

# **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 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015** at **7.15 pm**.

Present: Cllr S Blood  
Cllr K Hodge  
Cllr I MacLeod  
Cllr Mrs D Rice  
Cllr S Whiteley

Cllr Dr P Brickley  
Mrs G Hoggins (Chair)  
Cllr N Morgan  
Cllr Mrs L Watts

## **AGENDA**

**Open Forum** No members of the public raised any concerns.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs C Burrow (annual leave), Cllr A Gillespie (work commitments) and Cllr Mrs A Ponsford (illness)
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Dr P Brickley declared an interest in Item 17.7 (planning) being a neighbour, Cllr N Morgan declared an interest in Item 7 (Clarification on Works to the Weir) and Cllrs N Morgan and S Blood declared an interest in Item 12 (Neighbourhood Plan Project).
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 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
  - 3.2 The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
  - 3.3 The Extraordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
4. **Updates**
  - 4.1 The Chairman updated the Council on various issues.
    - Agenda Item 7 should be amended to read Westcountry Rivers Trust.
    - The Section 106 Agreement for the Wool Mill have been signed and the planning consent has been issued.
    - The Clerk has written to someone in High Street who has dumped branches from their garden in the Memorial Park.
    - A request has been received from the Nanny Nights' Committee to use the Park on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015. The Clerk was requested to write a letter to the Nanny Nights' Committee granting permission.
    - A thank you letter has been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau for the grant.
    - Notification of a road closure of the High Street from the 11<sup>th</sup> May – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 has been received.
    - Two signs have been damaged, one at the top of Letherans Lane for the Dogs on Leads Order, and one in the Memorial Park, stating the Park is a Children's Play area and dogs should be kept off the grass at all times. The Clerk was requested to notify the police.
  - 4.2 Cllr I MacLeod gave a brief update regarding Denbrook.
    - there have been lots of emails regarding the Community Fund – it is felt that each parish should decide what the Community Fund should be spent on, and then

reporting back to RES. It is not clear whether RES are going to carry on building or they may well sell the site.

4.3 Cllr N Morgan (WDBC Ward Member) gave a brief update – Cllr Morgan apologised for being late to the meeting.

- There have been meetings on budget monitoring and a review of Ward Members expenses
- A Planning and Licensing Committee Site Inspection has been held for the Eco Park. This application will be going before Committee on the 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, but there may be another Site Inspection prior to this, as new Council members may be on the Planning and Licensing Committee – Cllr S Whiteley request that if there was another Site Inspection could the site be viewed from Barton Hill. The Clerk was requested to contact West Devon Borough Council.

4.4 Cllr I MacLeod gave a brief update regarding the North Tawton Engagement Group.

- North Tawton PPG visited Bow Surgery.
- Upgrading works at Devonshire House were carried out over the Easter period, there will be 2 consulting rooms, it is looking very fresh, even Dr Bower and the Practice Manager were working over the Easter period, which is showing real commitments. The old telephone number will be reinstated (82204)
- The PPG have seen the draft Brochure for the practice.

4.5 Cllr S Blood gave a brief update regarding the Eastern Links meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

- No TAP fund application have been received yet, it is time to think about an application
- A presentation was made by the new Chief Executive of West Devon – there will be communication locality officers, 1 stop shop.
- there will be a review of the boundary of the parish links committees.

## 5. Ongoing issues

The 'Action Log' was updated

- The Clerk was requested to chase up the request sent to DCC suggesting that railings should be placed on the junction of The Square and Market Street.
- Devon Youth Service – a meeting regarding funding was to be held in 10 days, Junior Volunteer Workers have been appointed and the numbers attending have increased.
- The Clerk was requested to chase up the improvement works to Letherans Lane.

## 6. Consultations/Newsletters

Devon County Council Public Transport Review

The Public Transport Review was disused.

After some discussion it was resolved that a consultation response regarding the cuts to the Service 318; "Transport services in rural areas is vital for the residents to be able to attending medical appoints, do their shopping and social events, and the Town Council is very disappointed that this service is being cut".

## 7. Clarification on Works to the Weir

The Clerk updated the Council regarding the works to the weir. Adrian Dowling has confirmed that the work will be carried out this year, unless any unforeseen circumstances arise. The works are contracted and budget is assigned and ring-fenced. We will be contacted when works will commence. This was noted.

## 8. VE Day 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The letter received from the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP regarding VE Day 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May, previously circulated was noted. After some discussion it was resolved that the Town Council should fly the Union Jack on the Town Hall on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015. It was further

resolved that the flag should be flown on VJ day as well. The Clerk was requested to pass a copy of the letter to the British Legion.

**9. Piece of land in lane adjacent to the Public Conveniences**

The correspondence received regarding this piece of land on the lane adjacent to the public conveniences, previously circulated was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should contact Devon County Council to ascertain the ownership of this land. Councillors felt that they did not want the lane to be made narrow, as this may hinder pedestrians and people with pushchairs or wheelchairs. The Clerk was requested to write to the owners of Hillside stating that we were contacting Devon County Council.

