

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 6th October 2015 at 7.15 pm.**

Present: Cllr Mrs C Burrow (Chair) Cllr M Fisher
Cllr K Hodge Cllr M Kennedy
Cllr Mrs K Tizard Cllr Ms J Trewitt
Cllr S Whiteley

Cllr Mrs L Watts (Ward Member)
8 members of the public were present

AGENDA **Open Forum –**

Mr John Donovan, Station Manager, Devon and Somerset Fire Service introduced himself. His area is from North Tawton, Okehampton up to Witheridge. He is the direct contact, so if anyone has any issues they should contact him. This new concept for the Fire Service; they need to identify any risks in the community. They need involvement from us and need to identify vulnerable people in the community. Awareness of these vulnerable people can lead to prevention and protection. The Fire Service is liaising with other authorities. Fires are low in North Tawton and the surrounding area, road traffic collisions occur more often than fires.

The Devon and Somerset Fire Service has to save £5 million, which will lead to few fire engines, less equipment and less staff. People and wages are their biggest resource. Rapid intervention vehicles, which require 2 or 3 personnel, are on trial, but not in this area. His personal opinion is that we will not get a rapid intervention vehicle in North Tawton, but maybe a light response vehicle which requires 5 people instead of 8. There will always be a backup engine for large fires. The statistics show a 50% drop in calls, possible because of prevention and protection. Hatherleigh is a Co-Responding station, Local PCSO's are being proposed to act as fire fighters, the idea is joined up working, and possibly PCSO's could be first responders as well.

A question was asked about who they class as vulnerable? People that live on their own, over 65, smoke, alcohol and with no smoke protection.

A question was asked about parking in Moor View, would the Fire Engine be able to get through? Any problems get a message to him and he will deal with it.

The Chairman thanked Mr Donovan for attending.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr I MacLeod (Annual leave), Cllr Mrs A Ponsford (Annual leave), Cllr Mrs G Hoggins (Personal) and Cllr I Palmer.

After some discussion it was resolved to accept these apologies.

2. **Declarations of Interest** – None were made at this stage.

2a Cllr S Whiteley

To receive a statement from Cllr S Whiteley regarding predetermination of planning matters in relation to Grade 1 and Grade 2 agricultural land.

On advice from the DALC Cllr S Whiteley was advised to state at a meeting that he is not 100% anti about building on Grade 1 land, but I am sometimes.

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 1st September 2015, previously circulated, were agreed and signed, subject to one amendment.
- 3.2 The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Wednesday 23rd September 2015, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

4. Updates

- 4.1 The Chairman updated the Council on various issues:
 - A meeting will be held with Wainhomes on Thursday 8th October 2015
 - The Eco-Park planning application may be going to WDBC's Planning and Licensing Committee on the 10th November 2015.
 - An e-mail had been received from Dr Peter Brickley amending the article that he wished to be published in the Roundabout
"As you know I have been coordinating the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan Project this past three and a half years. It has been a long haul and for various reasons I now feel I should step down. Another Councillor has stepped forward to take the work through to completion and I wish her every success in her undertaking.
I would like to thank residents for the enthusiastic support they have given to the project and I'd like also to say how helpful you have been in making space in Roundabout for updates on our progress from time to time."
 - Part of the Neighbourhood Plan is to look at policies on design, a group has been set up called the Townscape Group, which is a mix of members of the public and Councillors and members of the Neighbourhood Plan Group, but we do need more councillors on this group, especially Planning Committee members, if anyone is interested please come forward. This is based on the Village Design Statement.
 - Mrs Anne Brereton has died; she was a former Councillor and Chairman of the Council.
- 4.2 Cllr I MacLeod stated there was nothing to update regarding Denbrook.
- 4.3 Cllr L Watts (WDBC Ward Member) gave a brief update:
 - At the recent Superlinks meeting no one from North Tawton was present.
 - The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that £54 million was being cut from their budget; the Government has changed the funding formula for police forces which has resulted in rural communities being disadvantaged. A petition is being sent to the Government regarding the funding formula, this is a desperate situation, and the best we can hope for is to stay as we are.
 - Devon County Council has to cut £60 million from their budget.
 - West Devon is going to outsource some of the planning validation.
 - Sophie Hoskins, WDBC, has responded to Sampford Courtenay Parish Council regarding Prior Notification consultations, stating that if parish/town councils wish to be consulted they must notify the planning department.
 - Devolution, WDBC has expressed an interest.
 - Local Councils are being given the power to decide on Sunday Trading.
- 4.4 Cllr S Whiteley stated that 4 Councillors should be on the North Tawton Engagement Group. The Clerk was requested to add this as an item on the Agenda for the 3rd November 2015 meeting

