

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 4 October at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr I MacLeod
Cllr S Whiteley
Cllr Mr K Hodge
Cllr Miss B Rice
Cllr Mrs K Tizard
Cllr Mrs A Ponsford

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council were not in attendance. Cllr S Whiteley was nominated to Chair the meeting.

Members of the public were present

Open Forum- Nothing was raised.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs G Hoggins (on leave); Cllr Mrs C Burrow (personal circumstances); Cllr Mr M Kennedy (personal circumstances); Cllr Mr M Fisher (on leave); Cllr Ms J Trehitt (on leave). All the apologies were accepted by the Council.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr I MacLeod (applicant) and Cllr S Whiteley (neighbour) declared an interest in Item 2791/16/TPO, 4 Webbs Orchard, North Tawton, EX20 2FE.
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 6 September 2016 at 7.30 pm were approved and signed.
 - 3.2 The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Tuesday 27 September at 7.15 pm were approved and signed.
4. **Updates - Please keep your update to a maximum of 5 minutes**
 - 4.1 **Update from WDBC Cllr L Watts**
 - Cllr Watts reported that on Tuesday 4 October 2016 she had attended a Full Council meeting of West Devon Borough Council, at which the major topic discussed was that of the proposed closure of beds at Okehampton Hospital. WDBC voted to do as much as possible to retain these beds at Okehampton. This is not just an Okehampton Town issue, this proposal affects the whole of the West Devon district, and WDBC will be fighting the proposed closure.
 - The WDBC waste contract is currently being worked on.
 - Cllr Watts has discussed the issue of affordable housing at the Bathway development with her colleague Alex Rehaag (WDBC officer responsible for affordable housing). They felt that they have had to agree with proposed changes to the allocation otherwise a number of affordable homes would be lost. Alex will be organising a session to advise on how Rent-Plus works. Affordable housing on developments needs to go to local people, Rent-Plus appears to be a good scheme.
 - 4.2 **Update on the Neighbourhood Plan**
 - In the absence of Cllr Ms J Trehitt, it was agreed to postpone this item until the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council.
 - 4.3 **Den Brook Wind Farm**

- Cllr McLeod advised that the deadline for LEDS applications from qualifying applicants has been extended to 21 October 2016.
- The next meeting of the Den Brook Liaison Group is 13 October at North Tawton Primary School, at which time it is hoped information as to the Community Fund will be available. North Tawton's share of the fund is in the sum of £13k.

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:

- Air Ambulance floodlighting – now completed – Clerk to make application to DCC Locality Fund for 50% of the costs.
- Parking issues around North Tawton – Clerk to re-contact DCC Parking Enforcement.
- Arrangements to be made for a site meeting with relevant DCC Highways Officer re dangerous pavement between mini-roundabout and Batheway Fields entrance.
- North Tawton Memorial Park improvement plan – further discussions to be held with relevant colleagues re progressing this issue.
- Pavement Grills – DCC highways have cleared in certain areas, and another visit will be made shortly.
- Speeding traffic within the Town – progress initiative for 'home made' no speeding signs.
- A number of issues were delegated to the Estates Committee, and a meeting is to be held shortly – please refer to the agenda for that meeting for full details.
- WDBC Outreach Sessions – although the initial visit by the localities officer was not well attended, nevertheless the officer was able to assist one member of the public, and was also able to assist residents at Batheway Fields by initiating an agreement for a more convenient collection point for refuse and recycling within the site.

6 Invitation from North Tawton Royal British Legion Women's Section

A representative from the Town Council will attend this ceremony.

7. West Devon Borough Council Superlink and Eastern Link meetings

The Superlink meeting will be discussed again at the Council's November meeting. Cllr Ms J Trewitt is attending the Eastern Link meeting on 17 November.

Proposals for projects for TAP fund applications will be discussed at the next meeting of the Estates Committee.

8. Community Market

It was pointed out that in fact the market in question was a privately run craft market, not a community market. The stallholders at the craft market reported problems with car parking, for themselves and for customers, which may mean it is unlikely to be viable in the future. However, it was decided to request an agenda item for the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council to discuss actually starting a community market.

9. Overgrown Trees at Strawberry Fields

The Council discussed various proposals, and it was agreed to delegate this issue to the next meeting of the Council's Estates Committee to resolve.

10. West Devon Borough Council – Town and Parish Clerks Briefing Meeting

The temporary clerk, Mrs S Say, reported back to the Council on issues discussed at the recent briefing meeting, which were noted by the Council.

11. Air Ambulance Night Lighting at North Tawton Rugby Club Grounds

The Clerk will make arrangements for payment of the Council's contribution, and for applying for locality funding for 50% of the costs. The Council discussed arrangements to be made in due course for publicity of this project.