**10. Smoke free signage – Play Parks**

The matter of erecting signs in the Memorial Park banning on smoking, previously circulated, were discussed. After some discussion it was resolved that the matter should be raised at the Annual Town Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**11. Adopt a Kiosk**

The matter of BT's offer to adopt a Kiosk, previously circulated, was discussed. After some discussion it was resolved that the matter should be raised at the Annual Town Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**12. Neighbourhood Plan Project**

The matter of agreeing the Neighbourhood Plan Project Group's Aims, Vision and Objectives was discussed briefly, but it was felt that Councillors should be given more time to read the Aims, Vision and Objectives. The Clerk was requested to arrange an Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

**13. Cemetery Regulations – Wooden Crosses**

The matter of wooden crosses being installed in the Cemetery which are not in accordance with the Cemetery Regulations was discussed. After some discussion it was resolved to defer the matter until sometime in May/June when the matter of the cemetery charges are due to be reviewed, and it was felt that it would be a good time to review the Cemetery Regulations.

**14. Litter/Dog Bin – Orchard Court/Gostwyck Close**

The request from resident of Orchard Court to site a litter/dog bin in the Orchard Court/Gostwyck Close area was discussed. After some discussion it was resolved that following consultation WDBC regarding the emptying of a new bin, that a bin should be purchased and erected in the Orchard Court/Gostwyck Close area.

**15. Recycling Project**

Cllr S Blood stated that members of the Environmental Trust were interested in becoming involved in the Recycling Project. The matter should be placed on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

**16. Devon Association of Local Councils**

The renewal of Membership for 2015/16 to the Devon Association of Local Councils was discussed, and after some discussion it was resolved that the Town Council should renew the membership at a cost of £372.58.

**17. PLANNING MATTERS**

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

**17.1 00335/2015**

8 Fore Street, North Tawton, EX20 2DT

Works to trees in a Conservation Area for the removal of two trunks from a multi-stemmed Ash located on the boundary between 8 & 14 Fore Street within 1m of the stream to the rear of the gardens

After some discussion it was resolved to object to the application for the following reasons:

- the photos that accompany the application appear to be showing trees that have already been felled. The Town Council have requested that a site inspection is made.

**To note decisions of West Devon Borough Council**

**17.2 00071/2015**

Prior Notification for Change of use from Agricultural building to C3 Dwelling (Class Mb)

Barn, Bouchers Hill Farm, Bouchers Hill, North Tawton, EX20 2DG

Prior Approval Given – 4/3/15

Noted

**17.3 01097/2014**

Boswells, North Tawton, EX20 2BY

Installation of one 5Kw wind turbine on 15m tower

Conditional consent 4/3/15

Noted

**17.4 00070/2015**

Householder application for the two-storey side extension and hardstanding for one vehicle

1 Taylors Fields, North Tawton, EX20 2JD

Conditional consent 2/3/15

Noted

**17.4 00152/2015**

5 Gostwyck Close, North Tawton, EX20 2HR

Householder application for a single storey porch to the front of dwellinghouse

Conditional consent 26/3/15

Noted

**17.5 00242/2015**

Works to trees in a Conservation Area for the two thirds reduction of Tree 1 Acer Campestre (Field Maple) and retention at that size, together with the removal of Tree 2 Sorbus Aria (Whitebeam) and replacement with Oaks. All at Court Green, as shown on the application documentation.

Court Green, Essington Road, North Tawton, Devon, EX20 2EX

Consent 24/3/15

Noted

**17.6 00097/2015**

Higher Nichols Nymett Farm, North Tawton, EX20 2DP

Listed Building application for remedial works and new structural support to roof

Conditional consent 4/3/15

Noted

**17.7 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.

Consent 3/3/15

Noted

**18. FINANCE**

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

**18.2** 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.

The Clerk will be finalising the accounts for the financial year 2014/15 and the Internal Auditor will be checking these sometime in April early May.

**18.3 Stone Walling adjacent to the Lychgate, St Peters Church**

This matter was to be discussed Part II of the meeting.

**18.4 Summer Flowers**

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received regarding the cost of the summer flower baskets and troughs from Mr P Hiscock on behalf of Culverhayes, quoting the same price as they charges last year. It was resolved to accept this quotation.

**19. 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 the owner of the land in front of Devonshire House had been contacted regarding the potholes and if a response had been received. The Chairman stated that, although it was not a matter for the Town Council, a letter had been sent to the owner pointing out the concern of the residents of North Tawton regarding the potholes. A response had been received stating that the work would be done.

Mrs S Knott asked when West Devon's Planning and Licensing Committee would be considering the application for the Eco-Park. The Chairman informed Mrs Knott that the matter was scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015 meeting.

Mrs S Knott raised concerns about Section 106 agreements not including funding for the NHS, and also concern that the Clinical Commissioning Group of the NHS are not statutory consultees for major planning applications.

The meeting was opened again

**20. Parish Matters**

Cllr S Whiteley stated that he had recently been winding the Jubilee Clock as Tony Jelley was away on holiday and he wanted to report what a lovely job had been done to the clock mechanism when it was overhauled last year.

**21. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Council shall be 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015, which would be the last meeting of the current Town Council members.

Part I of the meeting closed at 9.05 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.

**22. Stone Walling adjacent to the Lychgate, St Peters Church**

The quotation and specification submitted by Stephen Francis for the repairs to the stone walling, and the day rate cost of another contractor were circulated.

After some discussion it was resolved to accept the quotation submitted by Stephen Francis. The Clerk was requested to contact Mr Geoff Cawse to ask his opinion about the pea gravel French drain being placed behind the stone wall to aid drainage.

Part II of the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.