

# NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Temporary Town Clerk:  
Mrs S Say

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 1 November at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr I MacLeod  
Cllr I Palmer  
Cllr Mr K Hodge  
Cllr Mr M Fisher  
Cllr Mr M Kennedy  
Cllr Miss B Rice  
Cllr Mrs K Tizard  
Cllr Mrs C Burrow  
Cllr Ms J Trehitt

**The meeting opened at 7.15 pm**

Members of the public were present

## **Open Forum**

An email from Dr Aly Lazell of Devon Cloth, advising that the Mill Partnership do not now wish to attend the meeting, was read out.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs G Hoggins (personal circumstances); Cllr Mrs A Ponsford (personal circumstances); Cllr Mr S Whiteley (on leave). All the apologies were accepted by the Council.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – none.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**
  - 3.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Tuesday 4 October 2016 at 7.30 pm were approved and signed.
  - 3.2 The Minutes of the meeting of the North Tawton Town Council Estates Committee held at the Council Offices on Wednesday 12 October at 6.45 pm were approved and signed.
4. **Updates - Please keep your update to a maximum of 5 minutes**
  - 4.1 **Chairman to update the Council on various issues.**
    - 4.1.1 **Remembrance Sunday 13 November 2016** – it was agreed that the Town Clerk, Mrs R Rice, will attend the parade from The Square to the church, representing NTTC. It was further agreed that Cllr Mr K Hodge will attend the ceremony at the War Memorial and lay a wreath on behalf of the NTTC.
    - 4.1.2 **Changes to North Tawton Post Office** – the proposed temporary closure of the post office and the due date for the opening of the 'new look' post office were noted by the Council.
  - 4.2 **Update from WDBC Ward Member Cllr L Watts** – Cllr Watts was unable to attend the meeting this evening.
  - 4.3 **Update on Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Ms J Trehitt reported that good progress is being made, the draft plan is being written, photos and maps are being collated. There is a NP consultation event in the Town Hall on the morning of 10 December 2016, this is being advertised. The aim is to try and capture people's views on the plan; the next stage will be submission of the plan to WDBC.
  - 4.4 **Update on Den Brook Wind Farm** – Cllr MacLeod reported that the next event is a meeting of representatives from the 5 parishes affected, to discuss the administration of the Den Brook Fund.

- 4.5 'Superlink' meeting of East, North and South Links** – The Superlink meeting will take place at the Ockment Centre in Okehampton on 7 December at 7.30 pm. The Leader of Devon County Council will be in attendance, if any Members have questions for the Leader, please liaise with Cllr Ms J Trehwhitt.
- 5. Ongoing issues - Action Log**  
The Council was advised of update actions to ongoing issues. The Clerk will undertake various further actions as instructed by the Council, as follows:
- Dangerous/obstructive car parking should be reported direct to the police with all relevant details – information to be included in the December issue of the Roundabout.
  - Re-contact DCC reference dangerous condition of footpath in the Memorial Park.
- 6. Consultations/Newsletters/Invitations**
- 6.1 – North Tawton Pharmacy Opening Ceremony** – a Member of the Council will attend this event on Monday 7 November.
- 6.2 – Devon Community Resilience Forum Event** – The Clerk will liaise with Cllr S Whiteley as to whether he wishes to attend this event.
- 6.3 – Devon Highways Parish & Town Council Conference 2016, Hatherleigh Community Centre, Tuesday 22 November 0930 – 1430** – Cllr Ms J Trehwhitt and Cllr Mr M Fisher will attend this event.
- 6.4 – BT Phone Boxes, North Tawton – proposed removal of 2 boxes** – After some discussion it was agreed that the Council will respond to WDBC (who are responsible for collating Parish responses and making recommendations to BT) to say that the Council wishes to retain both the box at the junction of Fore Street and Mill Lane, and also the box at the junction of The Square and Fore Street. The reasons are that both these boxes are needed for emergency purposes, there is very little or no mobile phone coverage, the Town has a high proportion of elderly residents.
- 7 Error in numbering of agenda items**
- 8. Proposed wording of agreed amendments to NTTC Financial Regulations and to NTTC Standing Orders (deferred from previous meeting).**  
Cllr M Fisher proposed that the Council accept the suggested amendments as stated. Cllr I MacLeod seconded this proposal, and there was unanimous agreement. The Clerk will amend the Financial Regulations and the Standing Orders accordingly.
- 9 Error in numbering of agenda items**
- 10. Okehampton Hospital – Consultation on 'Your Future Care Community Services'**
- 10.1 – Registration for attendance at one of the Consultation's Public Meetings**  
Cllr Mrs K Tizard and Cllr Miss B Rice will attend the meeting arranged by Okehampton Town Council on Friday 11 November 2016 at 7.30 pm, Charter Hall, Okehampton.  
Cllr Mrs C Burrow will attend the NHS meeting on Wednesday 16 November 1400 – 1630, Town Hall, Okehampton.
- 10.2 Should the Council become a 'Friend of Okehampton Hospital?'**  
Further to the issues of proposed bed closures at the hospital, people are being encouraged to become a 'Friend of the Hospital) at a cost of £10. The money could potentially be spent to help the fight to retain the beds. Cllr I MacLeod proposed that the Council become a Friend of Okehampton Hospital, which was seconded by Cllr Berenice Rice, and unanimously agreed. The Clerk was requested to progress this issue.
- 10.3 Availability of public consultation documents, petition, public information – reference proposed closure of beds at Okehampton Hospital.**  
It was unanimously agreed that the Council will do all they can to provide public information and to provide access to the petition, consultation documents, etc.

