

NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk:
Rosalind Rice

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EX20 2EP
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Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Office on **Wednesday 23rd September 2015** at **7.30 pm**.

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

5 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs A Ponsford (working).
2. **Declaration of Interest** – None were made at this stage.
3. **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chairman gave a statement regarding the Neighbourhood Plan following the resignation of Dr Peter Brickley from the Neighbourhood Plan Project Group and the Council. The Chairman stated there would be no questions from members of the public.

At a Townscape Group Meeting to update the Village Design Statement, the group were unclear about its role and the relationship with the Neighbourhood Plan, and it was suggested that a meeting of the Town Council, Neighbourhood Plan Group and the Townscape Group should be arranged, with an independent chair, to decide the role of the Townscape Group and how it would sit with the Neighbourhood Plan. Peter took exception to the suggestion of this meeting taking place.

The Neighbourhood Plan meeting scheduled for the 10th September was cancelled, but instead Peter, myself, Carol and Ros met.

We explained why the independently chaired meeting had been suggested by the Townscape Group. Peter was totally not in favour of this.

Peter had arranged a meeting with SWWA regarding the land at Devonshire Gardens with Peter and me. I gave this some thought and decided that this meeting should not take place, as the site had been identified in the call for sites and if the Neighbourhood Plan included this land for development it was up to them what they built. Peter was totally in disagreement with me and insisted that he would attend the meeting alone. Ros pointed out that Peter should not be meeting with potential developers on his own, as had happened in the past, as we did not know what he was saying to developers. Peter took great exception to what Ros had said. Peter had already negotiated with the owners of the land on Bouchers Hill, through their agent, for the Town Council to take on the allotments and other land. Both Carol and I said

that the Town Council was not interested in taking over the allotments (this had been discussed by the Council a few years ago).

The meeting closed at 9 pm and Peter left quite happy. So you can imagine our dismay on Friday morning to receive an email saying he was resigning from the Neighbourhood Plan Group and the Council. We did accept Peter's resignation and the necessary notices have been posted.

Carol, Ros and I thought that we should give you an explanation of the situation rather than leave it to the October meeting, so here we are tonight.

Thank you to members of the public for attending.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should write to Dr Peter Brickley and thank him for all the hard work he has done over the past few years on the Neighbourhood Plan Group. The Clerk was also asked to arrange meetings with Rebecca Black and Stuart Todd. A joint meeting of the Council, the Neighbourhood Plan Group and the Townscape Group should also be arranged. Cllr Ms J Trehitt volunteered to Chair the Neighbourhood Plan Group meetings.

4. Planning Matters

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

4.1 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 as Batheway Field)

The proposal as outlined in Annex A, previously circulated, was discussed. The plans were viewed.

After some discussion it was resolved to request a site visit, to clarify the apparent increase in the ridge height of these 6 plots. It was noted that when a public exhibition was held in the Town Hall prior to the submission of 01037/2013 Wainhomes assured residents that the plots immediately to the south of Moor View would have low ridge heights to lessen the impact on their properties.

4.2 00888/2015

Full planning application for 28 residential dwellings with associated roads, footways, parking, landscaping and drainage. Part previously approved application under reference 01037/2013

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

This matter was deferred as clarification of the proposal had not been received from WDBC and the plans and documentation had not been received. Clarification should also be requested, if the proposal did not include the employment land, is this application to be linked with the Woollen Mill application to include employment land.

5. Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council shall be 6th October 2015.

The Chairman asked permission for 2 months sabbatical leave, for personal reasons, which was agreed. The Chairman stated that if it was possible for her to attend meetings during this period she would.

Part I of the meeting ended at 7.50 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.

The two quotations received from Wales and West Utilities for the installation of a gas supply to the Council Offices, were considered. After some discussion, it was resolved to accept the quotation for a inset meter box on the wall beside the electricity meter boxes under the archway.

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.