

NORTH TAWTON TOWN COUNCIL

Assistant Town Clerk:
Mrs Sarah Say

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on
TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2017 at **7.30 pm.**

Present: Cllr S Whiteley (Chairman) Cllr M Kennedy
 Cllr K Hodge Cllr R Aplin
 Cllr I MacLeod Cllr Miss B Rice
 Cllr Mrs K Tizard
 Mrs S Say – Assistant Town Clerk

2 Members of the Public were present

Open Forum Nothing was raised.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs C Burrow, Cllr Ms J Trehwhitt, and Cllr Mr M Fisher. These apologies were unanimously accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest - Councillors are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting.

If Councillors have any questions relating to predetermination, bias or interests in items on this Agenda, then please contact the Clerk in the first instance.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

3.1 To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of North Tawton Town Council held at the Council Offices on Tuesday 5th September 2017 at 7.30 pm (copy previously circulated). These minutes were unanimously approved and signed accordingly.

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 Planning training with Pat Whymer of WDBC has been arranged for Tuesday 17 October from 6.30 pm in the NTTC office – noted.

4.1.2 It was agreed to convene a meeting of the Council's Estates Committee on Wednesday 11 October at 7 pm. An agenda will be circulated accordingly.

4.1.3 Data Protection Bill – awaiting further guidance from DALC – noted.

4.1.3 The Clerk advised that the fire risk assessment has been completed, a report will be submitted to the Estates Committee.

4.1.4 Wallgates programmed service – noted.

4.2 In the absence of Cllr Ms J Trehwhitt, the Chairman read her update on the NP. The NP is currently being designed by GFIVE Design in preparation for the Regulation 14 consultation. This will be on the NTTC website, printed copies will be available. The NP group will meet on 19th October to prepare for Reg 14. The aim is to start this 6 week consultation by the beginning of November and complete before Christmas. Responses will be compiled and necessary changes made to the NP. NTTC will be one of the consultees, councillors will have access to the draft plan as soon as it's available.

4.3 Section 106 Monitoring Group update – the planning training has been arranged, as above, there are no further updates at this time.

4.4 Denbrook Community Fund – it was reported that progress is being made as to agreement on the schedule and criteria, these have to be agreed by RES. Advertisements will appear in due course.

4.5 Updates from WDBC Ward Member Cllr Mrs L Watts – Cllr Watts reported that local council devolution has been an ongoing subject of discussion. (Devolution is the transfer of power and funding from national to local government. In order to benefit from this, it has been a requirement of Central Government that local authorities join together under an elected Mayor.) Further to meetings between councils and local MPs, the DCLG have agreed that an elected Mayor will not work in this area, and councils are being encouraged to work more together. A key area of concern is improving productivity locally, this could be helped by improving transport for example. It was pointed out that the local plan seems to link our area closely to Plymouth, whereas in fact our particular area here in the north-west of West Devon actually links much more closely to Exeter. This issue may come up as part of the One Council proposal.

12. Consultation on the proposal for One Council for West Devon and South Hams

West Devon and South Hams are formally consulting with Parish and Town Councils, as well as other organisations, local MPs, etc. as to the above proposal. Responses to two specific questions (as below) are required by midnight on Sunday 8 October 2017.

- 1 *Do you support the proposal of creating one new Council for West Devon and South Hams areas? (Please see information on www.onecouncil.org.uk)*
- 2 *Do you have any other comments, concerns, or alternatives to creating one new Council?*

This item was brought forward, and the Chairman closed the meeting at this point to allow discussion with members of the public.

