

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 19th MARCH 2024 AT 7.00 p.m.**

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

NDC Councillors Knight and Norman

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – None

240. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor East, DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver and NDC Councillor Renshaw.

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

There were no issues brought forward by the Chair as a matter of urgency:

242. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from Parishioners.

243. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

244. CO-OPTION VACANCY

The Chair reported that the vacancy had been advertised on the website and Facebook page but there had been no interest to date.

245. CORRESPONDENCE

Councillor Knight reported that a large number of tyres had been dumped in Lake, Newbridge and Templeton Quarry and NDC Officer Ray Jones had requested that Rural Parish Councillors keep a watch and share their details with him to aid communication with anyone that has information that could help catch the offenders.

246. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

| | |
|---|---------|
| North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee | £666.93 |
| M. Isaac Clerks Expenses | £10.60 |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Ucanstore.com – Storage | £26.00 |
| J. Bowden – Commemorative Plaque | £55.00 |
| Ideal Engine Ltd – Additional Web Page | £45.00 |

b) Financial Position

The current financial position at 5 March 2024 Current A/C £43,874.70 (includes £7,527.62 ringed fenced for Tower View Project and grants of £1,670 for Tower View Play Area and £1,000 for Tawstock Village Hall Project) and Business Reserve A/C £16,272.45 was noted.

c) New Bank Account Interest Rates and Online Banking.

Councillor Bowden reported that she had contacted Nat West Bank and there were two on line accounts. An Instant Access Account with 1.46% interest and a 35 day Notice Account with 3.25% interest. It was proposed to split the transfer of £20,000 between the two accounts.

She also reported that she had spoken to the bank regarding on line banking.

It was agreed:

- i) that an Instant Access Account with 1.46% interest and a 35 day Notice Account with 3.25% interest be opened and that £20,000 be transferred and split into the two accounts
- ii) that the Councillor Bowden seek further information regarding On line banking

247. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

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

There were no matters arising.

249. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORT

The Chair on behalf of DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- Cedars' roundabout – the contractor had now provided more on-site supervision of the lights and traffic in an effort to try to reduce confusion and long waits when there was little or no traffic, or when the cones did not make routes clear.
- Roundswell Pedestrian Crossing – the contractor would be replacing the new but defective anti-skid surface coming up to the lights tonight and the following night – weather permitting. This applied to the northern lane only. Traffic would be diverted up to Cedar's. As the works were not expected to start until 8pm there should not be much disruption. The cost of this would be borne by the contractor. The defective surface was a result of it being put down when the weather was too cold, so it did not adhere to the existing road surface as it should.
- The Cabinet Committee had taken the decision last week to close the three remaining Link Centres (Barnstaple, Bideford and Ilfracombe). The centres had been providing

support and drop in for people with low level mental health problems for over 20 years. In some cases, officers have told her that this had led to dependency on the Link Centres. The centres did not provide acute services for those with more serious mental health problems. Alternative provision was being provided by the Devon Mental Health Alliance. As no detail had been provided to Councillors about what that provision would look like, or assurances given that the needs of the clients would be met, the decision to close had been Called In by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee that covered adult social care. This meant that the Cabinet decision cannot be enacted until after the Scrutiny Committee had met on Thursday this week. Either Scrutiny would either accept the decision or recommend an alternative to Cabinet.

- Annual Local Waiting Restriction Programme – Parish Councillors were requested to let her know in the next couple of weeks of any parking restrictions they wanted altering so that she could include in the list of alterations for submission.
- OTR Bus Gate – no news yet from the Department of Transport to allow powers to use cameras for enforcement. The team was chased again earlier this week. The developer had now paid the County Council the money needed to purchase, install and maintain the cameras.

250. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

a) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight stated that he had spoken with Ken Miles, NDC Chief Executive who had informed that there had been no impact on the Crematorium from the Bus Gate and had expressed concern that the infrastructure works identified in the Local Plan had not been delivered by DCC Highways.

He also reported that he had contacted DCC regarding the debris from the cleared blocked drains along the road to Sticklepath Court which had been deposited by the contractor on the side of the road and requested its removal. DCC had informed him that they had requested the contractor to look into the matter.

He had again spoken to NDC Officer Ray Jones regarding the spraying of dog poo in the Tower View Recreation Area in a different coloured dye and stated that he would lead on this matter when the weather improved.

b) NDC Councillor Norman

Councillor Norman reported the following:

Boutport Street Re-Development

That after a successful tender process, local company Pearce Construction had been appointed by the ND Council to take on the redevelopment of 36/37 Boutport Street.

