

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Cllr Mrs C Burrow Cllr K Hodge  
Cllr Mrs G Hoggins (Chairman) Cllr I MacLeod  
Cllr Mrs A Ponsford Cllr Miss B Rice  
Cllr Mrs K Tizard Cllr Ms J Trehitt  
Cllr S Whiteley

Cllr Mrs L Watts (Ward Member) was in attendance.

4 Members of the public were present.

**Open Forum** – Nothing was raised.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr M Fisher (annual leave), Cllr M Kennedy (Personal) and Cllr I Palmer (illness). These apologies were accepted.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Nothing was raised at this stage.
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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

The Chairman proposed that item 17.1 on the agenda should be brought forward.

4. **PLANNING MATTERS**

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

#### **4.1 154322/2852/15/FUL**

Erection of dwelling

12 High Street, North Tawton, EX20 2HF

The Clerk read out the accompanying letter submitted with the planning application that currently did not appear on West Devon's planning website. The letter clarified the access arrangements for the proposal

After some discussion it was resolved that a Site Inspection would be carried out. The proposed date for this Inspection was 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 1 pm. The applicant would confirm with the Chairman whether this was acceptable.

5. **Updates - Please keep your update to a maximum of 5 minutes**
  - 5.1 Chairman to update the Council on various issues.
    - A thank you letter had been received from the Citizens Advice bureau for the recent grant donation.
    - A request for a meeting had been received from Wainhomes. They have submitted a draft Section 106 to WDBC as part of the proposal which will

remove all the housing from the Woollen Mill site, as yet unimplemented. Advice received from Rebecca Black was that she did not think it would be appropriate for the Town Council to meeting Wainhomes at this time because the matter is complex as they want to ensure they understood the implications and consequences of any decision.

- Rebecca Black is leaving West Devon Borough Council in the middle of March.

5.2 Cllr Mrs L Watts, WDBC Ward Member, gave a brief update.

- Not a lot to report;
- Procurement of a new Waste Contract is underway – discussions are taking place. The current contract is a very good deal; however it is more expensive per head of population than South Hams, but South Hams waste collection is an “in-house” contract. West Devon’s recycling rates are good. Cllr S Whiteley asked if the recycling collections would include other plastics; Cllr Mrs Watts said that she did not know as this would be part of the discussions now taking place. Cllr Mrs Watts also stated she would try and ensure that the refuse and recycling lorries do not collect in Exeter Street during school times.
- The news that Rebecca Black is leaving West Devon has come as a big blow to the department.
- The Leisure Contract is also due for renewal.

5.3 Cllr Ms J Trehitt gave a brief update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan Project.

- Feedback from Rebecca Black regarding our draft policies has been received, after a brief look at the feedback there are themes coming through; what is an aim and what is an objective, lots of repetition.
- Two meetings with Stuart Todd have been arranged to discuss our aims, objectives and policies.
- Seemed disheartened at first with the feedback, but it does make sense, and there were lots of positives.
- Meetings are being arranged with South West Water and other potential developers as well as a meeting with Rebecca Black.
- The meeting with Wainhomes regarding their Draft Section 106 for the removal of the housing at the Woollen Mill; although this is a Council issue it is also an issue for the Neighbourhood Plan.

5.4 Cllr I MacLeod gave a brief update regarding Denbrook.

- The signage for the new link road is confusing.
- There is a Den Brook Wind Farm Community Liaison Group to be held at Spreyton Village hall on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016, which is open to the public. Cllr I MacLeod and Cllr Mrs K Tizzard will be attending.

5.5 Cllr I MacLeod gave a brief update regarding the Patients Participation Group.

- The contract for the GP service is still being negotiated. The new contract will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016
- Bow Medical Practice has received a good report from the Care Quality Commission. It is in the top 10 GP surgeries in the country.
- Cllr Whiteley commented regarding the waiting times at the surgery and suggested a ticket system should be reintroduced so that you can go away and come back at a stated time. Cllr I MacLeod said he will raise the matter at the next PPG meeting.

## 6. Ongoing issues

The ‘Action Log’ was updated.

- Snow/Ice Warden - Kevin Avery has volunteered to monitor the salt bin at the end of Yeo Lane, and Brian Balsdon will monitor the salt bin at Moor View/Strawberry Fields roundabout.

- Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations – Beacon  
Mr Peter Hoggins had agreed to loan the brazier.  
Cllr I MacLeod said that wood would need to be collected for the beacon
- Whiddon Down Link Road signage – noted.

**7. Consultations/Newsletters/Invitations**

7.1 West Devon Our Plan – Newsletter No 7 – previously circulated. Noted.

**8. Temporary Prohibition of through Traffic and Parking**

8.1 A3072 Exbourne, Jacobstowe to near Sampford Chapple  
29<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016. Noted.

