

# 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 7 June at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr Mrs C Burrow  
Cllr Mrs G Hoggins (Chairman)  
Cllr Mr M Kennedy  
Cllr S Whiteley  
Cllr Mrs A Ponsford

Cllr M Fisher  
Cllr I MacLeod  
Cllr Miss B Rice  
Cllr Mr K Hodge

## **The meeting opened at 7.30 pm**

Members of the public were present

**Open Forum-** Nothing was raised.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ms J Trehitt (away), Cllr I Palmer, and District Cllr L Watts. 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 Monday 9 May 2016, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
  - 3.2 The minutes of the Annual Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Monday 9 May 2016, previously circulated, were agreed and signed.
  - 3.2 The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the North Tawton Town Council Planning Committee held on Tuesday 17 May 2016, circulated at the Ordinary Meeting, were agreed and signed.
4. **Updates - Please keep your update to a maximum of 5 minutes**
  - 4.1 A complaint had been received from a member of the public regarding two alleged abandoned vehicles (small white vans) in the Council's Memorial Park Car Park. The Clerk advised that West Devon Borough Council could put a 7-day removal notice on the vehicles, if appropriate, at the request of the Council (as private landowner). After some discussion, the Clerk was requested to search online and determine whether the vehicles are taxed and insured, and report back to the Council at the next meeting.
  - 4.2 Cllr S Whiteley reported on the Denbrook Community Liaison Group meeting held on Thursday 12 May at Spreyton. Cllr Whiteley emphasised the importance of Councillors attending this meeting, as North Tawton will potentially receive a large share of the Community Benefits Scheme funding to be distributed in due course. The Denbrook meeting discussed issues related to the turbines such as shadows, noise, proximity to railway line, etc. Cllr Whiteley advised that qualifying households need to apply for the electrical discount scheme money. The Clerk was requested to include information reference this in the next Town Council update for The Roundabout. There was some discussion reference the speed limit on the new link

road at Whiddon Down, and it was suggested that a new road sign advising of adverse camber would be helpful. With regard to on-site progress, the bases are complete and the first turbines due for delivery at the end of June. With reference to the Community Benefits Scheme Committee, there will be 2 Councillors from each parish. Cllr Whiteley and Cllr McLeod agreed to attend this Committee. The Chairman thanked Mr Whiteley for his report.

4.3 Cllr Mrs C Burrow reported on the Neighbourhood Plan. The process of improving and editing the policies is still underway. A new part of the Neighbourhood Plan is a proposed Transport Plan, to cover everything transport related including parking, walking, cycling and vehicle speeds. It was noted that with regard to parking, there have been suggestions of suitable areas of land, which are not at present in public ownership; nevertheless these could still be included within the Plan. Councillors were asked to volunteer to join a group to formulate a Transport Plan. Cllrs Whiteley and Fisher volunteered for this group, and were thanked by the Chairman. It should be noted that this project is separate to the longer standing Townscape project which remains dormant at present. The next Neighbourhood Plan Meeting will be on Thursday 16 June.

**5. Ongoing issues**

The 'Action Log' was updated.

The Clerk was requested to again write to Devon County Council reference the parking and signage issues at the junction of The Square with Market Street, and further advising DCC that the chemist is relocating to the corner of Market Street and North Street, therefore there will be a substantial increase in pedestrian traffic at this location. The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received recently from a member of the public regarding the fading of the white lines at the exit from the high street side of The Square, and an online report has been submitted to DCC asking them to investigate. There was some discussion reference the extension of the 30mph speed limit which should go as far as the entrance to the Bathway Fields development.

**6. Duty Planner Service Reinstated at WDBC office in Okehampton**

Noted for information.

**7. Updating of the North Tawton Local Directory**

There was some discussion reference possible updating of the Directory, bearing in mind new housing developments within the Town. Potential issues include changes in business within the Town since original publication, how often should the Directory be updated, can we reissue the directory with an amendment page rather than edit the whole. It was agreed that Cllrs Whiteley and McLeod will go through the existing Directory and note proposed amendments, the Clerk will assist with this if necessary. Cllr Whiteley will then check costings for the two options, and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

**8. Dog Waste Bin – Entrance to Bouchiers Close, North Tawton**

The Council discussed a request from a resident for this bin to be re-sited further up the hill, and a request for a larger bin as the existing one is constantly overflowing. The Clerk advised that WDBC had been contacted and requested to empty the bin. It was mentioned that the bin adjacent to Yeo Lane has similar problems. It was agreed that the bin adjacent to Bouchiers Hill be relocated as requested, and the bin in Yeo Lane also be relocated further up Yeo Lane. The Clerk was requested to obtain prices for larger bins. It was also agreed for signs to be affixed to the dog waste bins within the Town, advising it is illegal to place any waste other than dog waste in the bins.

