

NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk:
Mrs R Rice

14a The Square North Tawton
EX20 2EP
Tel 01837 880121

Present: Cllr S Blood Cllr Dr P Brickley
Cllr Mrs C Burrow Cllr A Gillespie
Cllr K Hodge Mrs G Hoggins (Chair)
Cllr N Morgan Cllr Mrs D Rice
Cllr S Whiteley

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the **Council Offices** on **Tuesday 13th January 2015** at **7.30 pm**.

Present:

Open Forum – Nothing was raised.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr I MacLeod (annual leave), Cllr Mrs L Watts (illness) and Cllr Mrs A Ponsford.

The Chairman approved these absences.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Dr P Brickley declared an interest in Item 15.1 (Invoices).

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

- 3.1 The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Tuesday 2nd December 2014, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
- 3.2 The Minutes of the North Tawton Town Council Finance Committee held at the Council Office on Thursday 11th December 2014, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
- 3.3 The Minutes of the North Tawton Town Council Estates Committee held at the Council Offices on Thursday 11th December 2014, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

4. **Setting the Precept 2015/16**

The two options for the precept for 2015/16, as recommended by the Finance Committee at their meeting held on Thursday 11th December 2014, as detailed below, were discussed. Cllr S Whiteley gave a brief update.

Option A – To recommend to full Council a precept request from West Devon Borough Council for the year 2015/16 of £90,178 (this figure does not allow for any contribution to reserves for the year 2015/16.)

Option B – To recommend to full Council a precept request from West Devon Borough Council for the year 2015/16 of £96,178 (this figure does allow for a contribution of £6,000 to reserves for the year 2015/16).

After some discussion it was resolved that Option B, to request a precept from West Devon Borough Council for the year 2015/16 of £96,178.

5. **Ongoing issues**

The 'Action Log' was updated

Snow/Ice Warden Scheme – all the volunteers have been contracted, there has been a volunteer for the Essington area, salt delivered to volunteers. Mr Graham Webber will stand

in for Cllr Whiteley should he not be available, and he has agreed that the second delivery of salt can be stored in the Station Yard. There is 1 ½ tons of salt left in Gregory's yard. Cllr Whiteley has received training from Devon County Council.

4. Updates

- 4.1 The Chairman updated the Council on various issues.
- An appeal has been lodged for planning application 01128/2014, Householder application for erection of garage/workshop, 6 Devonshire Gardens, North Tawton.
 - Planning application 01097/2014, Erection of one 5kw wind turbine on 15M tower, Boswells Farm, North Tawton, there are negotiations taking place on the reposition of this turbine.
 - The Depot, Devonshire Gardens – West Devon Borough Council have approved the application that this is a Community Asset.
 - Thank you for Mrs C Hughes and Mr R Knott for tidying the land in Barkers Way.
- 4.2 Cllr Dr. P Brickley gave a brief update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan project.
- The main phase of the Neighbourhood Plan project had been completed.
 - The evidence base is nearly completed
 - By the end of February we should have our aims and visions completed.
 - Policies should be started in March
 - A draft response to Our Plan had been submitted, it does not commit the Council, questions answered included: employment land, settlement boundaries – may be extended for small sites, but not larger sites; minimum requirements, no requirement for additional houses for the first 5 years, and then 60 houses in years 6 – 10. The Chairman stated that a meeting should have been called to discuss this response, but Cllr Dr Brickley stated it was a draft response and he had made it clear to West Devon that it did not commit the Town Council.
 - Townscape Group – details of their remit are to be done.
 - Additional land had been submitted for the Call for Sites, these sites are too late to be considered by West Devon, the sites are, lane to the left of Letherans Lane, land in Exeter Street and land at Broadpark Farm.
 - A meeting had been held with the Headteacher at the Primary School, who had suggested that the school could be used for people to park in the evenings and weekends. This idea came from the Headteacher at the business meeting, he was going to bring the matter up with the School Governors.
 - Steve Adams a new member of the Neighbourhood Plan Project Group had produced a presentation on the analysis of the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire.
 - The website is now online, there is a Facebook page and a Twitter account.
 - The January Project Group meeting had been delayed in January due to illness, the meeting is to be on the 29th January 2015.
- 4.3 To receive a brief update from Cllr S Blood regarding Denbrook.
- A public meeting of the Community Liaison Group is to be held on the 29th January 2015.
 - RES have been contacted for clarification regarding surplus monies from the LED's scheme; would it be paid to the Community Fund?
 - It is understood that another Judicial Review regarding the noise condition.
 - It is understood that two of the turbines are too close to the railway line.
- 4.4 Cllr N Morgan (WDBC Ward Member) gave a brief update.
- There is to be a meeting on the 20th January 2015 regarding West Devon's Our Plan.
 - The planning applications for the removal of the holiday let conditions at Wardens Farm have been refused.
 - West Devon are going to new ways of working, there is to be a HUB, 10 members, it will be run as an executive Council.