8.2 Road from Larkworthy Farm to Slade Cross, North Tawton  
23<sup>rd</sup> February – 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Noted.

**9. Stone Walling**

The Clerk read out an e-mail received from Mr Geoff Cawse regarding the stone walling works, which stated:

“I have spoken with Mark Lawrence and instructed him to proceed with the stone walling repairs in the Church Yard and the wall opposite the Fire Station. Think it will be around a fortnight before he can start - weather permitting.

Hopefully will send out tender document for cemetery stone wall later this week.”

Noted.

**10. Section 106 funding – Wainhomes**

The report from Mr Geoff Cawse regarding the submission of documents in connection with the Section 106 funding from Wainhomes, previously circulated, was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should invite Mr Geoff Cawse to the next meeting of the Town Council to discuss the submission.

**11. Buckingham Palace Garden Parties**

The matter of nomination for attendance at Buckingham Palace Garden Party Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016 was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that Cllr Mrs G Hoggins as Chairman of the Council should be nominated.

**12. Information Board – Town Garden, Taw Bridge**

The proposal from Imagemakers for the replacement of the Information Board at the Town Garden, Taw Bridge, previously circulated, was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should contact Rob Sekula, West Devon Borough Council to ask whether funding for this would be considered from the “Percent for Art” element of the Section 106 funding from Wainhomes.

**13. Cemetery Regulations**

The complaint letter regarding the changes to the Cemetery Regulations, previously circulated was discussed.

After some discussion it was resolved that the litter bin on the wall outside the cemetery should be relocated to the telegraph pole at the entrance to Webbs Orchard. The Clerk was requested to contact Western Power to obtain their permission and to contact West Devon Borough Council regarding the emptying of

the bin. It was further resolved that the Clerk should write back to the complainant regarding the amendments to the Cemetery Regulations.

**14. Community Market**

Cllr M Kennedy was not in attendance.

Deferred.

**15. TAP funding applications**

The matter of the changes to the TAP funding criteria, in particular funding for ditching and drainage works, previously circulated, was discussed.

After some discussion the Clerk was requested to submit a TAP fund application for gully emptying, drainage and ditching works.

**16. West Devon Annual Mayoral Awards**

The matter of nominations for the Annual West Devon Mayoral Awards was considered.

After some discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should be contacted with any nominations.

**17. Defibrillator**

Cllr S Whiteley gave an update regarding the installation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> defibrillator.

Cllr Whiteley and the Clerk met a representative from Western Power to discuss an electricity supply for the defibrillator on the wall at Strawberry Fields. We have received a quotation for this work and we qualify for an unmetered supply. An alternative site was suggested by Western Power but the wall at the bottom of Strawberry Fields is considered the best location. We have been granted TAP funding for the purchase of the defibrillator and there are two additional anonymous donations for the electrical works and installation. Cllr Whiteley stated that perhaps the Neighbourhood Plan could have a policy that future developments should provide for Section 106 funding for defibrillators.

**18. Planning Matters**

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

17.1 01132/2014

30 year permission for development of a 58 ha 'Eco Park' comprising of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic system (22MW) and associated infrastructure incorporating access trail and an ecologically enhanced landscape.

Land to rear of Taw Valley Creamery, North Tawton, Devon

Refused – 8/1/16 – Decision notice attached for information.

Noted.

**19. FINANCE**

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

**19.2 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.

**20. 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.

Mrs C Hughes said she supported Cllr S Whiteley's comments regarding waiting times as the surgery.

Mrs C Hughes suggested that the Town Council contact Torridge District Council regarding possible funding for the Information Board, as the sites is on the Tarka Trail.

Mrs C Hughes wanted to clarify the comments regarding Wainhomes and the Woollen Mill. Wainhomes have taken up an option on the site but that does not mean they have to develop the site.

Mrs C Hughes commented on the changes to the Cemetery Regulations.

Mrs S Knott asked if the meetings with Stuart Todd were going to be open to the public. Cllr Ms J Trewitt stated they would be open to the public and a notice will be published on the noticeboard.

The meeting opened again.

**21. Parish Matters**

Cllr K Hodge stated that there were stones falling out of the wall onto the pavement opposite Gowmans Terrace. The Clerk would report the matter to Devon County Council.

Cllr I MacLeod stated that the Council need to consider banking arrangements. The Clerk carried out some enquiries and obtained information on Unity Trust Bank; this is a bank that is used by other parish and town councils. A Finance Meeting will need to be arranged and the whole Council will have to make a decision. Also the Financial Regulations will need to be amended.

The Clerk was requested to check the grass bank at the top of Exeter Street towards Stone Cross to ascertain if there was a concrete plinth suitable for the siting of a seat.

**22. Date of next meeting**

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council shall be Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.