



Parish Council

Clerk: Martyn Isaac, DMS, FInstAM

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Councillor Bowden (Chair)

Councillors Bates, East, Jenkins, Knight (for minutes 68 - 77), Linden (for minutes 87-89), Norman and Short.

NDC Councillors Coombs, Knight and Norman

DCC Councillor Leaver

M. Isaac (Clerk)

In attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – None

68. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Lofthouse, Mason and Squires and DCC Tyldesley.

69. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from Parishioners.

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

There were no issues raised.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

72. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence reported.

73. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

74. .GOV WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESSES.

The Clerk reported that following conversations with DALC and North Devon Council it had been recommended that Parish Online was the best option to provide a .Gov.uk website domain and .Gov.uk email addresses. They also provided a complete and fully managed digital service for Parish and Town Councils if required.

The complete package in the first year would be £300 + Vat and subsequent yearly subscriptions of £400 + Vat.

It was agreed that the provision of a .Gov.uk domain and .Gov.uk email addresses be progressed with Parish Online.

75. PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE: 8TH SEPTEMBER 2026.

The Council considered the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 8th September 2026 (previously circulated).

Councillor Knight stated that he would be writing to NDC Planners regarding the problems in the Larkbear play area and insisting that litter bins are not located inside the play area but outside due to collection problems for future phases of development.

It was noted that the next round of funding from the Litchardon Solar Farm Project was now open with grants from £500 - £8,750 available to Parish Council's for Community projects such as play equipment.

It was also noted that grant funds may be available for DCC Councillor Tyldesley's Locality budget.

It was agreed:

- a) That the minutes be noted and agreed.
- b) That a 1 year extension of the contract be offered to Lewis Evely subject to an acceptable quote for the additional year extension due to the uncertainty of Local Government Review.
- c) That the Council pursue a Public Safety Protection Order from the District Council due to the anti-social behaviour experienced in both parks.
- d) The quote from TK Play for a replacement new bench in the Cemetery of £1,368.60 inc Vat was noted.

76. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

DCC Councillor Leaver

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- a) That OFSTED had reported good progress on the Children and Social Care Services and were confident that children were now safer.
- b) That Local Government Review had been paused by the Government for review. Currently the scope of the review was not known. District and Parish Council would now go ahead on 6th May 2027. Any compensation for staff time to date and money spent was also not known. She suggested that Parish Councils make their views known through DALC.

- c) She apologised for the recent fiasco caused by the gas main replacement works that had now been postponed to be re-designed by the utility company. Timescale were not known at present.
- d) That Devon Highways would be carrying out essential drainage repairs on the A3125 Bickington Road between Monday 21 September and Friday 9 October 2026 under manually operated 2-way temporary traffic lights between 9:15 am and 3:15 pm on weekdays only. Outside these times, both lanes of Bickington Road would be kept clear to allow free-flowing traffic during morning and afternoon peak times.

The Council noted a report by DCC Councillor Tyldesley previously circulated.

77. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported the following:

- a) That he had managed to obtain 2 Street Name Plates with directional arrows from NDC for the corner of Philip Avenue/Elizabeth Drive and Anne Crescent.
- b) That a formal complaint had been received by NDC regarding several missed recycling collections in Lake.
- c) That the Head of Programme Management and Performance, Housing and Health at NDC had agreed to assign an Officer to meet with Petroc regarding the affect of banning of smoking and vaping on College grounds to local residents.
- d) That he had a supply of replacement No Dogs signs that he would use to replace those vandalised at the Tower View Play area.
- e) That he had again raised the issue of buses stopping at busy times 4.45 - 5.15 in Old Torrington Road to pick up students with DCC Councillor Leaver. This was a serious safety hazard and an accident waiting to happen and needed immediate attention.

NDC Councillor Coombs

Councillor Coombs outlined the new Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 regulations and national delegations imposed by the Government from 31st October 2026 regarding the consideration of planning applications. She agreed to email the full details and slide show to the Clerk.

