



Parish Council

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE OF
TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 6.30 p.m.**

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

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – None

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

There were no issues raised by the Chair as a matter of urgency.

Tower View Recreation Area s106 funds.

The Committee considered and noted an e-mail from R. Slaney NDC Leisure and S106 Public Open Space Officer regarding the available s106 funds and suggested RotoGen Reactions Game Play Panel - Playground Equipment. There were currently two allocations available for capital improvements of £383.42 and £3,001.19.

It was considered that there was currently no provision for 11 – 15 year olds and the emphasis should be on physical play. The suggested equipment could only be played by one person at a time.

Mr Slaney was thanked for his suggestion.

It was noted that SUEZ had a community fund that it may be possible to obtain funding from towards the provision of new play equipment.

4. TOWER VIEW RECREATION AREA

a) Provision of Solar powered lights, signs and cameras: update

It was agreed to defer consideration pending further investigations.

b) Provision of a new goal net and posts.

Councillor Knight reported that the goal net was tangled and needed replacing. He suggested that 3/4 4m to 5m scaffolding poles be purchased with cricket practice netting. This would cover a wider part of the bank and stop any footballs going into the bank.

It was agreed to seek a quote from Lewis Evely to provide the poles and netting and concrete the poles into the ground.

c) Central Bank – Thorny shrubs behind goal nets.

The Committee noted the concerns of residents.

It was agreed that the shrubs had been planted to stop dogs and children climbing the bank and had been successful. To mitigate the problems as outlined in minute 4 (b) above the proposal to extend the area in front of the bank would mitigate the issues raised.

d) Scattering of poppy seeds in bottom wild flower section.

It was agreed that as the type of poppy seed could not be identified that Councillor Jenkins be thanked for his offer but the offer be not accepted.

Councillor Knight suggested that a mix of wildflower seeds of poppy, cornflower and other varieties could be purchased from Boston seeds for the bottom wildflower area.

Councillor Lofthouse agreed to arrange for the bird scarers to be put up on the top of the swings in the play area.

5. NDC CONSULTATION ON RENEWAL OF DOGS PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO).

The Consultation was noted.

6. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT 2027-2030

The Committee considered the existing Grounds Maintenance Contract.

It was RECOMMENDED 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.

7. TAWSTOCK CEMETERY

a) Removal of old Bench and new replacement.

It was agreed to seek a quote from TK Play for a new bench with arms similar to that provided in Tudor Park and to remove the old rotten bench.

b) Provision of Notice.

Councillor Bowden reported that it was work in progress and not as straightforward as previously considered as she wished to include a plan of the plots with names in the cemetery.

c) To consider quote regarding repair to Gate and Water Tap Post.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a quote from Lewis Evely of £160 to repair the gate and water tap. The quote was accepted.

Phase 3. Use and Consecration of land.

The Clerk reported that to consecrate the ground the following was required by the Diocesan Registry:

Estimated fees to be in the region of £750 to £1,000 plus VAT and disbursements (such as mileage expenses).

This estimate included:

- Preparing the necessary documentation;
- Correspondence and liaison with the relevant parties; and
- Attendance by the Registrar, Alison Stock, at the consecration service.

Before we are able to proceed, the Archdeacon of Barnstaple would need to undertake a site visit and confirm that the area was suitable for consecration. A plan clearly identifying the land to be consecrated and showing its relationship to the wider cemetery would also be required.

Once the Archdeacon's report and the cemetery plan had been received, they would be able to begin preparing the documentation and liaise with the Bishop's Office regarding a suitable date for the consecration service.

The Bishop, Diocesan Registrar and incumbent vicar would be required to be in attendance at the consecration.

It was RECOMMENDED that the Archdeacon of Barnstaple be invited to attend a site visit in order to establish suitability.

8. LARKBEAR/TAWCROFT PLAY AREA.

The Committee noted the photos previously circulated. Councillor Bowden reported that there had been numerous complaint from residents regarding the condition/state of the play area. The play area was the responsibility of Persimmon.

It was agreed to write to Persimmon attaching the photos raising the concerns of the Parish Council and residents regarding the condition of the play area and requesting action from Persimmon.

Councillor Knight stated that he would be writing to NDC Planners regarding the problems and insisting that they be not repeated for Phase 2 of the development.

9. SMOKING/VAPING/ALCOHOL POLICY IN TOWER VIEW AND TUDOR RECREATION AREAS IN CONJUNCTION WITH RESIDENTS' CONCERNS AND PETROC PROPOSALS.

The Clerk reported the following information from DALC.

The current situation was:

The Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026 was not yet in force and the date of commencement of the relevant sections was not yet known. Under the Act the Secretary of State would have the power to designate open spaces and vehicles as smoke and vape free areas. The designation can relate to certain types of open space or limited times or activities in an open space. It was not known what open spaces would be designated or under what conditions.

The Act, however, did not give any local authority the power to make smoke or vape free areas. The Act also did not cover the consumption of alcohol.

Currently, if the council wished to prevent smoking, drinking, or vaping in their public areas, the only way to do that would be through a Public Safety Protection Order from the District Council.

Councillor Knight reported that he had received concern from several residents regarding an inevitable increase smoking and vaping in public areas as a result of Petroc's proposals.

Councillor Bowden stated that she and Councillor Knight would be meeting representatives of Petroc in October to raise residents concerns.

It was RECOMMENDED that the Council pursue a Public Safety Protection Order from the District Council due to the anti-social behaviour experienced in both parks.

10. BIG AUTUMN SOW.

It was agreed that a bid for free wildflower seeds be submitted.

Councillor Jenkins reported that there were several saplings growing in cemetery plots that required removing. It was agreed that Councillor Jenkins meet with Lewis Evely to remove the saplings.

Councillor Lofthouse reported that the No Dogs signs in the Tower View Play Area required replacing and that he had had to speak to someone who had taken their dog into the lay areas. It was agreed to contact NDC for replacement larger No Dog signs.

Chair the meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.