

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

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

NDC Councillors Knight and Norman.

DCC Councillor Leaver

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – None

211. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor NDC Councillor Coombs

212. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from Parishioners.

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

There were no issues raised.

214. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Councillor Norman stated that he would take no part in discussions or voting on agenda item 13 Community Governance Review as he was the Chair of the North Devon Council Governance Committee that would be considering representations received from Town/Parish Councils.

215. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

216. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£695.99
Ucanstore.com – Storage	£28.60
M. Isaac – Clerks Expenses	£15.45
L. Evely – Grounds Maintenance Contract	£940.43
L. Evely – Erect of Gate Tower View	£240.00
L. Evely – Removal of large branch Elizabeth Drive	£290.00

Playsafety Ltd – Play Area Annual RoSPA Inspection
J . Needham – Donation

£192.00
£30.00

b) Financial Position

The Clerk updated Council on the current financial position as at 5 March 2025 Current A/C £31,889.99 (includes £6,581.62 ringed fenced for Tower View Project) and Business Reserve A/C £16,502.31

217. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meetings held on 18th February 2025 and 10th March 2025 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chair subject to minute 205 of 18th February being amended with the word 'by' being amended to 'but' in the last sentence of the paragraph due to a typographical error.

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

There were no matters arising.

219. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- That the Government deadlines for the receipt of Local Government re-organisation proposals was 21st March 2025. The County Council and District Councils would be meeting later in the week to consider the 5 potential models.
- That the OFSTED report into Children's Services was still awaited.
- That a new Director of Children's Services had been appointed.
- That a balanced budget for 2025/26 had been agreed but this was reliant on a re-negotiation of an agreement with the Department of Education.

DCC Councillor Leaver stated that she was standing for re-election at the DCC May elections but if not re-elected this may be her last Tawstock PC attendance. She thanked Councillors for their support and stated that Tawstock had been the most interesting Parish Council that she represented.

The Chair on behalf of the Council thanked Councillor Leaver for her support and wished her well.

220. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

a) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported an update on the following planning applications:

- Broadclose Road – awaiting developer to start development.
- Application 70954 Larkbear Phase 2. Awaiting s106 funding agreement
- Application 72227 Larkbear Link to Highgrove yet to be completed.

b) NDC Councillor Coombs

In the absence of Councillor Coombs, the Clerk reported the following on her behalf:

- That she had reported several fly tipping issues and was pursuing issues along the B3233 and adjacent lanes.
- That the signage issues in regard to the new garage at Roundwell was still ongoing. The extension given to the applicant had now expired and a response from officer to the action to be taken was awaited.

c) NDC Councillor Norman

NDC Councillor Norman reported that just prior to the meeting had sent out a report.

He highlighted the following issues:

- A Planning Committee Site Inspection would be held on Wednesday 19th March 2025 at White Cross Wind Farm (application 77576)
- The Children's Hospice South West was the latest charity to benefit from North Devon Crematorium's role in a national metal recycling scheme. The hospice was presented with a cheque for £12,500 on Monday, 17 March. The donation had been generated from the proceeds of the recycling scheme run by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICMM), which enabled metals from cremated remains to be safely recycled.
- The Barnstaple Pannier Market announced the launch of North Devon SPRINGfest, a brand-new event coming on Sunday, 13 April, from 10am to 4pm.
- Flourishing Barnstaple was excited to announce the successful artists chosen to create new public artworks for Barnstaple town centre. They were:
Edward Crumpton and Jessica Pearson with 'Quay Sounds'. An interactive sculpture to be installed at Rolle Quay
Michael Pinsky with 'Tidal Triplets'. Inspired by Barnstaple's maritime heritage and tidal rhythms, this artwork will be situated on the Strand,
Athena Jane Churchill with 'Welcome Sign Mosaic' Positioned near the railway station.

