

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 18th JULY 2023 AT 7.00 p.m.**

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

NDC Councillors Knight, Norman and Renshaw

DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – 4

68. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

69. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from Parishioners

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

The following item was brought forward as a matter of urgency.

Pavement near the Crematorium obstructed with vegetation.

The Clerk reported the receipt of a quote from Gavin Hendry to trim the hedge/vegetation back to the pavement edge and clear the material from pavement surface of £294.00

It was agreed to defer consideration of the quote to the next meeting and that Councillor Tucker discuss DCC's responsibility to cut the hedge with DCC Councillor Henderson.

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest announced.

72. DOG FOULING

Ray Jones, NDC Dog Warden stated that he was one of three dog wardens in North Devon. His responsibilities also included fly tipping and graffiti. Dog fouling was a problem in many areas. He stated that there were a variety of solutions ranging from improved signage, media coverage, high profile patrols and dog walkers as a source of information to enable NDC to take enforcement action.

The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) was the legislative procedure to control dogs and dog fouling. The current PSPO was due to expire on 31 December 2023 and North Devon Council would be undertaking a public consultation in the near future on its renewal.

A possible proposal may be to a limit on the number of digs a person could walk in public to six. Other restrictions may also be able to be imposed.

Councillors East, Jenkins, Lofthouse and Tucker volunteered to liaise with Ray Jones regarding the problem in the Tower View Recreation Area.

73. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence reported.

74. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a) Payments

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£623.44
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£7.05
Gavin Hendry – Grounds Maintenance	£780.00
C. Waldron Website Domain Transfer	£25.00
WiX New Website Hosting Fee (Debit Card)	£100.80
Domain Transfer (Debit Card)	£24.60

75. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to reference to DCC's ownership/responsibility for the verges in Tudor Drive being recorded.

Councillors Needham and Tucker agreed to contact DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver regarding DCC's responsibility for the 3 verges.

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

Councillor Needham reported that a Parishioner had raised concerns regarding Articulated lorries from SW Metals waiting on the double yellow lines in Gratton Way as they could not get access into the yard and there were no parking restriction signs in Gratton Way.

DCC Councillor Henderson agreed to contact SW Metals regarding the problem and look into the restrictions in Gratton Way.

77. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

(a) DCC REPORTS

DCC Councillor Henderson reported the following:

- That the additional Government Funding of £9.4 million that had been allocated to Devon County Council deal with the back log of pot holes had instead been allocated to a different budget head to future proof the capital expenditure budget. Officers had been requested to provide information.

- That the mobile library service had been withdrawn.
- That the consultation period regarding the LINKS Centres had been extended to August.
- That a new Head of Special Educational needs had been appointed on one year contract.
- That the Growing Communities Fund provided grant awards of between £500 and £1,000 to improve mental health and wellbeing or address loneliness and isolation.
- That the Property Flood Resilience Funding Scheme provided funding to home owners to carry out minor works.

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- That the decision to with draw the Mobile Library Service had been called in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- That DCC was limited by statute regarding the requirement to cut hedges etc to danger caused to road users.
- That in the autumn HATOC would be considering requests for parking restrictions and any requests should be made to the DCC Councillor for submission.

Councillor Leaver also highlighted two recent situations where all the levels of Council's worked together to successfully tackle problems.

(b) NDC Councillor Renshaw

Councillor Renshaw reported she had no District Council rural areas to report.

(c) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported that he had liaised with Ray Jones, NDC regarding the provision of dog signs which had been erected.

(d) NDC Councillor Norman

Councillor Norman reported the following:

- That following Tawstock's representations regarding re-warding and boundary changes Fremington Parish Council had also expressed an interest in similar changes as the only other Parish Council that had several parish council wards.
- That grant funds were available from the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme to match fund up to £2,000 for business owners to improve the visual appearance of their High Street premises.

78. HIGHWAY ISSUES

- a) Shorelands Road Roundabout: Update
The Clerk reported the response from DCC regarding the Shorelands Road design improvements.
It was agreed to await the effect of the bus gate and review early in 2024.
- b) Drains in Old Sticklepath Hill/Shorelands Road/Old Torrington Road: Update

The Clerk reported the response of DCC regarding the programme of drainage clearance.
Councillor Knight reported that he had taken a video of the blocked drains and submitted to DCC for action.

79. 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.

80. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA PROJECT

a) The Council considered the recommendations of the Grounds Maintenance Working Group held on 28 June 2023 (previously circulated).

RESOLVED that the following recommendations be approved:

Tower View

- i) That 2 aluminum composite information signs be purchased for the 2 wildflower areas.
- ii) That a QR Code be included on the sign
- iii) That Councillor Knight look into the purchase of an Image Pack and the size of the signs.

Top Wildflower Area

- iv) That some of the Plantain be removed and re-seeded in the spring with a more appropriate mix to be agreed by Councillors Short and Tucker.
- v) That the area under the trees be scarified, and an appropriate mix of seeds sown in October that would deliver some flowers that liked shade throughout the rest of the year.
- vi) That Picket fence be treated

Central Bank

Councillor Tucker reported that he had spoken to Gavin Hendry who had advised that he was not qualified to use a mini digger and had suggested a Derek Pile.

- vii) That Councillor Tucker seek a quote from Derek Pile to remove earth from the bottom of the bank on the play area side and place it on the top of the bank.
- viii) That Councillor Tucker contact Andrew Moulton, NDC regarding the trees to be planted on top of the bank.

Lower Bank

- ix) That a meeting be held with Councillor Short to discuss the lower bank.
- x) That Councillor Jenkins be authorised to attend a Certificated Weed Spraying Course to ensure that the Council complies with the legal requirements for spraying weeds on public land.

Councillor Short stated that he could sort the spraying of the bind weed and nettles.

Bottom Wildflower Area

Councillor Jenkins reported that he had purchased the gate, posts and fittings for £145.00

Benches

Councillor Bowden reported that she had sought parishioners' views regarding the provision and siting of benches in the Parish. There had been 33 views on the website but no comments and 67 views on the Old Torrington Road Group and only 1 response.

- xi) That in light of the response the provision of additional benches in the Parish be not progressed.
- xii) That the replacement of benches in Tudor Park be considered at a future meeting.

Grounds Maintenance Committee

- xiii) That the existing Grounds Maintenance Working Group be reconstituted as a Committee.
- xiv) That the Clerk prepare the terms of reference to be agreed at the next meeting.

b) Provision of new goal posts/net.

Councillor East agreed to research the various types of netting taking into account public health and safety issues.

c) Noticeboard: Update.

The Clerk reported that the Tower View noticeboard would soon be ready but that due to health issues Mr Maynard would not be able to make any more noticeboards.

It was agreed to research the provision of aluminium and recycled noticeboards.

81. TUDOR PARK

Councillors Bowden and Knight reported that they had met spoken to a resident regarding the locking and unlocking of the gate. He was willing to assist but required assistance from other residents.

It was agreed to defer to the next meeting. Councillor Knight stated that he would be willing to assist.

82. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

In view of minute 75 above consideration of the quote from Gavin Hendry of £570.00 to trim the 3 verges in Tudor Drive was deferred.

83. DEFIBRILLATOR

Deferred to the next meeting.

84. PROVISION OF BENCHES

See minute 80 (xi) and (xii) above

85. PARISH PRIORITIES FOR FOLLOWING 2-4 YEARS

Councillor Bowden agreed to prepare a parishioners survey template for consideration at a future meeting.

86. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

The following issue was raised:

Social Media

87. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 15th August 2023 @ 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 9.12 p.m.