The redevelopment of 36/37 Boutport Street was expected to provide:

- 36 Boutport Street: A ground floor, open plan space which the council hoped would operate as an art and culture café-bar. The upper floors would provide fluid work spaces for the creative industries sectors, including arts, culture and digital, amongst others. This space would include co-worker spaces, workshop space and meeting spaces

- 37 Boutport Street: The construction of 10 individual ground floor workshop units either side of a central arcade, leading from Queen Street/Bear Street car park towards the town centre

Community Ownership Fund Round 4

The new Community Ownership Fund expression of interest was open for applications, ahead of the launch of the next application window of the fund. The fund would run until March 2025. DLUHC intends to run regular bidding windows throughout the year for applicants to submit a full application to the fund. The government was providing funding over four years to support community groups in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to take ownership of assets and amenities at risk of being lost, such as community centres, parks, pubs and post office buildings.

Portrait of His Majesty The King for all town, parish and community councils in the UK

The government was offering a free portrait of His Majesty The King to all town, parish and community councils in the United Kingdom from 12 February.

Council celebrates successful expansion of community woodland with 24,000 new trees

In an effort to enhance community green spaces, North Devon Council had announced the successful completion of a significant woodland expansion project. The initiative, revealed in early 2022, involved planting 24,000 new trees, seamlessly connecting three existing woodlands together at Yeo Valley Woodland in Barnstaple

Culture survey

North Devon and Torridge District Councils were asking residents to help them work out how best to encourage cultural activity in the region by taking part in a survey. The survey followed the creation of a new strategy: "Flourishing Culture: The Northern Devon Cultural Strategy". The strategy set out a vision that, by 2027, North Devon and Torridge would be place that was recognised "locally, nationally and internationally as an area where creativity thrived in unison with its landscape and communities." The online survey was open between Tuesday 12 March and Tuesday 23 April 2024.

251. HIGHWAY ISSUES

DCC Community Enhancement Fund application.

It was agreed to seek clarity of the initiative from DCC Councillor Henderson

Councillor Lofthouse agreed to monitor the BT manhole cover at the junction of Shorelands Road and Old Sticklepath Hill that lifted during heavy rain and report if necessary.

252. 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.

253. PLANNING APPLICATIONS 72227 AND 61119 LARBEAR PLANS OF THE PLAY AREAS/OPEN SPACE AREAS AND THE TIMESCALES FOR THEIR DELIVERY.

The Council noted the report from NDC Planning Officer giving a summary of the approved Public Open Space areas and an explanations on the delivery timescales (previously circulated).

254. PARISH SURVEY

Councillor Mason reported that he had drafted a series of questions based on the previous Parish Survey for circulation and comment to all Councillors.

Discussion was held on the media for community consultation.

It was agreed that draft survey questionnaire be circulated to all Councillors to feedback comments to Councillor Mason for consideration at the next Parish Council meeting.

255. S106 FUNDING BIDS - PROCEDURE

Councillors Knight and Norman reported that NDC was preparing a report on the s106 funding process.

256. LIFEVAC

Councillor Mason reported that the Lifevac anti choking device was more appropriate for eating establishments. The device would need to be located in a cabinet and maybe prone to vandalism.

It was agreed not to pursue the purchase of a device.

257. TAWSTOCK VILLAGE HALL: GRANT

The Council noted the advice from DALC regarding approaches from community group to undertake projects on their behalf and reclaim VAT.

Further consideration was deferred to the next Parish Council meeting.

258. POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Councillors Norman and Mason present a 3 month timetable to look at the current Policies and Procedures. Proposed timetable:

April: Review Standing Orders, Child Protection Policy, Model Code of Conduct, adopt a Risk Assessment for Parks and Diversity & Equality Policy.

May: Review Health & Safety Policy, Environmental Policy, Financial Regulations and Complaints Policy.

June: Review GDPR Policy, adopt Councillors Handbook, Document Retention Policy and Petitions Policy

259. DRAFT BURIAL GROUND POLICY

The Council considered a draft Burial Ground Policy (previously circulated).

RESOLVED that the Policy be adopted subject to paragraph 3.4 being amended to include the renewal of the Exclusive Right of Burial after 30 years if requested at an additional fee.

It was agreed to consider the type and size of headstones and memorials at the next Parish Council meeting.

260. PARISH NOTICEBOARDS/QR CODES

a) Inclusion of QR Codes

Councillor Mason produced a QR Code to be incorporated on the Parish Notice Boards that would link to the Council's website and Facebook page. It was agreed that the notice should be laminated and include the Parish Council Header

b) Noticeboard Eastacombe

The Clerk reported an estimated cost of £1,600 for a new aluminium noticeboard

Councillor Knight agreed to research possible an alternative type of noticeboard

261. DEFIBRILLATOR

Councillor Mason reported that the defibrillator was in the process of being purchased and be available soon.

262. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

There were no issues raised for next Council meeting.

263. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 16th April 2024 @ 7.00 p.m.

Chairman The meeting ended at 9.04 p.m.