The Clerk was requested to write to West Devon Borough Council regarding the whole issue of the changes and new ways of working and how this would affect Town and Parish Councils.

- 4.5 A brief update regarding the North Tawton Engagement Group was given.
- A public meeting was to be held in the Town Hall on Thursday 15th January 2015. Carolyn Stead from NHS England, Strategic Planners from West Devon Borough Council and the Doctors from Bow Medical Practice were to attend.

7. Works/Purchases

Councillors considered the priority for works/purchases as recommended by the Estates Committee at their meeting held on Thursday 11th December 2014, as set out below:

- Purchase of replacement benches, 3 this financial year, and thereafter 2 per year. (Currently £507 per bench)
- Purchase of defibrillator. (Estimate £2500)
- Repairs to the stone walling opposite Fire Station. (Prices to be obtained)
- Repairs to the stone walling on boundary of Cemetery. (Prices to be obtained)
- Replacement of Chapel of Rest Roof. (Prices to be obtained)
- Purchase a new set of swings for the Memorial Park. (prices to be obtained). To evaluate, in consultation with the Friends of the Park and the Trustees of the Memorial Park, a plan for improvements in the Memorial Park, in the light of the Section 106 funding from Wainhomes.

After some discussion it was resolved to

- purchase 3 replacement benches, and thereafter to purchase 2 per year, to replace the wooden benches within the parish;
- purchase a third defibrillator, siting to be agreed;
- Repairs to the stone walling opposite the Fire Station and repairs to the stone walling on the boundary of the Cemetery – The Clerk was requested to contact Mr Geoff Cawse regarding the specification for these works that was drawn up for the Heritage Lottery Grant.
- Not to purchase a set of swings for the Memorial Park until the Friends of the Park and the Trustees of the Memorial Park had a plan for improvements to the Memorial Park.

Some discussion took place regarding the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for various works in the Town and it was agreed that an Estate Committee meeting should be arranged.

8. Consultations/Newsletters

- 8.1 Department for Communities and Local Government – Parish Polls
Consultation on the Government's intentions to modernise parish poll regulations – Noted.
- 8.2 Devon Countryside Access Forum previously circulated. After some discussion no Councillors volunteered to be on the Devon Countryside Access Forum.

9. Recycling Project

After some discussion it was resolved that this item should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting, as another article had been placed in the February edition of the Roundabout asking members of the public if they were interested in becoming involved in this project, to contact the Clerk.

10. Parish Links Committee

The dates of the Eastern Links Committee meetings and to nominate a second representative to attend the Eastern Links Committee meetings, previously circulated, were noted and after some discussion it was resolved that Cllr Dr P Brickley should be a second representative on the Eastern Links Committee.

11. TAP funding

After some discussion it was resolved that an item should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to consider ideas for TAP funding. (deadline for submission of application 14th February 2015.

12. Community Market – North Tawton Town Hall

The letter received from the North Tawton Town Hall Management Committee, previously circulated, was discussed. After some discussion it was resolved that an article should be placed in the March edition of the Roundabout asking for if any members of the public were interested in forming a group to organise a Community Market in the Town Hall. The Town Council would only facilitate the forming of the group. It was further resolved that the Clerk should write to the North Tawton Town Hall Management Committee requested a copy of the rules and regulations for hire the Town Hall.