12. Okehampton Hospital – consultation on 'Your future care community services'

The council discussed the current issues around proposed closure of hospital beds; the Council has many concerns reference this issue, and wishes to fully support and participate in any actions to try and influence retention of hospital beds at Okehampton Hospital. The following actions were proposed and agreed for the immediate future:

- The clerk will continue to liaise with Okehampton Town Council and other parishes in the area, joint action being the most effective way forward.
- It was agreed that the Council will write to the Health Secretary, Mr J Hunt; to the Chief Executive of the NHS; and to our local MP. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr I MacLeod reference this.
- The Council will publicise the public consultation process in any way possible.
- The Council will arrange for a petition to be issued, the precise wording of which is to be agreed; the aim being to provide evidence of public support for the retention of hospital beds in Okehampton. Cllr Mrs K Tizard will make arrangements with local business premises in due course, for the petition to be publicly available in as many places as possible.

13. **PLANNING MATTERS**

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

13.1 **Planning Reference 2791/16/TPO**

Proposal – T1 & T2 Cherry trees – trim new growth. T4 Horse Chestnut – trim new growth.

Location – 4 Webbs Orchard, North Tawton, EX20 2FE

Cllr Mrs A Ponsford proposed that the Council support this application, Cllr Mrs K Tizard seconded the proposal, which was then unanimously agreed. The Clerk will advise West Devon Borough Council accordingly.

13.2 **Rent Plus**

A document outlining how this new scheme operates was circulated and noted by the Council. (Note – the Council has also been advised that WDBC will be arranging an information session reference the scheme).

13.3 **Public Consultation for proposed floodlight and telecommunications installation at North Tawton Rugby Club.**

This proposal was discussed and all were in favour of supporting this scheme. The Clerk will advise the planning consultants accordingly.

14. **Request from Rev. Nick Weldon reference possible laying of gravel on areas of cobbled pathway within the churchyard.**

The Council delegated this issue to the Estates Committee to discuss at their next meeting; the Committee will invite the Rector to the meeting in order to be able to fully discuss this request, and any other relevant issues.

15. **FINANCE**

15.1 **Invoices.** Members inspected the invoices and bank statements and appropriate payments were made accordingly.

15.2 **Monthly statement.** Members received the monthly statement, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the statement be accepted, and that the appropriate transfer from the reserve account to the current account to allow payments to be made should be progressed.

15.3 **Insurance** – the Town Clerk (Mrs R Rice) advised that, following some negotiation, the Council's insurances had recently been renewed at a favourable rate with the Council's existing insurers, for a 3 year period.

15.4 **Audit 2015/16**

The Town Clerk (Mrs R Rice) advised that the Accounts were approved by the Council's auditors. There was a comment reference a minor issue relating to the timing of approval and signature of the accounts, but this was unavoidable on this occasion; the comment is noted for future reference.

15.5 15.5 Consideration of the Ring & Ride and Community Car Services in the North Tawton Parish Precept – The Council considered a request from the Community Transport Group for financial help; the service is under threat due to cuts in funding. The Council has not paid any grant to the group in this financial year to date. Cllr I MacLeod proposed a donation in the sum of £400, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs A Ponsford, and unanimously agreed. The Clerk will contact the CTG accordingly.

Members were advised that the Council's finances are in good order at present, in fact there is currently an underspend. Funding may be available for agreed capital projects, Members were requested to give this some consideration. Additionally, the Council expects to receive some funds from the Den Brook Community Fund in due course. There was a suggestion that the roof to the Chapel of Rest is in need of repair for example.

16. 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 on any **AGENDA ITEM ONLY**. Time is limited to 2 minutes per person, up to a maximum of 3 persons, unless the Chairman rules otherwise. A brief record of any points made will be included in the minutes of that meeting.

16.1 With reference to the Okehampton Hospital issue, item 12 on the agenda, Mrs S Knott suggested that the Council also write to Angela Peddar, who is leading the Success Regime project. Mrs Knott will contact Bill Dean of the PPG to see how the group could help.

Mrs C Hughes commented on a number of issues, as follows:

- Reference discussions about the 30mph speed limit signs towards De Bathe Cross, landowners are willing to have the signs erected on their land, and Mrs Hughes asked for the Council to continue to pursue this issue with DCC.
- Reference overgrown oak trees at Strawberry Fields – it may be the case that not all of the owners of properties adjacent to Council owned land would wish to purchase the said land from the Council.
- Reference Affordable Homes on the Bathway site – it appears that these are yet to be taken up by applicants.
- Reference Capital Expenditure – Mrs Hughes suggested that the Council might consider the acquisition of further land for car parking.

17. Parish Matters

- Further to a query about the new waste/dog bins, it was confirmed that the new bins will be multi-purpose.
- Reference the recent collapse of drains outside the Spar/Chemist, and subsequent repairs, there is still an obnoxious odour at certain times. The Clerk will contact DCC Highways and WDBC Environmental Health reference this issue.
- Reference an enquiry to DCC Highways as to possible reconfiguration of car parking around the Clock Tower area of The Square, DCC have advised a Traffic Order would have to be put in place at a cost of £3500.
- It was suggested that the Council reinstate their August meeting. The Clerk was requested to put this onto the agenda for the Council's November meeting.

18. Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council is due to be held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 1 November 2016 – please check the time of the meeting when the next Agenda is published in case of any change.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

DRAFT