- 4.5 Cllr Ms J Trehwitt gave a brief update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Project.
- A Neighbourhood Plan Group meeting was held last night, the first since taking over a Chair of the Group, members of the Townscape Group were also invited. Rebecca Black, Strategic Planner from West Devon attended and was excellent and really helpful. Rebecca gave an update on WDBC's Our Plan and the link with our Neighbourhood Plan, where we are and what still needs to be done. The timeline has been adjusted; a draft plan should be completed after Christmas. A discussion on numbers of dwellings and sites took place, but there needs to be clarification on the numbers of units at the Wool Mill and Wainhomes new planning application. A meeting with the Clerk is going to take place on Friday 9th October to discuss Stuart Todd's role.
 - The Townscape Group will continue, and decide what needs to be updated; clarification is being sought on whether the document will be an appendix to the Neighbourhood Plan or a separate, supporting document.
 - The tasks are going to be shared out amongst Group members; policies for the objectives will be discussed on the 22nd October.
 - This meeting was a constructive positive meeting.

5. **Ongoing issues**

The 'Action Log' was updated.

- Dog Control Orders – Cllr Mrs L Watts to chase up for us.
- Welcome to North Tawton sign – The Clerk was requested to chase up.

6. **Amendments to Standing Orders**

Questions/Comments from members of the public

To consider reviewing the Standing Orders, following the six months trial, which states

“The meeting shall be 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”.

and other Standing Orders – Chairman and Vice Chair to report.

Deferred to 3rd November 2015 meeting.

7. **Consultations/Newsletters/Invitations**

7.1 West Devon Borough Council Consultation – Draft Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005. – Previously circulated by e-mail. Noted.

7.2 DALC AGM and Conference – 15th October 2015, Westpoint Conference Centre, Exeter – Noted. The Clerk was requested to contact Cllr G Hill at Chagford and apologies that a representative from North Tawton could not attend.

8. **Community Market**

Cllr M Kennedy stated there was nothing to report at present, but indicated he would like the matter added to the agenda for the January 2016 meeting.

9. **Orchard Court (North Tawton) Management Limited**

The matter of the request received from Orchard Court (North Tawton) Management Limited, previously circulated was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Council could not undertake to pay towards the upkeep of the archway walls, as this would set a precedent for other householders with footpaths and pavements outside of their properties throughout the town.

10. Devon Heartlands Community Development Trust

The letter received from Devon Heartlands Community Development Trust, previously circulated, was discussed. The response that Hatherleigh Town Council had sent to Devon Heartlands was also circulated.

Councillors agreed with Hatherleigh Town Council's comments regarding Parish and Town Councils are now so busy that it is a lack of time, to attend Devon Heartlands meetings. There was a suggestion that some meeting could be held in the evenings.

It was resolved that Cllr M Kennedy should attend any future meetings on behalf of the Town Council, if he is available.

11. Recycling Project

The Clerk updated the Council regarding the Recycling Project. Arrangements have been made for a monthly collection of plastics that West Devon Borough Council cannot collect in the normal recycling bins. PWS are to provide two bins for this collection; these will be delivered on the Friday afternoon. These bins would be manned from 10.30 – 12.00 on the third Saturday of every month. The bins would be locked outside of these times. The bins would be collected on the Monday. The only site that the Group had identified is the top area of the Car Park off The Square, beside the salt/grit bin. The first collection will be held on Saturday the 21st November 2015. A notice in the Roundabout has asked for people to come to the Car Park with their recycling on foot, to avoid any traffic congestion.

After some discussion it was resolved to allow the bins to be sited beside the salt/grit bin in the Car Park off The Square.

12. Butts Field, Barton Street, North Tawton

The Clerk read out an update on the status of Butts Field, Barton Street, North Tawton, received from Mrs J Williams, who had carried out the research on the Town Council's behalf, following the suggestion that part of this land should be used as a public car park.

