

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER 2025 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Bowden (Chair)
Councillors Jenkins, Knight, Lofthouse, Mason and Short

NDC Councillor Knight

DCC Councillors Leaver and Tyldesley

M Isaac (Clerk)

In attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – None

147. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Bates, East and Norman and NDC Councillor Coombs.

148. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

149. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no issues raised by Parishioners.

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

There were no issues brought forward by the Chair.

151. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

152. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following correspondence:

a)Citizens Advice Bureau regarding a donation.

It was agreed that a donation of £100 be made to the Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice Bureau towards work undertaken to assist Parishioners of Tawstock Parish.

b)Tawstock Carol Service on Sunday 21st December at 6.30pm.

It was agreed that Councillor Mason would represent the Parish Council at the Tawstock Carol Service and read a lesson.

c) Roundswell Roundabout – White Lining

The Council noted an email from Stuart Ward regarding the lack of white lining at the Roundswell Spiral Roundabout which has become very dangerous.

DCC Councillor Tyldesley reported that he had raised the concerns with the DCC Co-ordination Team. The contractor had misunderstood what was required and had painted dots rather than lines on the roundabout.

DCC Councillor Leaver as Chair of HATOC agreed to seek a review of the white lining of roundabout in Barnstaple and along the ND Link Road at the next HATOC meeting.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to DCC raising the concerns raised by the complainant on safety grounds.

153. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

i) North Devon Council – Clerk Salary + Admin Fee	£843.69
ii) Clerks Expenses	£9.05
iii) L. Evely – Grounds Maintenance	£979.05
iv) Barnstaple Town Council – Play Area Inspections	£225.00
v) G. Lofthouse – Purchase of Hazel Tree	£27.99
vi) Ucanstore.com – Storage	£30.02

b) Additional Bank Account Signatories

It was agreed that Councillors Jenkins and Lofthouse be appointed as additional account signatories.

154. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

There were no issues raised.

156. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The Council noted a report by DCC Councillor Tyldesley that had been previously circulated to all Members. He further reported that the Children's Service Commissioner had undertaken an inspection in October. A report had now been published that stated that the DCC were making significant service improvements.

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- That the Government financial settlement for 2026/27 would be known by the end of the week.
- Local Government Re-organisation. That DCC had proposed a single unitary authority based on the DCC footprint.
- Bus Gate. That DCC were currently working up designs for the security of the cameras that would be operational early in 2026. The Police were actively keeping an eye on social media activity/comments.

157. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The Council noted a report by NDC Councillor Norman that had been previously circulated to all Members.

NDC Councillor Knight reported the following:

- That he was working with Officers regarding the relocation/replacing of damaged street name plates.
- That he was looking into why the fly tipping report on the NDC website was not working.
- That he was investigating the rationale of the street sweeping practices.
- That Planning Application 81180 had been submitted for Larkbear Phase 2.

158. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Councillor Knight stated that the last Larkbear statement required amending to remove the 'No Dual access' requirement.

159. PLANNING MATTERS

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

160. VACANCIES/CO-OPTION

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

The Chair agreed to produce laminated signs advertising the 2 vacancies.

161. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Clerk reported that the following proposals that had been put forward in relation to Fremington and Tawstock for public consultation:

- Fremington and Tawstock - realigning the boundary to follow the A3125 and adjusting the border between Chestwood Avenue and Beechwood Close to run along property boundaries and extending the Fremington boundary to incorporate Birch Lane to Old Bideford Road, following the road up to the roundabout.
- Tawstock Parish Council – merging the two existing urban wards into a single ward.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the 42 properties affected by the proposal to explain the proposal.

162. PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Councillor Bowden reported on the Committee meeting held on 11th December 2025 (previously circulated).

The recommendations of the Parks and Open Space Committee were agreed.

163. BUS STOP OPPOSITE THE WREY ARMS - LITTERING

It was reported that littering at the Bus Stop opposite the Wrey Arms was a problem, generally from Petroc students.

A local resident periodically undertook a litter pick but it was becoming a problem. The Chair agreed to send a letter to the resident thanking her for cleaning up the bus stop.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Principal of Petroc highlighting the problem and requesting that students were advised of the issue.

164. 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.

165. CLIMATE EMERGENCY – FUTURE PROMOTION

Councillor Lofthouse requested that the Parish Council consider adopting the Climate Emergency statement adopted by NDC and publish the work undertaken by the Parish Council in support of the climate.

It was agreed to refer the matter to the Parks and Open Space Committee for consideration.

166. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no issues raised.

167. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 20th January 2026

Chair the meeting ended at 8.23 p.m.