- a) Planning Committees could only have up to a maximum of 13 Members
- b) Planning Applications would be categorised into two schedules 1 and 2.
- c) Schedule 1 planning applications which included developments up to 9 houses would be delegated to the Planning Officers
- d) Schedule 2 planning applications which would be developments between 10 and 150 houses could be considered by the Planning Committee if referred by Officers.
- e) Developments over 150 houses would be included in Schedule 1 and delegated to Planning Officers.

NDC Councillor Norman

NDC Councillor Norman stated that he would email his report to be all Councillors but highlighted the following:

- a) The up-coming Parish Forum that would discuss Community Hubs / Emergency Planning and Local Government Reorganisation Update.
- b) That the Government had now published the long-awaited final version of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- c) The public consultation on the renewal of the Dogs Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which was due for review in 2027.
- d) The identification of flood risk areas and drainage cleaning

78. SOCIAL MEDIA.

The Chair reported that following the recent gas work road works and the use of social media to update residents on going issues and avoid misinformation she considered that the Parish Council should be smarter and use social media more effectively to inform residents. A page on the Parish Council's website linked to the Facebook group should be developed to allow residents to follow the Council.

It was agreed that that the Chair seeking further information from Mark Thake regarding the development of a follow me page.

79. HIGHWAY ISSUES.

The Council noted the DCC Community Warden Scheme outlined by the Clerk.

80. PLANNING MATTERS.

It was noted that there were no planning applications considered by the Planning Committee prior to the meeting.

81. LITCHARDON CROSS SOLAR PARK COMMUNITY FUND.

See minute 75 above. Report by Councillor Mason had been previously circulated to all Members.

82. TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE.

The Clerk reported the Council could appoint a Member to the Taws Torridge Estuary Forum.

It was agreed that no appointment be made.

83. TOWN COUNCIL NETWORKING - CLUSTER WORKING EVENT: 30TH SEPTEMBER 2026.

Chair reported that she and the Clerk would be attending the Town Council networking cluster working event.

84. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

August

- i) North Devon Council - Clerks Salary + Admin Fee £843.69

ii) L. Evely – Grounds Maintenance	£979.05
iii) Sticklepath Methodist Church – Room Hire	£105.00
iv) Uncanstore.com – Storage	£30.77

September

i) North Devon Council - Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£843.69
ii) L. Evely – Grounds Maintenance	£979.05
iii) L. Evely – Tower View Fencing and War Memorial Steps	£770.00
iv) Uncanstore.com – Storage	£30.77
v) PKF Littlejohn – External Audit	£252.00
vi) Barnstaple Town Council – Play Area Inspections	£225.00

b) The current financial position at 5 August 2026 Current A/C £36,398.23 (includes £6,581.62 ringed fenced for Tower View Project) and Business Reserve A/C £16,737.27 was noted.

a) Audit 2025/2026

The Council noted that the accounts for 2025/26 had been signed off by the external auditor and the comments made. Report and Certificate (previously circulated).

d) National Pay Award 2025-2026.

The annual pay award of 3.3% pro rata for 2026/27 was noted and agreed.

85. PARISH COUNCIL FACEBOOK PAGE

See minute 78 above.

86. VACANCY.

The Clerk reported that an expression of interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council had been received from Jacky Linden.

It was agreed that Jacky Linden be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

87. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

The Chair reported that Members addresses did not need to be included on the register of interest but only referred to as property owned/rented etc in the Parish. It was agreed that all Members addresses be removed from the register of interests.

88. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The following issues were raised:

Councillors Handbook

Environmental and Sustainability Policy Review

Remembrance Wreath

War Memorial Gate

DALC Membership

It was agreed that Councillors Bates, East, Linden, Mason and Norman be appointed to review the Councillors Handbook, Environmental and Sustainability Policy and the

documents required to be reviewed annually and report to the December Parish Council meeting.

89. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be on Tuesday 20th October 2026.

Chair the meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.