



Parish Council

Clerk: Martyn Isaac, DMS, FInstAM

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19th MAY 2026 AT 7.00 p.m.

Present: - Councillor Bowden (Chair)
Councillors East, Jenkins, Knight, Lofthouse, and Norman.

NDC Councillors Coombs, Knight and Norman

M. Isaac (Clerk)

In attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 4

18. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2026/2027

RESOLVED that Councillor Bowden be appointed Chair for 2026/27.

19. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Bates, Mason and Short and DCC Councillor Tyldesley.

20. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR 2026/2027

RESOLVED that Councillor Bates be appointed Vice Chair for 2026/27.

21. PUBLIC SESSION

A Parishioner asked if the Bus Gate would be open to all traffic during the up coming gas works. It was stated that the bus gate would not be open to all traffic but that a temporary amendment had been made to allow the utility company work vehicles only to use the bus gate during the period of the works.

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

The following issues were raised:

Highgrove Larkbear Play Park. 61119/72227 (+ 70954 Decision s106): Update

Following an email sent by Councillor Knight to North Devon Planning Officers the Clerk reported the following response: Persimmon had confirmed that the play space was awaiting its RoSPA safety audit sign off and once that was complete the space would be opened. The delivery had been set back due to the extreme wet weather earlier this year, which caused a delay on site. The Planning Officers were happy to speak to Persimmon to

add a notice to the railing to explain this and provide an approximate time period for opening.

It was agreed that a notice be erected.

North Devon and Torrington Local Plan Infrastructure items. (Update)

Councillor Knight reported that he had responded to a recent email regarding infrastructure issues relating to the Local Plan that was currently being reviewed. He suggested that an Extra Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council be called to discuss and respond.

Highway Works – Replacement of Gas Pipes

Councillor Knight circulated a map of the planned roadworks that he would put on the Council's website.

It was agreed that a response be prepared and representations made to Devon County regarding the lack of information provided, as no Traffic Orders received or agreed for the road closures/diversions and the chaos the traffic lights at the Wrey Arms roundabout would have on the Community.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

24. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported the receipt of an email from Reverend Gary Owen inviting Members to an 'exhibition launch' of work produced by children at Holywell school on Friday 26th June at 2.00pm in the church.

Councillor Lofthouse agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

25. FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council – Clerk Salary + Admin Fee	£843.69
Clerks Expenses	£7.72
L. Evely – Grounds Maintenance	£979.05
Uncanstore.com – Storage	£30.02
Sticklepath Methodist Church – Room Hire	£130.00
Barnstaple Town Council – Play Area Inspections	£225.00
Harepie Ltd – Grant bulbs at Holywell, Tawstock	£250.00
North Devon Council – Waste Collection at the Cemetery	£138.62

26. MINUTES

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

27. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

There were no issues raised.

28. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The Council noted a report from DCC Councillor Tyldesley (previously circulated).

29. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

NDC Councillor Knight reported the following:

North Devon/Torridge Local Plan Update.

At a recent meeting it had been suggested to be sustainable through the transition to Unitary and the body of evidence to have credibility, a local plan was needed that allocated a 15 year land supply. A 15 year supply of housing was approximately 10,000 houses. Approximately only 3% of Devon had urban development.

NDC Councillor Coombs reported that a split decision had been made regarding the KFC signage planning application 80564. The lower advertisement signs had been approved but the 2 large bucket pole signs had been refused.

The Council noted a report from NDC Councillor Norman (previously circulated).

30. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Shorelands Road Roundabout

Councillor Jenkins reported that coming from the Wrey Arms Roundabout towards the Shorelands Road Roundabout there were two signs. A Give Way sign and a Roundabout sign. This was considered dangerous and confusing to road users. He suggested that the roundabout sign should be removed.

Councillor Knight stated that as part of the Broadclose 3 bungalow planning approval the pavement was re-aligned. Following the failed safety audit, Devon County Council had stated that once the bus gate had been installed the Shorelands Road Roundabout would be addressed.

It was agreed that DCC Councillor Leaver be requested to progress the roundabout improvements.

32. PLANNING MATTERS

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

33. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED that the following Committees be reappointed and the following members appointed:

Planning Committee – Councillors Bowden, East, Jenkins, Knight, Mason and Short.

Substitute Members Councillors Lofthouse and Norman.

Parks and Open Space Committee – Councillors Bates, Bowden, Jenkins, Knight and Lofthouse

34. VACANCIES/CO-OPTION

The Clerk reported that an interest had been expressed regarding a vacancy on the Council.

35. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Clerk reported that the new Parish boundaries would take effect from 1st April 2027 and the new ward boundaries Tawstock Rural (2 Members) and Tawstock Urban (9 Members) for elections in May 2027.

36. TUDOR PARK

The Council noted a quote of £1,290 from Lewis Evely to remove the hedge in Tudor Park. It was agreed to seek another quote from Wild Garden.

37. SOCIAL MEDIA

The Chair raised concerns that she and two other Members who lived in or near Old Torrington Road were receiving on Social Media regarding the bus gate. The Clerk had sought legal advice from DALC and NALC regarding the matter. It was agreed that Councillors Bowden, Knight and Norman along with the Clerk draft up a factual statement to go out on Social Media

38. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no issues raised.

39. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 16th June 2026

Chair the meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.