"I have established that Wainhomes have a 10 year option to purchase Butts Field. It was granted about 2.5 years ago so they have first refusal on it until 2022. The purchase price would have to be agreed but I have no doubt that it will be a sum with which the town could not compete even if it wanted to."

13. Salt Bins

The matter of the purchase of salt bins was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved to purchase 3 salt bins at a price of £129.00 each, to be sited at Yeo Lane, the path running from Strawberry Fields to Exeter Street and the roundabout off Moor View.

The Clerk was requested to contact Devon County Council regarding the siting of these bins before placing the order.

14. Finger Post Sign – The Square

The matter of purchasing of an additional finger post sign pointing to the Public Conveniences was discussed. The Clerk showed an example of the finger post sign at the cost of £126.00. C H Jones had agreed to fix the new additional finger post sign.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should order the sign.

15. PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Matters

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

15.1 00708/2015

Full application for 6 residential dwellings with associated footways, parking, landscaping and drainage (previously approved under 00708/2013).

Land West of High Street, North Tawton (known at Batheway Field)

The Clerk had received a drawing from Wainhomes stating that the ridge heights of the 6 dwellings would be lower than that previously approved.

Cllr Mrs L Watts (Ward Member) stated that she understood that a new Section 106 Agreement linking these 6 dwellings to the Agreement for 61 units would have to be drawn up.

After viewing the drawing received from Wainhomes confirming that the ridge heights of the 6 dwellings would be lower than that previously approved, it was resolved not to object to the proposal. For clarification the Clerk was requested to forward the drawing to West Devon Borough Council.

Cllr S Whiteley did not vote.

To note decisions of West Devon Borough Council

15.1 00505/2015

The Barton, North Tawton, EX20 2BB

Erection of agricultural building

Conditional Consent – 17/8/15

Noted.

15.2 Consultations on prior notification change of use applications

The matter of the notification from WDBC regarding prior notification change of use applications – Responses from other Parish Councils, previously circulated, was discussed. Cllr Mrs L Watts (Ward Member) had clarified the situation (Under Agenda item 4.3 regarding consultation on prior notification change of use applications.

After some discussion, the Clerk was requested to formally request from West Devon Borough Council that North Tawton Town Council would like to be notified of Prior Notification Change of Use applications within the parish of North Tawton.

16. FINANCE

16.2 Invoices. Members inspected the invoices and bank statements and appropriate payments were made in accordance with bank mandate. The payments made on the 2nd August 2015 which were signed by the Cllr Mrs G Hoggins and Cllr I MacLeod were noted.

16.3 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.

The Clerk informed the Council that correspondence has been received from Zurich Insurance stating that the Insurance Premium Tax is increasing from 6% to 9% with effect from 1st November 2015. This increase will apply to all insurance premiums after this date.

17. Questions/Comments from members of the public

The meeting was suspended prior to Parish Matters 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 stated that there was going to be a Healthy Living Day in the Town Hall on the 24th October 2015. 20 – 22 organisations are coming, and everyone is invited.

Ms A Porter asked a question about dogs being allowed on the paths in the Memorial Park.

Mrs C Hughes said there was a Cancer Research UK Coffee Evening in the Town Hall on Friday 9th October 2015.

Mrs C Hughes informed the Council that Nick and Janet Morgan were moving away from North Tawton. The Clerk was requested to send them a card.

Mr Aplin asked a question about the HGV's being driven through the Town. The Chairman informed him that new signage at De Bathe Cross and the surrounding roads should prevent this happening in the future.

Ms A Porter asked a question about the 30 mph speed limit on the road coming into the town from De Bathe Cross. The Chairman stated that the 30 mph speed limit sign is to be moved further beyond Bathway Fields, this was part of the Section 106 Agreement.

The meeting opened again.

18. Parish Matters

Cllr S Whiteley asked when the Co-Option of the new Councillor would be held. The Clerk informed the Council that the statutory notice required expired on the 2nd October 2015 and she was still waiting to hear from West Devon Borough Council if an election has been requested. If an election has not been requested, we will be co-opting on the 3rd November 2015. Notices would be put on the noticeboard and in the Post Office. Also there has been an article put in the Roundabout.

19. Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council shall be Tuesday 3rd November 2015.

The meeting closed at 9 pm.