

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15th JULY
2025 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Bowden (Chair)
Councillors Bates, East, Jenkins, Knight, Lines, Mason, Needham and Short.

NDC Councillor Knight

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 1

62. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Lofthouse and Norman and NDC Councillor Coombs and DCC Councillor Tyldesley

63. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no issues raised by Parishioners

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

The Chair updated Council on an informal meeting held the previous day between the Chairs of Tawstock, Fremington and Landkey and other Councillors with the Clerks to discuss the Community Governance representation made by Barnstaple Town Council to change the Parish Council boundaries affecting all three Parish Councils and become part of Barnstaple.

It had been agreed:

- a) To produce a Poster with a QR code to inform residents of the implications of the proposed changes with adapted heading for each Parish.
- b) That she and Councillor Knight prepare the wording for a Social Media release.
- c) That a joint press release be made to be prepared by Fremington Parish Councillor Walker
- d) That Fremington Parish Council would print the Posters (approximately 2,000 required for Tawstock) at a cost of £140 - £150.
- e) That the next meeting would be in August.

It was agreed that a budget of £150 be allocated for the printing of the poster.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Jenkins and Mason declared an interest in Planning Application 80131 on the agenda as they had made their own representations on the application to NDC.

66. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report

67. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

i) North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£974.11
ii) Clerks Expenses	£16.16
iii) L. Evely – Grounds Maintenance	£979.05
iv) TK Play – New Bench Tudor Park	£1,120.00
v) North Devon Council – Survey Address Labels	£8.40
vi) Barnstaple Town Council – Cleaning of Play Equipment	£225.00

b) Financial Position: Update

The current financial position at 3 May 2025 Current A/C £40,338.38 (includes £6,581.62 ringed fenced for Tower View Project) and Business Reserve A/C £16,551.35 was noted.

68. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meetings held on 17th June 2025 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chair.

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

Land off Broadclose Road - Overgrown/unsightly site: Update

The Clerk reported that he had contacted NDC Planning Officer and the agent had stated on 8 July that they had been waiting for the water monitoring pipes which were about 300mm out of the ground to be removed which was due to happen next week as the monitoring period required had just been completed. A tractor and mower would be on to site to tidy the area.

70. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

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

Councillor Short reported that following the completion of road works the signs were not being collected. It was agreed to raise the matter with DCC Councillor Tyldesley.

71. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

a) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported the following:

- i) That the street sweeping service had been greatly improved and that the litter bin operatives were now using the road sweepers to clear areas
- ii) That Waste and Recycling had set up a new Working Group to discuss the Governments requirement to collect soft plastics with the recycling waste.
- ii) That he had visited the Tawstock Cemetery and considered that the hedge height did not need to be reduced as much as previously considered. He had also met Councillor Lofthouse regarding the free notice boards from Barnstaple Town Council.

b) NDC Councillor Coombs

The Clerk reported that Councillor Coombs had requested that she had advised the Planning Officer that if he was minded to approve Planning Application 80131, she would like it to be called in for consideration/determination by the Planning Committee as it was outside the development boundary

c) NDC Councillor Norman

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

72. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Councillor Needham stated that he had noticed that the pedestrian crossing lights on the A39 by the new garage were changing to 'red' when not being used causing traffic build up and delays.

It was agreed that Councillor Needham check the signage at the crossing.

73. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) The Chair updated Council on the Planning Applications considered by the Planning Committee.
- b) 80131 Outline application for service station and 22 industrial/business units including access (Appearance, landscaping, layout & scale reserved), Land South of Lake Roundabout.

Councillors Jenkins and Mason declared an interest in the above application as they had made their own representations on the application to NDC and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

RECOMMENDED that the application be REFUSED for the following reasons:

- a) Impact on the Highway on a very busy roundabout

- b) Outside the development Boundary
- c) Environmental concerns, close to the River Taw and possible contamination.

74. PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – 26TH JUNE 2025.

The Council noted the minutes of the Park and Open Space Committee held on 26 June 2025 (previously circulated)

Councillor Needham raised the tidying up of the three verges in Tudor Drive. The ground spreading plants needed to be cleared away and the area tidied up.

Councillor Short reported that the Holywell had been tidied up but required some shrub planting

It was agreed that:

- a) That the quote from Lewis Evely to remove the concrete areas and re turf in Tudor Park of £190 be accepted.
- b) That the offer to cut the branches of the cherry trees overhanging the pavement within the verges of Old Torrington Road be agreed.
- c) That authority be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair to seek and accept a quote to tidy up and clear the ground spreading plants the three verges in Tudor Drive
- d) That Councillor Short seek a quote for the provision of shrubs at the Holywell for consideration by the Parks and Open Space Committee

75. PART TIME HANDY PERSON

Councillor Needham stated that he had had a thought that was supported by the Chair that there were a number of minor jobs that the Parish Council required to be done from time to time that were not standard gardening jobs ie washing play equipment, erecting notice boards etc that would be better done under a casual arrangement with by a handyperson. He considered that a job specification would need to be prepared and advertised for a self-employed person.

It was agreed:

- a) That Councillor Needham speak to the Fremington Parish Council Handyperson regarding the possibility of taking on some Parish Council work
- b) That the Chair speak to Lewis Evely the Grounds Maintenance Contractor regarding the taking on of additional jobs.
- c) That Councillor Needham draw up a list of potential small jobs.

76. PARISH SURVEY: QUOTE RE SURVEY PRINTING

Councillor Bowden reported that she had received a quote from Matrix Printing of £290 + Vat for 3,000 copies and £200 + Vat for 2,000 copies (single page double sided) of the survey in black and white.

Councillor Knight agreed to speak to Helen Walker to seek a quote from Solo Press for 2,000 copies double sided in colour.

77. LITCHARDON SOLAR FARM PROJECT FUNDING: UPDATE

Councillor Mason reported that Infinis had changed the funding structure and had appointed the Charity Grantscape to deal with grant applications.
At present it was anticipated that the first round of grant funding would be in January 2026.

**78. PROVISION OF FOOTPATH AT TAWCROFT AS PER PLANNING CONSENT 72227
LARKBEAR**

Councillor East reported that he had had several requests from residents regarding the completion of the footpath and play area.
Councillor Knight stated that the new application number was 76337 and the delay had been caused by the two developers who refuted ownership of the bank.
He advised that residents should individually make representations to ND Planning Department complaining that the requirement of Planning Application 76337 had not been completed as per the planning consent.

79. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There were no matters raised.

80. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 16th September 2025 7.00 p.m.

Chairman The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.