221. HIGHWAY ISSUES

DCC Land for sale Old Torrington Road

Councillor Lofthouse stated that DCC was selling land with a recent outline planning permission for residential development of up to 41 units access off Old Torrington Rd. to the rear of Grange Avenue via a tender process. The site had an existing and proposed cycleway connection via Larkbear. He thought that if the tender process was unsuccessful, it would be an ideal location for a Nature Reserve and could be purchased by the Parish Council through available grants and crowd funding. There was no site valuations.

It was agreed to defer further discussion to the next meeting and await the outcome of the tender process.

222. PLANNING MATTERS

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

223. PARISH SURVEY

Councillor Mason reported that he awaited information/update from Councillor Knights from his meeting with the form designer.

It was agreed to defer to the next meeting.

224. GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

Councillor Needham reported on the Working Group meeting held on 12th March 2025 (previously circulated).

Councillor Bowden agreed to meet with Councillor Needham as suggested by the Working Group regarding the provision of CCTV and solar lighting in the Tower View recreation area to discuss the issues and concerns of the group.

It was agreed:

- a) That the notes be noted.
- b) That the Publication Policy (previously circulated) as recommended by the working group be adopted.
- c) That the Petition Policy (previously circulated) as recommended by the working group be adopted

225. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Councillor Bowden reported that she had responded to the letter from the Mayor of Barnstaple Town Council advising of their submission on the Community Governance Review and copied in North Devon Council. Response (previously circulated) and sought Members views.

It was agreed:

- a) To seek details on the process and timetable for public consultation and decisions.
- b) That the Chair and Councillors Knight and Needham and the Clerk draft the message to the parishioners to be sent with but separately with the Parish Survey.

Councillor Norman took no part in the discussions on the above matter.

226. COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Bowden reported that the Parish Council was recognised as a well organised and smooth running Council and the WhatsApp Group had been created to aid communication between Councillors. However, she wished to emphasise the importance of Members responding to emails etc regarding dates for meetings in a timely manner to enable dates to be set and rooms to be booked and considered that responses should be expected within 24/48 hours.

227. PROVISION OF NOTICEBOARDS.

- a) Eastacombe.
Councillor Lofthouse reported that he had chased the Town Clerk for a response but had had no response to date. He would chase again.

It was agreed to defer to the next meeting.

b) Tawstock Burial Ground.

Councillor Knight reported that he had obtained a quote of £399.50 (inc VAT) from Noticeboard Warehouse for an 8 x A4 page size noticeboard.

It was agreed that the quote be accepted.

228. TOWER VIEW

a) Provision of CCTV and Solar lights in the recreation area.

It was noted that Councillor Bowden would be meeting with Councillor Needham to discuss the issues and concerns of the Governance Working Group

b) Damaged Trees. Referred to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee

c) RoSPA Annual Inspection. Referred to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee

229. TUDOR PARK

Councillor Needham reported that Tudor Drive had had the first cut and that the beds would need attending in the next 2-3 weeks.

a) RoSPA Annual Inspection. Referred to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee

b) Resident Boundary Fencing - Inspection. Referred to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee

230. BURIAL GROUND – ADDITIONAL LAND ALLOCATION

Councillor Bowden reported:

a) That FJ Stephens had surveyed $\frac{3}{4}$ of the grave stones to date and were waiting for the warmer weather to survey the remainder. The report would be completed by the first two weeks of April.

b) That due to the current limited number of burial plots available the release of the final available piece of land in the Burial Ground should be investigated.

It was suggested that the purchase of additional adjoining land could be investigate

It was agreed that the matter be referred to Parks and Open Space Committee and that research be undertaken regarding the process for the release/use of the land.

231. TAW AND TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

Councillor Needham reported that the forum had awarded its first Youth Grant of £100 to Youth section of the North Devon Yacht Club for the provision signage on the Estuary.

232. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

The following matters were agreed:

Extension of Play Area – Tower View

Litchardon Cross Solar Farm

Deadline for reports/information for meetings.

233. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 15th April 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman The meeting ended at 8.37 p.m.