Discussion included the following:

- There was a query as to what would happen if the two councils simply went bankrupt. Cllr Watts advised this is not an option, the Government would send in another organisation to take over. Additionally, companies (such as the refuse collection company for example) would not deal with a bankrupt organisation.
- How would this specifically affect people locally? – services would be at high risk.
- The proposed new Council should be requested to stress the affinity of our area with Exeter as our local city.
- The necessity for councils to formally merge appears to be occurring all over the country.
- There was a query as to the view of the National Association of Local Councils, but this is not known.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

In response to Question 1 above:

Cllr Mr I Macleod proposed that the NTTC support the creation of one new council for WD and SH areas. This was seconded by Cllr Mr S Whiteley. There were 2 votes in favour, and 5 votes against this proposal, therefore the proposal was NOT carried.

In response to Question 2 above, comments were made as follows:

- Our area is losing its identity, to merge wider would make us lose our identity even more.
- One advantage of merging/forming a new larger Council could be that parishes will gain more control over local affairs within their parish.

5. Ongoing issues – Action log

- Street Lighting – re response from DCC – the Clerk was requested to reply and ask DCC to investigate applying for permission to prune the foliage on the TPO trees to allow lighting to be installed.
- Ref the tree roots on the pavement below the mini roundabout – the Clerk was requested to arrange a meeting between the tree officer and Cllr Whiteley.

- The issue of the lighting at Orchard Court will be discussed as an agenda item at the Council's November meeting.

6. **Denbrook Community Fund Committee**

Cllr Mr I MacLeod had already updated the meeting as to the current position under item 4.4.

7. **Consultations/Newsletters/Invitations**

7.1 **Meeting with the Leader, Deputy Leader, Executive Directors of WDBC, and Chairmen and Clerks of Parish & Town Councils - 12th September 2017**

This item had already been discussed under agenda item 12 which had been brought forward to an earlier point in the meeting (see above).

7.2 **Okehampton Health & Wellbeing Alliance**

Cllr Mrs K Tizard reported on her attendance at this meeting on 25 September 2017.

- It was confirmed that there are now no natal care beds, no 'end of life care' beds, and no respite beds available at the Okehampton hospital.
- However, the NHS have agreed that this area has 'special rural circumstances' with regard to travel issues for example, so this is at least a positive step forward.
- There is a proposal to have an 'information hub' of volunteer service groups in the area.
- There is a possibility that beds could be hired back by organisations – for example one of the cancer charities has already expressed an interest in doing this.
- There is another meeting in November.

7.3 **Devon Highways – Parish and Town Council Conference 2017**

Further details should be available shortly and will be circulated. Cllr Mr R Aplin subsequently volunteered to attend this meeting.

7.4 **North Tawton Community Primary School – Consultation on joining the Dartmoor Multi-Academy Trust**

Further to discussion, Cllr Mr I MacLeod proposed that the Council support the proposal, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs K Tizard. There were 7 votes in favour, and therefore the proposal was carried.

8. **Request for extension to area of yellow lines – The Square, North Tawton**

Further to discussion, there was no proposal to make a request for an extension to the yellow lines. Cllr Mr I MacLeod proposed that the issue of enforcement of the existing traffic regulation be pursued. This was seconded by Cllr Mr R Aplin. There were 7 votes in favour and therefore the proposal was carried.

9. **North Tawton Youth and Community Centre**

Cllr Mr M Kennedy reported on the meeting held at the centre on Wednesday 20 September 2017.

- There was only one member of the public at the meeting. It is not known how or where the meeting was advertised.
- Currently there is no youth worker and therefore there is no youth club being run.
- Devon Heartlands still use the centre.
- The building is occasionally hired out privately, for parties etc.

Councillor Kennedy will make further enquiries as to the current use, etc, and will report back to a future meeting of the Council.

10. **Eastern Links Meeting**

Cllr Mr R Aplin will consult with Cllr Ms J Trehitt as to the remit of this meeting etc, with a view to volunteering to deputise as an attendee for NTTC.

11. TAP funding

This item was deferred to the Council's November meeting.

12. Item 12 was brought forward to follow item 4 above.

13. North Tawton Football Club

Councillors have held an informal meeting with the football club, advising them as to what funds may be available to them. It was confirmed that NTTC have written to WDBC in support of the club's proposed purchase of land which is an 'asset of community value'.