13. Disabled Car Parking Bay

The request to support the application for disabled car parking bay to be situated outside 8 Moor View, North Tawton was considered. After some discussion it was resolved that the Town Council should support, provided Devon County Council did not consider that the bay was too close to the entrance to the Memorial Park. The Clerk was asked to contact Devon County Council Highways Department.

14. PLANNING MATTERS

To consider the planning applications received from West Devon Borough Council and to make recommendations.

14.1 01433/2014

Plot 1A Taw Vale Avenue, North Tawton, EX20 2AZ

Householder application for the installation of rooflight to create roof space accommodation

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

To note decisions of West Devon Borough Council

14.2 01220/2014

Easthill Bungalow, North Tawton, EX20 2BS

Replacement agricultural building for storage

Conditional consent 9/12/14

Noted.

14.3 01152/2014

Householder application for part demolition, alterations and extension to Ashridge Estate House, including new east wing, remodelled west wing and removal of storey above portico and installation of solar panels

Ashridge Court, Ashridge Lane, North Tawton, EX20 2DH

Conditional consent 28/11/14

Noted.

14.4 01161/2014

Erection of tow cream silos

Taw Valley Creamery, North Tawton, EX20 2DA

Conditional consent 28/11/14

Noted.

14.5 01242/2014

Ground Floor Flat, 5 The Square, North Tawton, EX290 2ER

Certificate of Lawful Development for existing use of building for residential use.

Granted 28/11/14

Noted.

15. FINANCE

15.1 Invoices. Members inspected the invoices and bank statements and appropriate payments were made in accordance with bank mandate.

15.2 Monthly statement – Members received the monthly statement and agreed to make the appropriate transfer from the reserve account to the current account to allow payments to be made.

16. Questions/Comments from members of the public

The meeting was suspended prior to Any Other Business to allow members of the public to comment/ask a question. Time shall be limited up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

Mrs S Knott asked whether any further information had been received regarding the review of the Fire Service. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Mark Quick.

Mrs C Hughes commented that her personal view was that North Tawton was lucky to have two defibrillators, and she is having a meeting with Wainhomes and she would, with Council's position, mention the matter to them, to purchase a third delivery.

Mrs C Hughes asked about a question about the budget for 2015/16. Did the budget include a figure for the Neighbourhood Plan? The Clerk confirmed that an amount of £3,000 had been included in the budget for the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr C Hughes referred to the meeting on the 2nd December 2014, which was recorded. Cllr S Blood had made an accusation that Adrian Dowding from the Westcountry Rivers Trust had lied to the Town Council. Mr Hughes had commented previously on the Westcountry Rivers Trust and the whole Taw catchment area plan. Mrs Hughes was very concerned about this accusation. Mrs Hughes was unhappy to hear a Councillor say that a public body which is also a charity had lied to the Council. Cllr S Blood said he did want the matter to stand and that he believed the Adrian Dowding did lie. Mrs Hughes responded to Cllr Blood that she was sure he would not mind if she reported to matter to the Westcountry Rivers Trust. Cllr Blood agreed to this.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Hughes.

Cllr Dr P Brickley stated that he agreed with Cllr S Blood, and also stated that at the site inspection Adrian Dowding was stood on the fish ladder and stated that a fish ladder did not exist.

17. Parish Matters

Cllr Dr P Brickley wanted to raise a matter of concern, but declared a personal interest, and wanted the Town Council to be aware of the matter.

The Flood Alleviation land is being used for access to a property in Fore Street. A mini digger had been brought through this land and a hedge was destroyed. This land falls within the Conservation Area and are Burgage plots, which may even be prehistoric. The garden has been terraced, and the garden appears to have encroached land which may be in the ownership of the Environment Agency. Dr P Brickley asked if the Town Council was aware that the Environment Agency's policy had changed regarding access to properties in Fore Street via the Flood Alleviation land, why was access granted and who is going to reinstate the hedge?

The Clerk was requested to include this matter as an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

18. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council shall be Tuesday 3rd February 2015

Part I of the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

PART II

EXEMPT REPORTS:

That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by S.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

Planning enforcement matters were discussed.

Part II of the meeting closed at 9.40 pm