

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.00 p.m.**

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

NDC Councillors Knight and Norman.

DCC Councillor Leaver

M Isaac (Clerk)

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

**130. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Jenkins, Lines and Needham.

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

There were no issues raised.

**132. PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no questions from Parishioners.

**133. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**134. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report

**135. FINANCIAL MATTERS.**

**a) Payments**

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary + Admin Fee	£666.93
Ucanstore.com – Storage	£28.60
M. Isaac – Clerks Expenses	£10.40
L. Evely – Grounds Maintenance Contract	£940.43
Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreath	£20.00
Sticklepath Methodist Church – Room Hire	£110.00
Microsoft – Subscription (Card Payment)	£59.99

**b) Financial Position**

The Clerk updated Council on the current financial position as at 5 November 2024 Current A/C £38,283.94 (includes £6,581.62 ringed fenced for Tower View Project) and Business Reserve A/C £16,430.84

**c) Draft Budget 2025/2026 and Bank Reconciliation as at 5 November 2024.**

In advance of the budget and precept setting the Clerk outlined the current accounts position and bank reconciliation (previously circulated). He further outlined the District Council tax base calculation for Council Tax calculations procedure and the previous year's tax base calculations and Band D calculations for Tawstock.

It was noted that budget and precept for 2025/26 would be considered at the December meeting.

**d) National Pay Award 2024/25.**

The annual pay award of £1,290 pro rata for 2024/25 was noted and agreed.

**136. MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

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

Community Watch signs - Permission to attach the signs to the lampposts.

DCC Councillor Leaver agreed to find the name of the person to contact to obtain permission.

**138. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

DCC Councillor Leaver reported the following:

- That the OFSTED report on Children's Services had not yet been published but it was hoped that it would indicate an improvement from Inadequate to Requiring Improvement.
- That the Government had given approval for the combined authority of DCC and Torbay to proceed and that the English devolution White paper for unitary authorities was expected in December.
- That there would be a 16 days of action to support the voluntary sector in Devon campaign to highlight domestic violence to woman and girls.
- That the Department of Transport had granted powers to DCC to use cameras. The installation and purchase of cameras for the bus gate would be next year; time frame awaited.

**139. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**a) NDC Councillor Knight**

Councillor Knight reported the following:

- That the littering and graffiti had escalated.

- That the development of the old Leisure Centre site would commence soon with the affordable homes being the first phase and be 30% of the development.

Councillor Norman reported the following:

- That the new Leisure Centre car park was near completion.
- That the new Barnstaple Central Car Park was now open.
- That the authority was looking at the provision of a commercialised pest control business

Councillor East highlighted some recycling collection issues and questioned when the new Customer Service Council Office in Green Lanes would be opened.

#### **140. HIGHWAY ISSUES**

There were no issued raised.

#### **141. PLANNING MATTERS**

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

#### **142. DRAFT DEVON AND TORBAY LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN.**

It was agreed that the priority of the Council was the provision of the following:

- Pedestrian links across the River Taws from Seven Brethren to Barnstaple Town Centre
- The A39 to B3233 Tews Lane link
- The Larkbear access road
- The enhancement of the Barnstaple to Exeter line to provide a half hourly frequency of trains.
- The support to the re-instatement of the Bideford to Barnstaple rail link for passengers and other services, as proposed by ACE Rail and that it be included the policy aim within the revised joint local plan be re-affirmed.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Needham did not support the proposed Barnstaple to Bideford rail link.

#### **143. PARISH SURVEY**

Councillor Mason reported that he would arrange a meeting of the appointed Councillors before the December Council meeting.

#### **144. PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE.**

The Council noted the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 (previously circulated) and adopted the recommendation to purchase 3 solar powered lights at a total cost of £1,154.70 excl. VAT

**145. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON ENABLING REMOTE ATTENDANCE AND PROXY VOTING AT COUNCIL MEETINGS.**

It was agreed that consideration of the consultation be deferred to the next meeting.

**146. INSPECTIONS OF GRAVESTONES IN THE BURIAL GROUND: UPDATE.**

Councillor Bowden reported that the inspections had commenced and a full report would be available at the end of the year.

**147. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

There were no issues raised.

**148. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 8.28 p.m.