

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.00 p.m.**

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

NDC Councillor Knight

DCC Councillor Leaver

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 1

149. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Needham and Norman and DCC Councillor Henderson

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

There were no matters brought forward as a matter of urgency.

151. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no issues raised by Parishioners

152. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

153. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence reported.

154. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£623.44
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£8.45
Ucanstore.com – Storage	£26.00
Gavin Hendry – Grounds Maintenance	£1,596.00
Gavin Hendry – Strim bottom wild flower area Tower View	£222.00
Barnstaple Town Council - To make slide safe at Tower View	£117.70
Sticklepath Methodist Church – Room Hire	£90.00
Microsoft Renewal (D. Card)	£59.99

It was agreed to ascertain the time frame for the spending of the Tower View Recreation area s106 monies currently received and the time frame for the spending of the remaining s106 funding yet to be drawn down from NDC and that Parks and Open Space Committee consider future projects in the Tower View recreation area.

b) The current financial position at 3 November 2023 Current A/C £45,600.90 (includes £8,615.37 ringed fenced for Tower View Project) and Business Reserve A/C £16,194.46 was noted.

c) National Pay Award 2023/24.

The National Pay Award 2023/2024 was noted and agreed.

155. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to minute 144 being amended to state that although the DHSC was no longer providing grants it was continuing to be done with the same fund through a third party so 2 routes of funding were being pursued.

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

There were no matters arising.

157. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(a) DCC REPORTS

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- There were two current public consultations regarding Adult Social Care for people suffering with mental health problems and the Links Centres (there was one in Barnstaple) and the Future retention of DCC Adult Day Centres for elderly people (Silverhill in Barnstaple).
- Roundswell roundabout. A push button pedestrian crossing was being installed across the ND Link road to link with the new development on the southside. Works due to continue until July 2024
- Cedars roundabout. Installation of traffic lights. Due to commence in December and continue to July 2024.
- Bus Gate. There was no exemption in the current Traffic Road Order to permit emergency vehicles to use the bus gate. DCC would be making an amendment to the order. She had spoken to the Head of Highways who had advised that there was no legal mechanism to suspend the current TRO but it was possible to have an experimental order for 18 months to monitor the use but there was currently no funding available to do this. The public consultation regarding the cameras had indicated that it was a good idea to install cameras and DCC had now written to the Department of Transport to seek the formal consent of the Chief Constable and an Act of Parliament.

Councillor East stated that the proposed bus lane from the Sainsburys roundabout to the A39 at a cost of £500,000 was a waste of money and consideration should be given to dualling that stretch of road instead.

Councillor Knight stated that HATOC had some years ago agreed to the dualling of that stretch but nothing had happened.

(b) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported the following:

- That he had received numerous complaints regarding dangerous driving along Old Torrington Road.
- That NDC would be removing the damaged wall outside Sainsbury's and clearing the flower bed.
- That he had reported a number of Taxi's breaking the law and going through the bus gate to the NDC Licensing Officers.

It was agreed to write to NDC Licensing Officers regarding the problem.

158. HIGHWAY ISSUES

The Council noted that the local DCC Highways Officer was unable to attend an evening Parish Council meeting.

It was agreed to invite Meg Booth, Head of Highways or her representative to attend a future Parish Council meeting to discuss the highway concerns in the Parish, especially the bus gate and if required hold an extra ordinary Council meeting during working hours.

159. SANDRINGHAM/HIGHGROVE DEVELOPMENTS AT THE SOUTHERN END OF OLD TORRINGTON ROAD (SOLICITOR SEARCHES).

Councillor Bowden outlined the two types of property searches provided by a local Solicitor.

Basic search (£96.22) – provided information relating to the property within 200 metres but no information regarding planning or highway matters.

Basic + Plan Review search (£300) included planning and highway information up to 500 metres of the property.

160. 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.

161. PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

- a) The minutes of the Parks and open Space Committee held on 7th November 2023 were noted.
- b) Grounds Maintenance Contract for 2024-2027

It was agreed:

- i) That the Grounds Maintenance Contract 2024-2027 as recommended by Parks and Open Space Committee (previously circulated) be approved.
- ii) That the following be invited to tender:

JP trees and Garden Maintenance; Lewis Evely, Gavin Hendry, Barnstaple Town Council, Fremington Parish Council and North Devon Council and also advertised on the social media forums.

- iii) That the deadline for receipt of tenders be 31st December 2023

162. TOWER VIEW PLAY AREA

- a) Damaged Slide.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a quote from TK Play of £828.00 (incl. VAT) for a new slide.

It was agreed to contact the insurance company to try and claim the cost.

- b) Damaged Roundabout.

The Clerk reported that following an inspection the roundabout it had been reported that there was sharp jagged edges on the edge of the roundabout and a split in the base. On health and safety grounds the Chair had agreed to close the play area and erect the necessary signs.

Councillor Knight stated that he considered that it was a poorly constructed and could be repaired using phenolic plywood. There was nothing wrong with the frame and handles.

It was agreed to seek a quote from TK Play to repair the roundabout.

163. TUDOR PLAY AREA

The Clerk reported that a rotten wooden bench had been removed as it is an immediate risk of collapsing by the inspection team.

It was agreed:

- a) that the bench be disposed of by the Barnstaple Town Council inspection team and a quote sought for a replacement bench.
- b) That the Clerk be authorised to purchase a new recycled plastic bench up to a maximum cost of £500 for the bench and £200 for fixing (+ or -10%)

164. RECORDING OF MEETINGS

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Fremington Parish Council who no longer recorded their meetings.

It was agreed:

- a) That a notice be displayed at Parish Council meetings informing members of the public that the meeting may be recorded.
- b) That a mobile phone stand be purchased to enable recording when required.

165. DEFIBRILLATOR

Councillor Mason reported that he had not received any responses to date but would chase up his applications.

Councillor Tucker reported that further defibrillator training would be arranged in the spring.

166. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

The following issues were raised:

It was noted that the gate for the Tower View bottom wildflower area had been purchased and would be installed before March 2024

That the Parks and Open Space Committee consider future maintenance of the play equipment and oiling of timbers

It was noted that Persimmon were in the process of finishing Larkbear phase 1 and the Chair agreed to contact Persimmon regarding when they would be leaving the estate.

167. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 19th December 2023 @ 7.00 p.m.

Chairman The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.