

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025 AT 6.30 p.m.**

**Present: -** Councillor Bowden (Chair)  
Councillors Bates, Jenkins, Knight, Lofthouse and Needham (In the Chair for minutes 19 – 21).  
M Isaac (Clerk)

**In Attendance:** Parishioner/Members of the Public – None

Due to the delay in the arrival of the Chair, Councillor Needham was elected to Chair the meeting until the Chair arrived.

**19. APOLOGIES**

Councillors Bowden and Lofthouse had advised that they would be late.

**20. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

There were no issues raised.

**22. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE AREA – INSPECTIONS.**

- a) Pursuant to the last meeting Councillor Needham reported that Fremington PC undertook grounds maintenance inspections three times a week by their handyman with a written record being maintained and ROSPA performed a once yearly inspection.

It was agreed that the current inspection arrangements be continued.

- b) Evaluation of ad-hoc work/maintenance undertaken and the possible inclusion in the contract and Part time Handyperson options.

Councillor Needham stated that Fremington Parish Council had suggested that their handyman be sub contracted to Tawstock Parish Council as and when required within his working hours for Fremington PC.

The Chair stated that Lewis Evely was happy to undertake additional maintenance jobs as and when required.

It was agreed that the Clerk contact Fremington Parish Council to ascertain the hourly/daily rate for the use of their handyman.

## **23. TOWER VIEW RECREATION AREA**

- a) Provision of Solar powered lights, signs and cameras: update  
It was agreed to defer consideration for Councillor Knight to contact the NDC Parks Officer regarding the provision and requirements of erecting solar lighting in the park
- b) Grant funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to support crime prevention initiatives and tackle antisocial behaviour.  
Councillor Needham reported that funding was available up to £10,000 to install CCTV from the PCC. It was noted however, that the time frame for application submissions was too soon for an application to be submitted on this occasion.

It was agreed:

- i) That the Clerk contact Fremington Parish Council regarding the requirements for the installation of their CCTV.
  - ii) That the Clerk contact North Devon Council regarding the legislation for the installation of CCTV.
  - iii) That a Business case for the provision of CCTV in Tower View Recreation area be drawn up in advance of future funding opportunities
- c) Publication of information/pictures of the ongoing work in Tower View on the Park Noticeboard - Wording.

It was agreed to defer to the next meeting and that the Clerk/Councillor Lofthouse re-send the email with the suggested wording to the Chair.

- d) RoSPA Annual Inspection Issues.
  - i) Provision of a new goal net and posts.  
Councillor Knight reported that he had spoken to Frank Biederman who had advised not to buy a cheap goal net.
  - ii) Worn area in the goal mouth.  
The Clerk reported the receipt of a quote from Lewis Evely of £980 to fill the divot and apply rubber matting.

It was agreed:

- A) That Councillor Bowden seek advice and a price for a quality, sturdy mobile goal posts and net.
  - B) That the Clerk seek a quote from TK Play to repair the goal mouth area and provide rubber matting specifically for goal mouth areas if available.
- e) Additional Play Equipment.  
Councillor Lofthouse raised the issue regarding the provision of additional play equipment located just outside the existing play area for older children, previously discussed.

The Clerk reported that a quote had been received from TK Play for a Cantilever Swing of £19,824 inc VAT (£16,520 excl. VAT). Currently £6,581 remained from the initial s106 monies drawn down with and additional £3,384 still to be obtained.

It was agreed that a business case was required to draw down the additional funding.

f) Tree/hedge planting.

Councillor Lofthouse reported that he had obtained 9 trees (various species) that he suggested could be planted along the central bank.

It was agreed that the trees be planted as suggested.

g) Replacement of dead trees Eastern end.

Councillor Lofthouse reported that the Rowan tree had died and suggested that it be replaced.

It was agreed that Councillor Lofthouse be authorised to purchase either another Rowan tree or a Fruit tree to replace the dead tree up to a maximum cost of £100.

## **24. TUDOR PARK**

a) New Noticeboard. To consider the suitability of the surplus noticeboards from Barnstaple Town Council.

Councillor Lofthouse reported that he had obtained 2 metal backed lockable noticeboards from Barnstaple Town Council. One had been identified to replace the broken notice board at Eastacombe which Councillor Short had agreed to erect. An additional 3 keys, however were required.

It was agreed:

- i) Councillor Lofthouse be authorised to purchase 3 additional keys for the notice boards.
  - ii) That the second noticeboard be used at Tudor Park.
- b) Update on inspections and discussions with the blind lady resident about her fence.  
Councillor Needham reported that he had been informed by the resident that she would be removing the wrought iron gate and erecting a wooden structure in its place.

It was agreed that the resident be informed that any new structure should not encroach on Parish Council owned land.

Councillor Needham further reported that the far corner of the Park required attention and could be improved with shrubs or even be planted as a wildflower area.

He also circulated information regarding a reflect-a-bird deterrent to be placed on top of the swings in both Parks

It was agreed:

- i) That the Chair and Councillor Knight with Lewis Evely visit the area and that a quote be sought from Lewis Evely to tidy up the area at back of the hedge.
- ii) That 3 reflect-a-bird deterrent be purchased for Tower View and Tudor play areas to be placed on the top bar of the swings.

**25. PROVISION OF WHITE INFORMATION SIGNS INDICATING THE LOCATION OF THE TWO PARKS**

It was agreed that no further action be taken with regard to the provision of white information signs indicating the location of the two parks.

**26. TAWSTOCK CEMETERY**

- a) Location of new noticeboard  
It was agreed that Councillors Knight and Lofthouse would erect the new noticeboard within the next 4 weeks.
- b) Cutting of large Hedge  
Councillor Knight stated and it was agreed that the hedge should be cut down to a height of 7 feet and cut as soon as possible

**27. HOLYWELL – PROVISION OF SHRUBS.**

It was agreed that the Council grant aid up to £250 to purchase shrubs at the Holywell, Tawstock to be paid upon receipt of purchase to the Clerk.

**28. PATHWAY BETWEEN TAWCROFT AND SANDRINGHAM.**

Councillor Bowden reported that she had met DCC Councillor Tyldesley on site regarding the pathway to nowhere between Tawcroft and Sandringham Gardens. The ownership boundary of the intervening bank went down the centre of the bank and both developers had denied responsibility. It was discussed that a qualified contractor be engaged to remove part of the hedge and trees to provide a thru route. Residents had also had flooding in their gardens.

Councillor Knight stated that it was a DCC/NDC issue and he had raised the following concerns:

There was no fence delineating the private driveway from the public path.

The fences were inadequate round the ditches and culverts.

There was no play park.

The inclination of the path at the end to join potentially to Highgrove was inaccurate, supposed to be one in 20.

The drainage wasn't connected.

The gravel used in Highgrove was the wrong gravel and was slippery.

The connection was not made through to Highgrove and both developers were avoiding the problem.

There were no bollards at the start of the end of the path to prevent vehicles entering.

There were no drop curbs or tactile paving for blind or visually impaired to find the paths.

DCC were preparing a report to the next HATOC meeting.

It was agreed that a formal complaint be made to NDC Planning asking why the required connections had not been made and informing that multiple complaints had been received from residents.

Chair the meeting ended at 8.18 p.m.