**9. Litter and installation of new litter bins**

Further to a complaint from a resident about large amounts of litter in the area adjacent to the bridge at the bottom of Fore Street, it was agreed to install a new

litter bin close to the bus stop by the bridge. It was proposed, seconded, and agreed by majority vote, to purchase a freestanding bin at a cost of £152.00. The Clerk was requested to contact WDBC and check costs of emptying litter bins, and to request emptying of the new bin in due course. The Clerk will liaise with Mr A Jelley reference installation of the bin.

**10. Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team Crowdfund Appeal**

The Council discussed a request from Dartmoor Search and Rescue for a donation to their crowdfunding appeal towards a new training room. The Council recognised the work done by the team, and that this benefits walkers, and young persons taking part in the Ten Tors event. Taking this into consideration it was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed to donate the sum of £50.00 towards this appeal. The Clerk will arrange this payment.

**11. Request for grant to support Chagford Youth Cricket Schools Programme**

The Council discussed a request for a grant in the sum of £300 to support the schools coaching programme. It was agreed that in view of the fact that there are many organisations within North Tawton in need of funding support, the Council is not able to consider this request in the current financial year.

**12. Alleged Speeding Vehicles – Fore Street**

The Council discussed the recent history reference this issue. It was agreed that as both the Police and the Highways Authority do not consider this to be a problem, and that the consensus of opinion is that it is a matter of perception (ie vehicles travelling within the speed limit in a confined area may seem to be travelling faster), there is little point in asking for speed readings to be taken. It was agreed that the whole issue of vehicle speeds within the Town will be considered as part of the Neighbourhood Plan Transport Group reports (item 4.3 refers).

**13. Audit Report**

The Council noted the satisfactory Audit Report for the 2015-2016 financial year. The Council wished to record sincere thanks to the Town Clerk (Mrs R Rice) for her hard work with reference to ensuring correct processing of the Council's finances. The Temporary Clerk was also thanked for her assistance to the Town Clerk since being appointed. The Clerk was requested to check reference submission of the accounts to the Audit Office.

**14. Chain for Chairman's Badge**

The existing ribbon which carries the badge being in need of replacement, the Council agreed to replace the ribbon with a chain. After some discussion that it would be appropriate to have the badge valued, and set a budget to purchase a chain commensurate with the value of the badge. The Chairman will arrange valuation with a local jeweller and report back to the Council. It was noted that insurance for the badge may need to be reviewed, depending on the new valuation.

**15. New Road Signs**

The Council received a report from the Highways Engineer confirming that the new road signs at the entrances to Arla and Gregory's, and the other associated new signs at locations around the town, are satisfactory with regard to the specification. The Polish wording on the sign adjacent to Gregory's has been confirmed to be correct. It was noted, however, that there are still significant numbers of lorries travelling through the town from De Bathe Cross. It was agreed that this is another issue to be considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Transport Group in due course.

**16. Queen's Birthday Tea Party – funding**

A cheque has been written in the sum of £500 to fund this event.

## 17. **PLANNING MATTERS**

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

No new planning applications had been notified to the Council at the time of the meeting.

## 18. **FINANCE**

**17.1 Invoices.** Members inspected the invoices and bank statements and appropriate payments were made accordingly. It was noted that there is an addition to be made to the monthly payments, the Clerk was requested to progress this.

**17.2 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.

**17.3** The Clerk was requested to check the Council's payment to the Town Hall, and arrange the appropriate payment accordingly.

**17.4** It was noted that the Council's Planning budget is in arrears at the present time.

## 18. **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.

**18.1** Mrs C Hughes made reference to the report of the Den Brook Wind Farm Meeting, which made mention of the length of time spent talking by Mr M Hulme. Mrs Hughes commented that without the input of Mr Hulme, many of the existing safeguards would not have been put into place.

**18.2** With reference to the Council's decision not to make a grant to Chagford Youth Cricket Schools Programme, Mrs C Hughes requested it be minuted that this group regularly visit North Tawton to undertake coaching as part of the School's Programme.

The meeting opened again.

## 19. **Parish Matters**

**19.1 Parked cars on the highway -** The Council discussed the issue of several roads within the town being almost blocked by parked cars to the extent that they would be inaccessible by the Fire Engine. Specific areas include Taw Vale Close, Taw Vale Avenue, Butts Way, Arundel Road, Taylors Field, Strawberry Fields, Exeter Street, and Barkers Way. The Clerk was requested to write to the Station Commander and ask could they attempt to drive some of these areas on their practice night, to determine the extent of the problem. The Council may then be able to liaise with the police and highways to find ways to resolve the issue.

**19.2 Woollen Mill –** It was reported that Cllr Trew hitt has met with proposed developers of this site, and will report back at the next meeting. The Clerk was requested to include this as an agenda item.

**19.3 Defibrillators** – A question was raised as to how will the public know the location of the new defibrillators? It was advised that when telephoning the emergency services, the location of the nearest defibrillator is given.

**17. Date of next meeting**

Please note that in view of the longstanding holiday arrangement of the Temporary Clerk (23 June – 3 July) the date of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council was agreed to be put back one week and will now be at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 12 July 2016.

**The meeting closed at 9.10 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.