

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
18th NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Bowden (Chair)

Councillors Bates, Jenkins, Knight, Lofthouse, Mason, Norman and Short.

NDC Councillors Coombs, Knight and Norman

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 4

126. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor East and DCC Councillors Leaver and Tyldesley.

127. PUBLIC SESSION

The following issues were raised by Parishioners:

Community Governance Review. When would the outcome of the review be known?
It was noted that NDC Councillor Norman would update the Council later on the agenda.

Provision of yellow lines outside 3 Shorelands Way.

Yellow lines were requested along a 30 metre stretch of road outside 3 Shorelands Way.
There were yellow lines everywhere else in the area except this small stretch of road.
There was a small sign attached to the Parishioners wall stating No Parking but it was not very visible and students were constantly being booked by Traffic Enforcement Officers.
It was agreed that Councillor Knight would take a photo of the area and pass to Councillor Bowden.

It was also stated that PETROC had still not cut the hedge and overgrown brambles along Old Sticklepath Hill.

A Parishioner stated that there was a lot of mis-information being posted on Facebook regarding the bus gate and thanked the Parish Council for its support.

**128. 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.

129. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations announced.

130. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence reported.

131. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

i) North Devon Council - Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£843.69
ii) Clerks Expenses	£13.51
iii) L. Evely – Grounds Maintenance	£979.05
iv) Zurich Insurance	£688.34
v) Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreath	£25.00
vi) D. Knight – Noticeboard Fixings	£32.10
vii) J. Bowden – Ink for printing consultation newsletter	£104.00
viii) Sticklepath Methodist Church – Hall Hire	£210.00
ix) G. Lofthouse – Noticeboard Keys	£18.00
x) Ucanstore.com – Storage	£30.02

The Chair reported that following the last Parish Council she and the Clerk had agreed that the 3 year option renewal with Zurich was the cheapest and most cost effective option.

132. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

There were no issues raised.

134. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

In the absence of Councillor Leaver, the Chair reported the following on her behalf:

She had spoken to Andy Wills (local police commander) about worries around vandalism and criminal damage of enforcement cameras at the bus gate. She was advised that he had come across a similar situation elsewhere, where the Police and Crime Commissioner had provided some funds to pay for a camera to watch the enforcement camera. Cost was around £5,000. She had been searching to find the funding source in more detail but as yet had not found it and it might be a historic fund that was now closed. She had also asked the officer who she dealt with on Community Safety issues and awaited a response.

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

135. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

a) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported the following:

- That the Local Plan process was progressing and he would be involved in the process.
- That Old Bideford Road had been swept and he would continue to monitor street sweeping.

b) NDC Councillor Norman

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

He reported:

Community Governance Review

That all the proposals submitted by Barnstaple Town Council which impacted on Tawstock Parish Council had been rejected by the committee. There was overwhelming support to retain the identity of Tawstock Parish with several positive messages relating to the great work of Tawstock Parish Council.

Having considered the feedback received, a further consultation was now taking place until the end of January 2026 regarding the following proposals affected Tawstock Parish:

Fremington and Tawstock - realigning the boundary to follow the A3125 and adjusting the border between Chestwood Avenue and Beechwood Close to run along property boundaries, and extending the Fremington boundary to incorporate Birch Lane to Old Bideford Road, following the road up to the roundabout

Tawstock Parish Council – merging the two existing urban wards into a single ward

Port Marine Safety Code

That an audit had been undertaken and none of the Marine Facilities were currently compliant with the code. Feedback was being sought from those who used Fremington Quay, Castle Quay, and Rolle Quay. That feedback would assist us to develop a strategy for the future use of the quays.

Lynbridge Car Park, Lynton

That the car park was being permanently decommissioned due to safety issues

Local Government Re-organisation

He further reported that as a legacy following Local Government re-organisation Parish Councils should begin to put together a wish list of potential NDC assets that could be taken over in preparation for any future discussions

c) NDC Councillor Coombs

Councillor Coombs reported that a new planning application had been submitted for signs at the new garage at Roundswell that was waiting validation.

136. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Councillor Knight raised the following issues Highway defects, Blocked Drains and Flooding. He reported the following:

- That DCC Councillor Leaver had sent a letter to all residents in her area regarding the Bus Gate
- That the list of streets/areas suggested for parking restrictions had been submitted for consideration.
- That he had sent an email to DCC regarding blocked drains and only one had been accepted as a problem in Copley Drive.

Councillor Lofthouse reported that a manhole cover at the junction of Old Sticklepath Hill and Shorelands Road lifted during heavy rain causing a safety hazard. Councillor Knight agreed to raise the matter with DCC Councillor Leaver

Councillor Short stated that whilst the road was closed at Eastacombe it would be an ideal opportunity to clear mud etc to alleviate a flooding problem. It was agreed that Councillor Short contact DCC Councillor Tyldesley.

137. PLANNING MATTERS

The Chair updated Council on the Planning Applications considered by the Planning Committee prior to the Council meeting.

138. VACANCY/RESIGNATION – CO-OPTION.

The Clerk reported the resignation of Jeff Needham (Northern Urban Ward) and that the formal notice of the vacancy had been advertised.

He further reported that he had not received any applications for co-option for the Rural Ward vacancy.

If applications are received both co-options could be considered at the next Parish Council meeting

139. GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP.

It was agreed that the Governance Working Group be dissolved.

Councillor Bates agreed to top and tail as per the agreed template all adopted Policies.

Councillor Knight stated that a What's App Group could be set up for all previous Members of the Group to exchange comments on policies if required.

140. TAWSTOCK JUBILEE ALMSHOUSE CHARITY: TRUSTEES

It was agreed that Councillor Mason be nominated/appointed as a Trustee on behalf of the Parish Council on the Tawstock Jubilee Almshouse Charity.

141. NDC PARISH FORUM

The Council noted a report by the Chair (previously circulated) who attended the forum. She highlighted an issue raised by Ilfracombe Town Council regarding Parish clustering to share information etc. Further information was awaited.

142. NDC PEER REVIEW -TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL FOCUS GROUP

The Council noted a report by former Councillor Jeff Needham (previously circulated) who attended the NDC Peer Review Group.

143. DEFIBRILLATOR – TAWSTOCK VILLAGE

The Chair reported that she had just received a picture of the suggested location for the defibrillator at Tawstock Village Hall and would seek a quote from the Electrician that installed the Harracott defibrillator.

144. DRAFT BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2026/2027.

The Council considered the draft budget for 2026/2027 (previously circulated) and the increase in expenditure in the ensuing municipal year. The current reserves and bank reconciliation (previously circulated) were noted.

It was RESOLVED:

- i) That the precept be increased by 3% to £28,129.90 for 2026/27 (Band D £22.66) based on the current tax base.
- ii) That the draft budget (previously circulated) be agreed.

145. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

The following issue was raised:

Bus stop opposite the Wrey Arms – Littering

146. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

Chairman The meeting ended at 8.43 p.m.