

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st JANUARY 2025 AT 7.00 p.m.**

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

NDC Councillors Coombs and Knight.

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public – None

167. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Bates and Norman.

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

There were no issues raised.

169. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions from Parishioners.

170. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

171. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report

172. 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	£14.40
L. Evely – Grounds Maintenance Contract	£940.43
Get Lit Electrical- Installation of Harracott Defibrillator	£40.00

b) Financial Position

The Clerk updated Council on the current financial position as at 3 January 2025 Current A/C £35,363.53 (included £6,581.62 ringed fenced for Tower View Project) and Business Reserve A/C £16,467.93

173. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2024 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no matters arising.

175. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- That DCC was currently going through the budget process for 2025/26 with less government funding
- That the Government Rural Services Delivery Grant had been withdrawn and the monies allocated towards areas of deprivation.
- That additional funding had been made available for pot holes and adult social services
- That the Department of Education had announced the continuation of the Children's Holiday activities and food programme.
- That OFSTED had not yet issued its report following the November visit but an additional visit by different Inspectors to gather further information had occurred.
- That the devolution process was still up in the air and it was still unknown if the County elections would or would not go ahead.

Councillor Jenkins raised the issue of the Shorelands Road roundabout.

Councillor Leaver recognised that the roundabout was dangerous but the current DCC position was that it would not be considered until the bus gate had been completed. She however agreed to raise the issue again with DCC Officers following a formal request by the Council.

Councillor Needham asked if the cones for the new Bus lane could be removed when work was not being undertaken to help relieve the traffic congestion from Sainsburys and the Industrial estate. DCC Councillor Leaver stated that to assist with traffic congestion a TRO had been issued to temporarily open the bus gate for all traffic.

It was agreed that the need to re-paint the road lines on the A39 Roundswell roundabout on safety grounds be referred to DCC Councillor Henderson. Councillor Lofthouse stated that he thought that as part of the recent TRO regarding the new bus lane, the lines on the A39 Roundswell roundabout would be re-painted after the completion of the bus lane.

176. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

a) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported the following:

- That the new recycling bay infrastructure improvement were near completion and the new bailer would be in use very soon.
- Devolution - That a working group had been set up to that included the Leader and Deputy Leader of NDC to achieve the best outcome for North Devon.

Councillor Mason volunteered to attend the DALC zoom meeting on the devolution white paper.

b) NDC Councillor Coombs

Councillor Coombs reported that the planning application regarding the provision of internal and external advertisement signs and 2 totem poles for new Roundswell Petrol Station just off the A39 (Tallins Drive) was still awaiting planning consent and the Planning Officer was in consultation with the land owner.

Councillors noted the report by NDC Councillor Norman (previously circulated)

177. HIGHWAY ISSUES

Shorelands Road Roundabout. See minute 175 above.

178. PLANNING MATTERS

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

179. PARISH SURVEY

Councillor Mason reported it had been decided to concentrate the survey on one topic The Parish. It was proposed to send the survey to all households in the Parish via a QR Code and paper copy. A P.O. Box return was £120 for 3 months

Discussion was held on delivery and return of forms, collection of data and design.

It was agreed that:

- a) Councillor Mason send a final draft of the survey to Councillor Knight to contact a designer to design the form.
- b) Councillor Mason contact Royal Mail regarding the posting of the survey forms and costs and a P.O. Box/return envelope to return forms and costs.

180. PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

The Council considered the minutes of the Parks and Open Space Committee meeting held on 16th January 2025 (previously circulated)

Councillor Jenkins reported that Lewis Evelyn would be installing the gate at the bottom wildflower area early next month.

Councillor Bowden reported that following advice/information from DALC regarding the provision of CCTV and solar lighting in Tower View, she had deferred the purchase of the lights to enable further consideration.

It was agreed that the recommendations of the Parks and Open Space Committee be adopted subject to the Governance Working Group preparing a Risk Assessment of both options taking account of the advice/information from DALC

181. GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

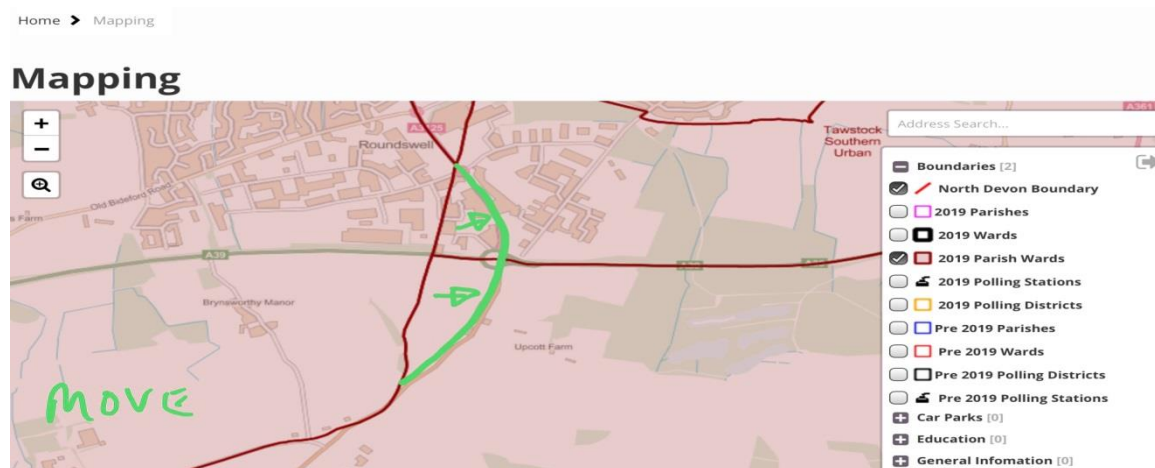
Councillor Needham reported on the Working Group meeting held on 7th January 2025 (previously circulated). It was noted that the working group had not been quorate. It was agreed:

- a) That the Environmental and Sustainability Policy (previously circulated) as recommended by the working group be adopted.
- b) That the Policy template (previously circulated) as recommended by the working group be adopted
- c) That Councillor East be appointed to the working group

182. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

It was agreed that the following recommendations be made:

- a) That the Parish Wards be re-named Tawstock Urban and Tawstock Rural.
- b) That the existing boundary be re-aligned (see below) as the existing boundary line cut straight through buildings in Roundswell Business Park and then headed off straight across the field that cut halfway through the new Business Park south of the A39 which was considered ridiculous.



183. PROVISION OF DEFIBRILLATOR TAWSTOCK VILLAGE.

Councillor Mason stated that he had been informed that Holywell Primary School had a defibrillator that had not yet been installed and were willing to consider installing it on the outside of Tawstock Village Hall if considered appropriate.

Councillor Mason agreed to pass contact details to Councillor Short.

184. PROVISION OF NOTICEBOARD EASTACOMBE.

Councillor Short report that a while ago he had been made aware that a noticeboard in the Square, Barnstaple was being replaced and would be available to him for Eastacombe. He had not heard anything further.

Councillor Lofthouse agreed to speak to the Town Clerk and report back.

185. TAW/TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM: AGM.

Councillor Needham reported the following:

- That he been re-elected Vice Chair and Secretary of the Forum
- That he fully digitised the forum accounts online and re-written the constitution.
- That the forum had again agreed to waive the fees for another year
- That the forum had had a presentation from the South Devon Chair of the Avon Champions regarding pollution and the setting up of inter parish water committees.

186. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

The following matter was agreed:

Parish Survey.

Councillor Lines raised the issue again regarding large vehicles ignoring the signs and getting stuck under the dry arch

187. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.