

**MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 15th JUNE 2021 AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: - Councillor Blackman (Chairman)
Councillors Bowden, Knight, Lines, Lofthouse, Thorne and Ward.

NDC Councillors Knight and Lofthouse

DCC Councillors Henderson and Leaver.

M Isaac (Clerk)

In Attendance: Parishioner/Members of the Public - 8

24. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Short and NDC Councillor Saxby.

25. PUBLIC SESSION

A Parishioner stated that he had notified by letter, 200 properties at the bottom end of Old Torrington Road of the proposed Bus Gate Traffic Order. The proposal would in effect isolate those residents from Barnstaple and add a further 2 miles to the existing journey and increase carbon emissions. It was considered that traffic lights could be installed at the top of Old Sticklepath Hill.

It was stated that all residents should be encouraged to comment on the proposed order.

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

The Chairman reported the receipt of correspondence received (previously circulated) from the Council's Grounds Maintenance Contractor regarding work being undertaken in the Tower View Recreation Area.

It was agreed to defer consideration of the issues raised pending a Site meeting.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lofthouse declared an interest in item 8 (a) on the agenda as his son had prepared a presentation/quote for the establishment of a wildflower area in the Tower View Recreation Area.

Councillor Lines declared an interest in Planning Application 73102 as he knew the objector/neighbour.

28. DCC COUNCILLOR REPORTS AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

a) DCC Councillor Henderson

Councillor Henderson stated that he was aware of the many issues of concern in the Old Torrington Road Area and had arranged a briefing from DCC Officer's.

Councillor Knight outlined the main issues of concern.

Councillor Knight agreed to meet Councillor Henderson on site and walk the area.

b) DCC Councillor Leaver

Councillor Leaver stated that she was aware of the issues relating to the Shorelands Road roundabout and would be having a briefing with DCC Officers to update and progress the new design scheme.

c) NDC Councillor Knight

Councillor Knight reported:

- That a new Planning Manager had been appointed.
- That the local litter picking groups in the area had gone from strength to strength and a person in Fremington had requested to start a new group.
- NDC had set up a new Litter Picking Committee of which he was a member to agree strategies to tackle the ongoing problems of litter.
- Residents in Eastacombe had organised a litter pick, which he attended and supported by taking along equipment. The residents were also trying to engage with the community with their new newsletter.
- That he had arranged a couple of meetings regarding the persimmon site. He had also followed up the issue regarding the cutting down of all the trees on the application site and the delivery of the cycle link (Application 72227) from Larkbear to Highgrove. He had met Damon Buckle from Persimmon who had agreed to look at the technical details of what had to be delivered.
- That he had collected all the wood from the dismantling of the fence in the park but unfortunately it had rotted and the gate was too short to be cut in half to fill the two holes missing in the central bank. It was agreed to consider at the previously agreed site meeting.

d) NDC Councillor Lofthouse

Councillor Lofthouse reported that a Community Speed Watch scheme for Eastacombe had been extended into Tawstock and residents in Eastacombe had applied to the Police to act co-ordinators for the scheme.

d) NDC Councillor Saxby

The Clerk presented a report by Councillor Saxby that there were no specific issues in the rural patch. Messages of thanks had been received from a number of local businesses for the Openreach project linked to the school and fibre broadband now being available. She continued to pursue the County Council about the state of the roads and how the budget could be spent better, as the teams on the ground believed they could do more than they currently do.

29. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th May be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

There were no matters arising.

31. HIGHWAY ISSUES

- a) Bus Gate – Consultation.

It was agreed that the proposed bus gate order be supported but that the Gratton Way Improvements works - widening of the A3125 carriageway on the approach to the roundabout junction at Gratton Way/Fishleigh Road from both the northerly and southerly directions should be progressed at the same time as the bus gate scheme and the effect of the new road schemes monitored and the results analysed as soon as possible.

- b) Speeding through Eastacombe.

See minute 28 (d) above.

32. TOWER VIEW RECREATIONAL AREA

- a) Wildflower Area (North-West corner)

The Council received a presentation from Chris Lofthouse regarding options for a wildflower area in the Tower View Recreation area.

He outlined 3 options that all included a small 1 metre stone/clay based pond that would be fenced off.

The wildflower area would evolve overtime and could be either a traditional Devon meadow or a pictorial meadow.

Option 1 Plant the area

Option 2 Combination of plants and seeds

Option 3 Scarify and seed the area.

It was agreed to defer consideration pending the previously agreed site meeting.

- b) Rear garden boundary to the recreational fields. Dangerous loose corrugated iron sheets.

The Clerk reported the NDC Building Control had advised that the structure did not building regulations.

Councillor Lofthouse stated that he had spoken to the resident who had advised that as part of the development proposals a breeze block wall would be built.

33. TUDOR DRIVE PARK: REQUEST TO USE THE PARK FOR YOGA CLASSES.

It was agreed that the request be refused as it was considered not appropriate in a children's play area.

34. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

a) Ownership and Trustees

Councillor Bowden reported the following further to contact with the Charities Commission:

- The trust deed was dated the 8th July 1960 and would question whether or not this very outdated document was still fit for purpose.
- At present there was only one Trustee (Mr Paul Berry) and it was advised by the Charities Commission to have at least three trustees in case something happens. A majority decision could not be reached with one person, so a minimum of 3 were advised to give a majority decision.
- The trust deed appointed the Charities Commission as the Custodian Trustee for the Hall. Usually, the hall would be registered at the land registry in the name of the custodian trustee as the legal owners of the land/hall. The Charities Commission has confirmed that they are the legal owners of the hall. The reason for a Custodian Trustee is to stop the land/hall being conveyed to a new trustee every time they change at the land registry, as trustees come and go as this would be a costly and time-consuming exercise.

It was agreed:

- i) That the Village Hall Committee be requested:
 - (A) Look at the trust deed and consider updating it to reflect more recent times.
 - (B) Appoint at least two more trustees and register this at the charities commission.

b) Installation of Broadband

The Clerk reported that Councillor Short had received a quote from BT to install broadband in the village hall and the on-going monthly costs.

It was agreed that the Village Hall Committee be informed that the Parish Council was keen to have broadband in the Hall as soon as possible as it would be beneficial to all users of the Hall.

35. HOLYWELL SCHOOL.

Grant Application for laptops.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Short had spoken to the Head Teacher. Whilst additional laptops were no longer urgent, 2 additional laptops for the senior class would be welcome.

It was agreed to agree a grant of £250 towards the purchase of 2 additional laptops.

36. PLANNING MATTERS

- a) 73332 Outline application for the erection of 3 detached dwellings with some matters reserved, Carrick, Tawstock

RECOMMENDED that concerns be raised regarding the foul drainage proposals and no footpath/cycleway link being provided.

- b) 73334 Outline application for erection of 3 detached dwellings some matters reserved, Carrick, Tawstock

RECOMMENDED that concerns be raised regarding the foul drainage proposals and no footpath/cycleway link being provided.

- c) 73275 Erection of Garage, Caravan, Pludmoor, Tawstock

The Clerk reported no extension of time had been granted by NDC. The application had been approved.

- d) 73102 Single storey side extension together with extension of rear decking areas & replacement of pitched roof to existing garage, Triangle Cottage, Tawstock

The Council received representations from the Object and Applicant.

It was agreed that no recommendation/comment be made but that the issue regarding the covenant and the differing views of the applicant and objector be noted.

- e) Extension and alterations to dwelling, 12 Birch Lane, Roundswell, Barnstaple.

RECOMMENDED Approval

- f) 73444 Notification of works to trees in a conservation area in respect of coppicing 2 Ash and 1 Sycamore (T1- T3,) reducing 1 Ash and 1 Sycamore to fence height (T4&T5.) removal of 15 Ash (T6-T9, T13- T16 & T18-T24) and crown reduction of 1 Ash to previous reduction point (T17), Church Cottage, Tawstock.

RECOMMENDED No objections to the tree management but recommend REFUSAL to the removal of trees. Are the Ash trees effected by Ash Die Back? Would recommend that an arboriculturalist was consulted.

37. CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN TRAINING COURSE

It was agreed:

- a) To book 3 places on the Chairman training course at £30 + VAT per place.
b) That Councillors Blackman, Bowden and Ward be appointed to attend.

38. THE TRACKER

The Tracker was noted.

39. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) E Mail from Mr Hitt re No dogs permitted in Tudor Park

It was noted that the area would be covered by the NDC Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

It was agreed no action be taken on the request and dogs continue to be banned from the children's play area.

- b) E Mail re Temporary closure of Minor Injury Units in North Devon

It was agreed object to the closure of the minor injury units in North Devon.

40. FINANCE MATTERS

a) Payments

RESOLVED:

That the following payments be approved:

North Devon Council Clerks Salary	£568.74
M. Isaac Clerks Expenses	£15.19
Zoom Upgrade (monthly fee £14.39 inc. VAT)	£14.39
Gavin Hendry Grounds Maintenance	£1,296.00
Chris Wallis Provision of Gate/Post rail – Tower View Project	£1,125.00
Deep Moor LF Ltd 3 rd Party donation – Tudor Play Area Project	£1,435.00
C. Waldron Ann. Website hosting fee/domain name/maintenance	£102.81
J. Snooks Internal Audit Fee	£200.00

b) Annual Governance and Accounting Statements

That the following Annual Governance and Accounting Statements be approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk:

- i) The Annual Governance Statement as outlined in section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020/21.
- ii) The Accounting Statement as outlined in section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accounting Return 2020/21.

41. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be on Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

It was agreed to put the following item on the next agenda – The Burial Ground.

Chairman

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.