

NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk:
Mrs R Rice

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

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Tuesday 3rd March 2015 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs C Burrow Cllr K Hodge
Mrs G Hoggins (Chair) Cllr I MacLeod
Cllr Mrs A Ponsford Cllr Mrs D Rice
Cllr Mrs L Watts Cllr S Whiteley

3 members of the public were present.

Open Forum

The Chairman thanked Andrew Shadrake and Kirsty Tooke for attending.

Andrew Shadrake and Kirsty Tooke from DARE gave details regarding the potential for Community Owned Renewable Energy projects (CORE).

DARE was formed in 2000 and their main aims and objectives are to further energy efficiency and the installation of renewable energy in order to reduce carbon emissions and climate change. DARE is a not for profit organisation and offer advice and support services to a range of clients, from domestic to churches, community groups, schools and have previously done work in North Tawton. As they are based in North Tawton they thought they would let the Town Council know about a community fund that is available at the moment to support community energy developments.

Andrew Shadrake gave a presentation. The fund that is available does not require any money from the Council, it is entirely 100% funding. Energy spend from both domestic and commercial properties in North Tawton is £1 million per year for both gas and electricity, this is a £1 million that is lost to the local community, but the multiplier effect increases the benefit by 2 ½ times. It is a process which is hard to reverse, but it could be if we had a community that creates its own Community Energy Co-op owned by local people by buying shares.

DARE has done a lot of work in Plymouth.

The Government are supporting CORE projects through the Rural Communities Energy Fund (RCEF), which offers 100% funding for the Business Planning activities. This will include identifying the renewable energy sites in a community, establishing the most appropriate renewable energy source for each site, establishing the capital cost of the project, the projected output & income.

DARE were working with Okehampton Town Council and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council on a feasibility study, as well as Crediton Town Council.

The Chairman thanked Andrew and Kirsty for attending.

Information booklets were left for Councillors to read.

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr S Blood (illness), Cllr A Gillespie (illness) and Cllr Dr P Brickley (annual leave), Cllr N Morgan (personal). These apologies were accepted.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** – None were made at this stage.

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 Thursday 12th February 2015, previously circulated were approved and signed.

4. Updates

- 4.1 The Chairman to update the Council on various issues.
- The stone wall adjacent to the Lychgate appears to be deteriorating. An Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council will be held on Tuesday 10th March 2015, this matter will be an agenda item.
 - The NatWest Mobile bank will be using our car park for their visit on Thursdays 10.15 am – 10.45 am. Mr Tony Jelley will be placing bollards in the car park on a Wednesday evening and a sign will be put on the wall.
 - Details have been received today regarding the Older Peoples Community Services Network meeting on 10th March 2015 in the Ockment Centre.
- 4.2 Cllr Dr. P Brickley was not at the meeting so there was no update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan project, apart from there was to be a joint consultation event with West Devon on the 21st March 2015 in the Town Hall from 10 am – 4 pm. Unfortunately the times quoted in the Roundabout were incorrect. There will be a Neighbourhood Plan Project Group meeting on the 16th March 2015 to set the Neighbourhood Plan's aims and objectives.
- 4.3 A brief update from Cllr I MacLeod was given.
- An article about the LED scheme had been put in the Roundabout.
 - RES are not willing to put the £3,000 into the Community Fund, but any money not claimed through the LED scheme would go into the Community Fund.
- 4.4 Cllr N Morgan (WDBC Ward Member) was not present,
- 4.5 A brief update regarding the North Tawton Engagement Group was given.
- A meeting with the Bow Medical Practice was very positive.
 - Patients data will be transferred to Bow on the 31st March 2015.
 - A letter to patients from Bow Medical Practice will be sent out shortly.
 - The full contract will go out for tender in the summer.
 - 19th March 2015 was a tentative date for a meeting.

5. Ongoing issues

The 'Action Log' was updated.

- Rhys Davies had contacted the Clerk; the signage review details should be available in 2 weeks.

6. Consultations/Newsletters

Citizens Advice Bureau Newsletter, previously circulated – Noted.

Devon County Council Public Transport Review, previously circulated. The Clerk reported that Sampford Courtenay Parish Council had enquired whether North Tawton wished to submit a joint response with them. Also the matter will be discussed at the Northern Links meeting on the 19th March, but the Clerk of the Northern Links Committee felt it was important that individual parishes still submit their own responses to this consultation.

Okehampton Community Transport was discussed. The Clerk was requested to get information about the Okehampton Community Transport scheme, and the matter be brought back to the 7th April meeting.

7. Recycling Project

The Recycling Project was discussed. The Clerk reported that Sampford Courtenay Parish Council have expressed an interest in getting involved as a joint project and perhaps a joint TAP funding application.

