

- (a) That under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972
- (b) That all documents and reports relating to the item be confirmed as 'Not for Publication'

148. SOCIAL MEDIA.

The Council noted an update by the Chair.

Chairman The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.