

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st May 2024 AT 7.20 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Bowden (Chair)
Councillors Bates, Jenkins, Knight, Lines, Mason, Needham, Norman and Short (for minutes 32 to 48).

NDC Councillors Knight and Norman

DCC Councillor Leaver

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – None

22. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2024/2025

RESOLVED that Councillor Bowden be appointed Chair for 2024/25.

23. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors East and Lofthouse

24. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR 2024/2025

RESOLVED that Councillor Mason be appointed Vice Chair for 2024/25.

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

The Chair reminded Members that an extraordinary Parish Council meeting had been arranged for Thursday 30th May @ 7.00 p.m. to consider issues relating to the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

26. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from Parishioners.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

28. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report

29. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£666.93
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£10.80
Ucanstore.com – Storage	£28.60
Sticklepath Methodist Church – Room Hire (Feb- Apr)	£115.00
North Devon Council – Trade Waste Collection Renewal	£92.53
L. Evely – Grounds Maintenance	£972.25

b) Accounts and Bank Reconciliation 2023/24

The accounts and Bank Reconciliation 2023-24 were noted and agreed.

30. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

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

There were no matters arising.

32. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORT

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

Cedars Roundabout.

- Improvement work at the Cedars roundabout were nearing completion.
- The final phase of overnight closures was due to get underway on the evening of Thursday 30 May, with the A3125 (southern arm of the roundabout) closed from 6.30pm to 6.30am.
- The night-time closures were then scheduled to continue during these hours until Thursday 13 June to allow work on the southern arm of the roundabout. This would include road marking, resurfacing and high friction surfacing for the new crossing, all of which are subject to weather conditions.
- The overnight closures would be in place between the junction with Cedars Roundabout (to the north) and Brynsworthy Park (to the south), with all other manoeuvres at the Cedars roundabout being open – including access into the Cedars Inn from the east and west.
- A signed diversion would be in place while the road was closed, and Bickington Road would remain open throughout.
- Bridge Civil Engineering Ltd, carrying out the work on our behalf, would undertake the noisiest operations before 11pm. Work would continue beyond this time and residents whose properties backed onto the A3125 may experience some level of disruption during these evenings.
- During the daytime, work would continue using temporary traffic lights for the installation of traffic signals, signs, and development of new hedge banks. The temporary four-way traffic signals were expected to be removed and the Cedars roundabout scheme completed during the week commencing Monday 17 June.

33. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

a) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported the following:

- The emptying of the litter bin in the Tower View play area had been resolved. The lock had been removed and the bin was now being emptied.
- That the road from the bottom of Sticklepath Hill to Sticklepath Court had been swept by North Devon Council. Devon County Council now needed to clear the drains after the national speed limit sign. North Devon Council was only responsible for sweeping highways in the 30 mph zone.
The Council agreed to pass on their thanks to North Devon Council for an excellent job.
- Street Naming Plates. That the damaged sign for Manor Park had been reported.

b) NDC Councillor Norman

Councillor Norman had no issues to report.

34. HIGHWAY ISSUES

a) Blocking of drive and dangerous exit from drive, Old Torrington Road.
Councillor Bowden reported she had received a complaint from 22 Old Torrington Road regarding visibility from their drive being obstructed by vehicles parking on the road. It was agreed that the Chair raise the issue with DCC Councillor Leaver.

b) No road markings in many areas.
Councillor Knight reported there were no road markings on the spiral roundabout, the mini roundabout by Gratton Way/Sainsburys, by the Morrisons shop on the main road and along Old Torrington Road. It was agreed to raise with both County Councillors.

Councillor Short reported that Mr Shambrook of Meadow View, St Johns Chapel had requested that he notify the Parish Council of an upcoming road closure at St Johns Chapel due to works to his property.

35. 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.

36. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the following Committees be reappointed and the following members appointed:

Planning Committee – Councillors Bowden , East, Jenkins, Knight, Mason and Short.
Substitute Members Councillors Lofthouse and Norman.

Parks and Open Space Committee – Councillors Bates, Bowden, Jenkins, Knight, Lofthouse and Needham.

37. PARISH SURVEY

Deferred to the next Parish Council meeting pending a meeting between Councillors Bowden, Knight and Mason to discuss the survey questionnaire.

38. POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Deferred to the next Parish Council meeting.

39. TAWSTOCK VILLAGE HALL PROJECT

The Clerk reported quotes provided by Councillor Short to provide and install 2 air to air heat pumps at the Village Hall. The total cost of the project was £6,715.32 including VAT of £1,119.22. The Council currently had £2,200 earmarked in its accounts for projects at the village hall.

It was RESOLVED that the Council fund the total cost of the project with the earmarked funds and an additional cost excluding VAT of £3,396.10.

40. TAW AND TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

Councillor Needham reported that the new website would soon be live and that Tawstock Parish Council would be listed as a member. He further reported that the identification of an original funding for youth project had proven difficult and the forum had therefore agreed to set aside £500 each year for grants for youth initiatives. Young people would be able to apply for a grant of up to £100.

41. AUGUST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was agreed that there be no Parish Council meeting in August and that authority be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with three signatories to make payments during this month.

42. LITCHARDON SOLAR PANEL FUND GROUP

Councillor Mason reported the panel had met to discuss and agree a structure for the Parish Councils to manage the receipt and distribution of the community benefit funds.

It was agreed that there should be 5 members, one from each parish with the Lovacott, Horwood & Newton Tracey PC representative acting as chair.

The benefit fund had been agreed by the original project developers (Aura Power) as being £17,500 p.a. with £2,000 of that set aside for Educational purposes.

43. TOWER VIEW AND TUDOR PLAY AREAS – CLEANING OF EQUIPMENT

The Clerk reported that he had received a quote from Barnstaple Town Council of £150 for a quarterly clean of the equipment in both Tower View and Tudor play areas. All clean products and water would be provided.

The provision of spikes on the top of the swing bars to deter birds from landing and messing.

It was agreed:

- a) That the quote from Barnstaple Town Council to clean the equipment be accepted
- b) That Councillor Knight purchase spikes to be placed on the top of the swing bars at a maximum cost of £30

44. BURIAL GROUND POLICY RE TYPE AND SIZE OF HEADSTONES AND MEMORIALS

The Clerk outlined proposed changes to the burial ground policy in respect of the type and size of headstones and memorials.

It was agreed that consideration be deferred to the next Parish Council meeting for the Chair to research grave decorations.

45. PARISH NOTICEBOARD

Noticeboard Eastacombe

Councillor Knight outlined a proposed extra-large aluminium noticeboard for Eastacombe at a cost of £731 from Earth Anchors (details previously circulated).

Concern was expressed at the extra-large size of the noticeboard.

It was agreed that authority be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair to purchase a smaller noticeboard with Parish Council header at a maximum cost of £1,000.

46. DEFIBRILLATOR - HARRACOTT

Councillor Mason reported that DHSC had paused all grant request at present and it was not known when they may resume.

Councillor Bowden reported that she had obtained a quote from an electrician to install the defibrillator for £30.00.

It was agreed that due to the uncertainty regarding the availability of grant support that the Council purchase a defibrillator for Harracott from the British Heart Foundation.

47. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There following issues were raised for next Council meeting:

North Devon/Torrige Local Plan
Policies

48. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 18TH June 2024 @ 7.00 p.m.

Chairman The meeting ended at 8.52 p.m.