8. Access/Parking Area – Doctor's Surgery Devonshire House, Essington

The matter of complaints regarding the access/parking area at the Doctor's Surgery, Devonshire House, Essington, was discussed. The Clerk reported that last week a letter had been written to the owner of the access/parking area. To date no response had been received.

9. Denbrook – Community Fund Legal Agreement

The draft Legal Agreement for the Den Brook Community Fund, previously circulated was discussed.

It was pointed out that if we did not sign the agreement RES would appoint a third party to administer the Community Fund.

After some discussion it was resolved, with reluctance, that the agreement should be signed, provided all the other Parish Councils agreed to sign the agreement.

10. Changes to Burial Legislation – Exhumations

The changes to the Burial Legislation regarding exhumations, previously circulated, was noted.

11. Infestation of moles – The Cemetery

The problem of moles in the Cemetery was discussed. The Clerk reported that there 39 mole hills in Section F.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should contact Golden Leaf Landscapes to see if they would be able to deal with the matter.

12. PLANNING MATTERS

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

12.1 00200/2015

49 Fore Street, North Tawton, EX20 2ED

Householder application for the erection of a conservatory.

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

12.2 00201/2015

8 Fore Street, North Tawton

Works to Trees in a Conservation Area for the removal of a mature tree from the rear garden of 8 Fore Street – the tree directly adjoins the rear extension to the property.

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application, but it was noted that the application was for the removal of one tree, but the photographs seem to indicate other trees.

12.3 00215/2015

Crispins, 5 Essington Road, North Tawton, EX20 2EX

Householder application for the erection of a conservatory

After some discussion it was resolved to support the application.

To note decisions of West Devon Borough Council

12.4 01153/2014

Erection of office/industrial unit and associated parking and landscaping

Land adjacent to Taw Croft, North Tawton

Conditional consent – 29/1/15

Noted.

12.5 01481/2014

Highridge Farm, North Tawton, EX20 2DQ

Removal of Condition (L) attached to planning consent 00/7645 to removal the agricultural occupancy.

Consent – 11/2/15

Noted.

To note appeal decision of The Planning Inspectorate

12.6 01128/2014

Householder application for the erection of a garage/workshop
6 Devonshire Gardens, North Street, North Tawton, EX20 2ES

Appeal dismissed 5/2/15

Noted.

13. FINANCE

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

13.2 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.

14. 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 if the Parish Housing Needs Survey had been received yet. Cllr Mrs C Burrow said that she understood that Alex Rehaag had given some information to Cllr Dr P Brickley but the full survey results had not been published yet. Cllr Mrs C Burrow stated that she understood that when the Wainhomes development was completed a new survey may be required.

Mrs S Knott stated that a defibrillator was now being carried on the Fire Engine.

Mrs S Knott stated that perhaps Mr Tithecott from Broadpark Terrace should be approached regarding the problem with moles in the Cemetery.

Mrs C Hughes asked if any response had been received from the Town Hall Management Committee regarding the rules for using the Town Hall for a community market. Cllr Mrs A Ponsford stated that a meeting of the Town Hall Management Committee had not been held yet.

Mrs C Hughes was concerned about the Beech trees on the boundary of the Wainhomes development. She understood that these trees are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order, but wondered who would be responsible for the management of these trees if a Doctors Surgery is built. The Clerk was requested to write to Wainhomes to ascertain the position.

Mrs C Hughes stated that at the November meeting of the Town Council, which is minuted, Mrs S Knott informed the Council that Nanny Nights would be on the 11th and 12th July. The 11th July events at the Rugby Club and 12th July events in the Memorial Park. It was brought to the attention of Nanny Nights committee, by the partner of a Councillor, that permission to use the park had not been requested. Mrs Hughes asked why they were not told about this before. A discussion took place regarding this matter and the rules of the park. Mrs Hughes stated that she was very disappointed about the matter.

The meeting was opened again.

15. Parish Matters

Cllr K Hodge stated that he had been approached by a resident regarding the stones and chippings in the road and on the pavement at the bottom of Fore Street. The Clerk reported that she had already contacted Devon County Council.

The Chairman reported that Devon County Council were going to carry out repairs to the collapsed sewer and storm water drains at the junction of Exeter Street and The Square/High Street. This work will involve some night working, but there are noise restrictions for work carried out between 11 pm and 7 am.

Cllr Mrs A Ponsford commented on potholes.

Cllr Mrs C Burrow commented that Wainhomes do not appear to have carried out the work to remove the ivy and making the Wool Mill watertight and it did not look like any work had been started on the weir.

Ian MacLeod said they had run out of money, they did the fish weirs at Sticklepath, they have done a lovely job, but they had run out of money apparently, Gill Hoggins asked who has run out of money. Ian MacLeod said the South West Rivers Trust that were going to take down the weir at the Wool Mill, someone working at the weir at Sticklepath, said they had run out of money, they had spent it all there to protect the leat.

16. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Council shall be Tuesday 7th April 2015

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.