**11. Market Street 'Pinch Point'**

Further to a letter from a member of the public reference traffic in Market Street being held up at the pinch point, in which the resident suggested removal of one or even one half of a parking space, which would allow traffic to move more freely. The Council discussed this issue, and it was felt that we do not wish to lose a parking space but that a similar result could be achieved by moving one of the bollards. The Clerk will send a copy of the letter and the Council's response to DCC Highways, and reply to the resident accordingly.

**12. Community Market**

After some discussion it was unanimously agreed that this issue had been pursued in the past, much work had been undertaken, but it was not possible to progress. Therefore the Council will not seek to progress this issue again at this time.

**13. Planning Matters**

No current planning applications have been received.

**14. Finance**

**14.1 – Invoices** – Cllr I Macleod proposed that the Council approve payments in accordance with Annex B. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs K Tizard, and was unanimously agreed.

**14.2 – Monthly Statement** – Cllr I MacLeod proposed that the Council accept the monthly statement, and approve transfer of the appropriate funds from reserve to current accounts. This was seconded by Cllr Ms J Trehwitt and was unanimously agreed.

Cllr MacLeod reported that there are a number of issues which will require expenditure in the coming months, including tree inspections, improvements to the Memorial Park, a suggested increase in hours of work of the Town Clerk, etc. A meeting of the Finance Committee is due to take place shortly, and members are invited to submit suggestions. Further to a query from Cllr M Fisher, it was confirmed that the Council is in the process of opening a further account with a different bank, to provide financial protection.

**15. Questions from members of the public**

- (i) Mrs S Knott queried the omission from the agenda of the proposal to reinstate an August meeting of the Council. It was advised that this item will appear on the agenda for the December meeting.
- (ii) Mrs S Knott pointed out that making a response to the 'Your Future Care' consultation is not easy if you wish to choose Option 5, which is an alternative to the detailed options 1-4. The process requires respondees to undertake some research to support an alternative suggestion and is not at all straightforward.
- (iii) Mrs C Hughes asked about a specific meeting reference Den Brook. Cllr Mr I MacLeod advised that this meeting was the one that had already been mentioned, ie to set up the committee for allocation of Den Brook funds for the 5 affected parishes.
- (iv) With reference to the proposed closure of the phone box in The Square, Mrs C Hughes queried the mention during discussion of this issue of '170' calls in the last year; it was agreed that the consultation document stated 133 calls.

**16. Parish Matters**

**16.1 – overgrown hedge/plants at garden boundary between Letherens and Yeo Lane** – The Clerk was requested to chase this up with Darryl Jagger of DCC Highways.

**16.2 – Query re plaques formerly adjacent to lime trees in the Churchyard** – Cllr I MacLeod advised that he had been asked about the whereabouts of plaques referencing the sponsors of the lime trees in the churchyard. Further enquiries will be made about this issue. It was suggested that in due course some sort of information board might be installed advising visitors that the trees represent the 12 Apostles, that the cobbles were originally laid by French prisoners of the Napoleonic Wars stationed in North Tawton, and any other relevant information.

**16.3 – Town Centre Car Park** – Cllr Mrs K Tizard advised that she had been asked if the Council had considered making this car park a 2-storey car park. It was generally felt that this would be a difficult and expensive option.

**17. Date of next meeting**

**17.1** The next Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council is due to be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 6 December 2016 – please check the time of the meeting when the next Agenda is published in case of any change.

**17.2** There will be a meeting of the NTTC Finance Committee on Thursday 24 November at 7.30 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.

**Items were discussed under Part II:**

- 1 Sale or retention of Council owned land**
- 2 Quotations for Tree Inspections**
- 3 Planning Enforcement update**
- 4 Query re planning enforcement**
- 5 Query re right of way**
- 6 Letter of complaint received by the Council**

**The meeting closed at 9.45 pm**