14. Cutting back of overgrowth on footpath from mini-roundabout to Batheway Fields/De Bathe Cross

It was confirmed that the Council's previous decision to undertake this work still stands, and will be discussed further as part of an item due to appear in Part II of this meeting.

15. PLANNING MATTERS

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

15.1

Application No: 2731/17/FUL

Proposal: Application for 20m steel lattice mast, large green metal cabinet and generator entirely enclosed by wooden fence approx. 1m high

Site: Lower Nichols Nymett Farm, North Tawton, EX20 2BW

Applicant: Airband Community Internet Ltd

Further to some discussion, Cllr Miss B Rice proposed that the Council return a neutral response, this was seconded by Cllr Mr I MacLeod. There were 7 votes in favour and therefore this proposal was carried.

16. FINANCE

16.1 Invoices. To approve payments listed at Annex E in accordance with bank mandate (to be circulated at meeting). Councillor Mr I MacLeod advised that expenditure had been incurred for purchase of materials and an interim payment to the contractor in respect of replacement of the roof to the Chapel of Rest. Cllr Mr K Hodge proposed approving payment of the relevant invoices, this was seconded by Cllr Mr M Kennedy. There were 7 votes in favour and therefore the proposal was carried. Payments will be made accordingly.

16.2 Monthly statement – to receive the monthly statement and to consider adoption. Make the appropriate transfers, from reserve accounts to the current account, to allow payments to be made. Councillor Mr K Hodge proposed adoption of the monthly statement and the relevant transfers, this was seconded by Councillor Mr M Kennedy. There were 7 votes in favour and therefore the proposal was carried. The relevant transfers will be made accordingly.

The Chairman closed the meeting at this point for comments from members of the public.

17. Questions/Comments from members of the public

The meeting shall be suspended prior to Parish Matters to allow members of the public to comment/ask a question on any **AGENDA ITEM ONLY – PLEASE QUOTE AGENDA ITEM NUMBER**. 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.

1 Mrs C Hughes made a brief query in relation to item 13, which was clarified.

2 Mr P Brickley, in relation to item 8, commented that parking in the town is getting much more difficult, especially in the town centre car park – finding a parking space cannot be

relied on, the car park appears to be used as a 'park and ride' for persons taking busses to Exeter, and it is Mr Brickley's view that the Council should look into this issue.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting at this point.

18. Parish Matters

No decision may lawfully be made under this item but matters may be discussed which involve no more than an exchange of information.

19. Date of next meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council shall be Tuesday 7 November 2017.

Cllr Miss B Rice proposed that the meeting should go into Part II, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs K Tizard. There were 7 votes in favour and therefore the proposal was carried.

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.

1. **Planning Enforcement update from WDBC** – Members were advised of recent planning enforcement decisions.
2. **Staffing matters** – It was suggested and unanimously agreed that as the Temporary Clerk to the Council (Mrs S Say) had continued in post for 18 months, and the post is ongoing, Mrs Say's job title should be changed to Assistant Town Clerk.
3. **Quotation for production of NT Neighbourhood Plan document** – a quotation was received for the production of this document, together with an invoice for 50% of the cost to be paid if approved. Cllr Mr R Aplin proposed that the Council accept the quotation and approve payment of the relevant invoice, this was seconded by Cllr Mr M Kennedy. There were 7 votes in favour and therefore the proposal was carried.
4. **Street Sweeping Contract** – Further to some discussion, it was agreed to ask interested parties to put in a tender for the works which will be considered by the Council's Estates Committee in due course.
5. **Yew Trees in Cemetery** – a quotation has been received from a tree surgeon for comprehensive pruning back of the 15 yew trees in the cemetery. Cllr Mr I MacLeod proposed acceptance of the quotation, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs K Tizard. There were 7 votes in favour and therefore the proposal was carried.